

INK SLINGS.

The bit of zero weather we have had this week has brought joy to the hearts of the ice men and the young folks are happy, as well, because of the fine coasting.

—And Senator Penrose, who said he was opposed to any tariff legislation at this session, now moves to make the Fordney emergency tariff the unfinished business of the Senate.

—Bellefonte is to stay on the aerial map. The appropriation for the continuation of the aerial mail service, which we last week stated had been cut out of the budget granted by Congress, was reinstated by the Senate and passed.

—They tried mighty hard to get the Legislature off to a peaceful start but with those two Allegheny county factions trying to put two pegs into one hole it just couldn't be done. Let us hope that they get their differences ironed out so that we get results and not merely a washing of dirty party linen from the present session.

—Anyway the disaster of "Pap's" being out of a job is not wholly without its good results. A lot of daughters who were spending his war pay on cosmetics and silk and vamping 'round the streets are back at the work they knocked off while "Pap" was carryin' home an envelope with too much in it for the family's good.

—The Superior court has ruled that it is not mandatory that the names of women be put in the jury wheel, so that until this ruling is revised or a law passed defining the obligations of women under the Nineteenth amendment the matter of placing names of women in the jury wheel will be discretionary with the jury commissioners of the counties.

—Bishop Berry has called on President-elect Harding and during an interview that followed the Methodist prelate declared that the next President did not impress him as a man who could be dictated to. The Bishop being a Bishop and not a politician we fear his judgment in this matter may not be as sound as it is on things with which he has been more in touch. We shall see what we'll see.

—The decrease in the cost of necessities during the month of December has been figured out to have been eight per cent. There has been a continual drop in prices since early in the fall and as it is likely to continue for some time labor must gracefully accept corresponding wage reductions. Wages were advanced to meet the high cost of living and economic laws require that they recede with it.

—Governor Sproul's message to the Legislature is to the effect that if Pennsylvania wants to go along as she has been going the State's revenues will be sufficient to carry her through, but if she wants to do big things new sources of revenue must be found. In other words, if we want to sit at home in an evening and twiddle our thumbs, all right, but if we prefer to spend the evening dancing in the town hall we've got to pay the gymnasts who masquerade as musicians.

—Samuel Vaucrain, president of the Baldwin locomotive works, has spoken again. He is the gentleman who, some time ago, declared that the industries of this country no longer need a protective tariff. Now he says: "The worst is over. By April first we will have all the money we need." Mr. Vaucrain is a great business man and he might know what he is talking about, but as for us: We don't like the date he has set for the reinflation of our flattened pocket-book. We've been fooled too often on April 1st.

—Of all our contemporaries the Philadelphia Public Ledger appears the most consistently inconsistent. Prior to November last it would have had the world believe that the control of the railroads and the coal supply of the country by the present administration was utterly incompetent and disastrous to the public welfare. Last Sunday the Ledger openly advocated federal control of the coal industry and in justification of its equivocal position declared that governmental control of the railroads and mines had actually justified itself.

—The Centre County Conservation Association has gone on record as favoring the licensing of those who would fish in the streams of Pennsylvania; the fees to be expended in the better conservation and propagation of fish. The "Watchman" has always been opposed to a law of this sort, principally for the reason that it could never see the justice of imposing a tax on everybody, for the benefit of the sportsman and the market fisherman. On rare occasions family parties go to the woods for a day's picnic and usually they select a pleasant spot along one of our clear mountain streams. The little folks have rods and lines and much of the day's pleasure is derived from fishing—and we might add—rarely catching. We were opposed to a system that would throw them into the hands of fish wardens if they had not paid a license before starting out. Our local Association has suggested a plan that would satisfactorily meet our objection. It would exempt women and children from the necessity of procuring a license and if the law should be so framed we would favor it with the further proviso that the fees go to propagation of real fish rather than to making a larger departmental pond in Harrisburg for political suckers to swim in.

Democratic Watchman

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Governor Sproul's Message.

In his message to the Legislature, delivered in person after the custom of Washington and Jefferson, on Tuesday, Governor Sproul is true to form. It is essentially a business statement. Without the least attempt at ornate rhetoric or idealism he recites the fiscal conditions of the State and suggests such legislation as will give promise of improvement from his point of view. He finds the revenue inadequate to meet the expenditures and proposes to increase the revenue. It never occurred to him that the result might be achieved by decreasing the expenditures. Republican statesmen never take that side of the proposition. It wouldn't provide oil for the machine.

His principal recommendation for increasing the revenues of the State is a tax on coal. Governor Pennypacker made a similar suggestion during his term of office which resulted in the considerable increase of the price of coal to the consumers but failed to contribute even a nickel to the public treasury. Of course this was for the reason that the courts declared the tax unconstitutional. It discriminated against one kind of coal and the constitution requires equality in levies. The Governor would avoid this by taxing all kinds of coal though making the levy heavier on one than on the other. But that would not prevent the increase of the price to the consumer, and might not produce revenue.

What the Governor says about the educational and charitable activities of the State is probably true. The deficit of \$1,500,000 in the school fund for last year is the best evidence in the world of a needed increase in school appropriations. But it is hardly necessary to create a new department of government, thus largely increasing the expense of rendering the needed service, in order to remedy the evil. The principal trouble with the administration of government is that economy is entirely lost sight of and the most prodigal methods are invariably employed. We are in favor of raising our educational system to the highest standard, but at the lowest cost consistent with efficiency.

—Now that the coal question is to be investigated by the Pennsylvania Legislature it is up to the coal profiteers to get busy. If they don't act promptly there is likely to be something said about them.

Reducing Armies and Navies.

In view of past events it is not easy to figure out the cause of the present anxiety of Republicans, in and out of Congress, for reducing armaments. Senator Borah, who was the most active and vociferous of the opponents of the League of Nations, has already introduced a resolution and is now pressing it for consideration, to "invite negotiations with the principal naval powers for reducing naval building programs." Other steps are being taken to reduce the army to a strength far below that considered advisable by the military authorities of the country. The policy of our government for many years has been in favor of a big navy and the recent war made converts of the idea of a big army.

The covenant of the League of Nations provided for a gradual and uniform reduction of the armaments of the member nations. It was largely this purpose that suggested the enterprise. A mutual agreement and complete understanding to practically abolish war made big armies and big navies useless but expensive luxuries. Hence it was believed by the distinguished statesmen who sat in the peace conference at Versailles that the formation of such a League would make armies and navies beyond the requirements of domestic service unnecessary. But Senator Borah and his bitter-ender colleagues in the Senate refused to join in the League and left the country exposed to attack from any source or for any reason.

We have always entertained an aversion to large armies and navies. They are causes of poverty and nurseries of war. But experience has shown that unpreparedness for war, so long as war is possible or probable, is even a greater evil. With all the strong nations of the world banded together for the security of each and pledged to the support of either against an isolated power, this country must either join or hold itself ready for war against all of them. We are emphatically and everlastingly for the reduction of armaments. But before the reduction we want assurances of safety and that can only come through joining the League of Nations. That is the way to begin and the only way.

—If Congress fools much longer about it the cost of living will get down considerably in spite of the Republican leaders.

Surprising News from Washington.

The surprising information comes from Washington that after the inauguration of Senator Harding as President Senator Knox will assert his right to participate in the distribution of party patronage. Heretofore Mr. Knox has taken no part in this essentially political function of his Senatorial office. His colleague, Senator Penrose, has been the sole dispenser of spoils in Pennsylvania and Knox has been contented or appeared to be satisfied to pose as the statesman whose thoughts ran on higher levels. It is believed that this is the main reason why Penrose discouraged the appointment of Knox to the office of Premier of the Harding cabinet. He might not get so acquiescent a colleague.

By the same token it is not altogether improbable that Penrose's anxiety to keep Knox out of the cabinet may be the principal reason why Knox has changed his point of view on the question of patronage. Mr. Knox has never expressed an unwillingness to resume his old job at the head of the cabinet. The dollar diplomacy was an enticing problem both to him and his wealthy friends, and an opportunity to revive it might have given him great enjoyment. But Penrose nipped the expectation in the bud, if it was ever formed, by the blunt declaration that he preferred that Knox should remain in the Senate. May be the changed attitude on the patronage subject is in the nature of an expression of resentment.

Stripping the subject of all conjecture, however, it may be wise party policy for Knox to assert his prerogative to control the party patronage for the western end of the State. Penrose has enjoyed the franchise for a long time and the cat-and-dog condition of the party in Pittsburgh at this time justifies the impression that he has not made the best use of it. An irrepressible conflict between the Oliver and the Leslie factions almost defeated the harmony program arranged for the organization of the General Assembly and it is not certain even now that it will not in the end cause a ruinous war. Knox may prevent a lot of trouble in the future by taking charge of the spoils.

—Speaking in New York, on Tuesday, Samuel Untermyer, the eminent attorney, hinted at the "most mortifying scandal that has ever befallen our country." He says if half he has heard is true our Attorney General and alien property custodian is in for a hot time, explaining the conduct of his departments. Of course we think Mr. Palmer could do no wrong.

Lessons Lost on Congress.

A merry war on the declining prices of the necessities of life is progressing finely in Washington. A discordant note is heard now and then, as when Congressman Young, of South Dakota, admonished his party associates, the other day, to "put on the brakes." But as a rule the chorus is in complete harmony and the demand is for higher tariff on everything that is included in the necessities of life. On motion of Senator McComber the tax on wheat is increased from thirty to forty cents a bushel and levies are provided for on butter and cheese on motion of another Senator. If any product of the farm or factory has escaped it may be set down as an accident, for the purpose is to keep prices up.

During the recent campaign the Republican managers were as free in promising to decrease the cost of living as they were severe in denunciation of the Wilson administration because they had not been reduced. But personal and direct promises had been made to certain interests that high prices would be maintained in the event of the election of Harding, and strangely enough private pledges are more sacred among politicians than public promises. Hence the anxiety to rush tariff legislation as expressed in the Fordney emergency measure. It will cause hardships to millions who are facing diminished incomes but it will prolong the period of profiteering for thousands who contributed to the campaign fund.

There is no more necessity for a tariff tax of six cents a pound on butter and cheese than there is for two tails on a dog. The effect will simply be to add that much to the current price of the commodity, which is already soaring in the clouds. If the farmers who produce butter were to get the money, or if it would go into the treasury to meet the expenses of the government, there might be excuse for such a tax. But tariff tax on wheat and butter neither benefits the producers nor adds to the revenues. It is simply grabbed up by the trusts which not only control prices but manipulate transportation for their own advantage. The lessons of the Payne-Adrich tariff are lost on Congressional stupids.

Industrial Conditions Menacing.

The industrial situation is naturally causing grave fears in the minds of the labor leaders. The closing of plants in all lines of production and in all sections of the country, indicates a settled purpose to accomplish two results. The first is to impair the influence of labor organizations on the industrial life and the other to force down the rate of wages. The closing of the plants was the first actual skirmish in this industrial war. This step was taken, the employers alleged, because of a surfeit of commodities. That may have been true, but it is not certain. The change was too sudden to be real. Demand seemed to be present even at excessive prices, up to the moment the shut down movement began.

Following this part of the program and in quick succession came the declaration of the president of the Bethlehem Steel company that under agreement his corporation and the Steel trust would refuse to sell structural steel to builders who employed union labor. Later the manager of the Cramp ship yard in Philadelphia, cancelled an agreement between his corporation and the Labor unions. These incidents taken in connection with the Supreme court decision removing the protection of the Clayton law from labor activities "illegal under the Sherman anti-trust law." Men must eat and wear clothes and idle men who are laborers can do neither. With the menace of the law staring them in the face they are helpless.

But this crusade has not begun with the closing of plants after the election. It was planned long before the election and the first as well as the most important feature of the program was the defeat of the Democratic party and the election of a Republican President and Congress. It was in accordance with this plan that the vast fund, amounting to millions of dollars, was subscribed by corporations and capitalists for use in the purchase of the votes of the very men who are likely to suffer most in consequence. If the working men of the country had been true to themselves and their families the impending condition would have been averted and the industrial life of the country made safe.

—During the past week reports have been current of a big whiskey shipment having been received in Bellefonte—a full carload, to be exact. All efforts to trace the rumors down to facts have proven futile and there is every reason to believe that there is not a word of truth in it. A whole carload of whiskey these times would naturally create some commotion, especially when it began to circulate, and we are very sure there has been no unusual commotion this week, and so far as we have been able to ascertain no evidence of circulation, so there certainly wasn't any carload of whiskey.

—George Reber Wieland, Ph. D., lecturer of paleobotany in Yale University, has been appointed a research assistant in paleobotany with the rank of assistant professor. Dr. Wieland is a native of Centre county and a graduate of Penn State, of the class of '93.

—Probably it was necessary for Senator Knox to assert his right to participate in the distribution of patronage in order to convince Senator Penrose that "the worm will turn."

—If labor conditions continue as at present for a while it will not be necessary to legislate to keep immigrants out. They will stay out to avoid starvation.

—The cruel manner in which the Republican machine treated Mayor Moore, of Philadelphia, in the organization of the Legislature arouses our sympathies.

—The late Crown Prince of Germany is worrying over the future of his children. Being still on the payroll he has no occasion to worry about himself.

—Harding's cabinet is said to be already made up, but nothing short of a positive announcement from Marion will relieve the fellows on the anxious bench.

—Nobody mentions Mr. Taft for a cabinet place, but his eyes are focused on the Supreme court bench and he usually gets what he wants.

—The Republican politicians of the North are determined to make the colored voters of the South dissatisfied at any expense of truth.

—The great minds which have been gathering at Marion for some time will soon be assembling at Washington begging favors.

Good Work of the League.

From the Philadelphia Record. Every day the League of Nations is alive, and everything it does, even if relatively small, the "posse comitatus of nations," in the phrase of Theodore Roosevelt, becomes more potent for good. It is an absolutely new thing, not like anything that ever existed before, and of course faith in its practicability is yet to be established. In the peace conference England was only half-hearted in its support; France was openly opposed; Italy was indifferent, and Japan kept silence and watched the Christian nations try to legislate a little Christianity, or civilization into international relationships.

Nothing but the extraordinary influence of President Wilson, most entirely on his lofty moral aims enabled him to secure the covenant of the League and its incorporation in the peace treaty. There never was a more striking demonstration of the power of a single man animated by a great moral purpose.

For incomprehensible reasons, or under party passions which the historian will have difficulty in explaining, the country which was ennobled and glorified by Woodrow Wilson's superb struggle for great moral ends repudiated his work. But the League exists; it works; it has accomplished many important things. If it had done nothing more than to restrain the lust of conquest, as it has done by the adoption of Mr. Wilson's project for the administration of territory conquered from Germany and Turkey by trustees for the population concerned and for the civilized world, it would have accomplished a wonderful task in moralizing the relations of nations, and in establishing the supremacy of right over might.

But the League has done much more than that, as the official report on the first year of its existence shows. It has secured publicity for treaties, and this is a great factor in the effort to maintain peace. Sixty treaties have been registered in the secretariat. The League has accepted responsibility for the protection of minorities, which means that if Rumania or Poland persecutes the Jews it is the concern of all the rest of the world—except the United States; we hold aloof from Christendom and from civilization. The mandate commission to administer the former German colonies has been created, and it has formulated its instructions to the nations which are to act as trustees and not as conquerors.

The League is administering the Saare Valley, by which the rights of France to coal are recognized, while mine their sovereignty are safeguarded. The League is directing the affairs of the free city of Danzig, by which means the national rights of the population are harmonized with the right of Poland to have access to the sea. The districts of Eupen and Malmédy have been transferred in spite of the efforts of Germany to get another plebiscite in the hope of retaining these naturally Belgian districts.

The League of Nations is perpetuating peace by disposing of the causes of international friction.

Sift Them Out.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. It is clear that we cannot let America become the earthly paradise of anarchy or any form of social inequity; and we have ever before us the tragic plight of Europe, made the residuary legate of centuries of plague, pestilence and famine; of bitter racial antagonisms; of evil autocratic, aristocratic and militaristic traditions. We give thanks that our fathers made a cleavage away from all that and established our freedom from these things, and knowing how precious is our immunity, we are not minded to lower the bars and let in a rabble with their baggage of malodorous and noisome things that would poison the air and spoil the peace of our Eden.

But, as Immigration Commissioner Wallis has just said in an address at Chicago, we must discriminate. He put before the Illinois Manufacturers' Association the need of some sort of clearing house to divert the stream of applicants for labor into areas where persistent and capable workmen are wanted. Detroit may have a glut of applicants and in the labor market of Peoria there may be a famine. Let us have an agency that, meeting the newcomer at the door of the New World, shall show him where he is wanted and where he can sell the power of his willing hands and his intelligence.

As for those who come to spread discontent and to embroil the employer with the employee, they are the friend of neither and they should be kept far from our shores. We want only those settlers whose firm purpose it is to become the best of Americans.

Draft Act Violators.

From the Huntington News. It is claimed the federal government has made little progress in dealing with 300,000 men alleged to have violated the selective service act. With the war so long over, pursuing these men is like paying for a dead horse. Yet if lax treatment is given to these cases now, it makes a bad impression for the future.

—The country doesn't need more Congressmen half as badly as it needs better Congressmen.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—William E. Graham, Clearfield's oldest male citizen, died at his home at that place at an advanced age. He was just one month to the day short of being 97 years old.

—The appointment of Frank C. Bowersox, of Lewistown, to be associate Judge of Mifflin county, was sent to the State Senate on Monday and promptly confirmed. He will be commissioned at once. The Governor also appointed Harry B. Wilson as coroner of Bedford, who was confirmed.

—Falling to find money in the cash register of the confectionery store of Mrs. Myrtle Calabrese, of Hays borough, Allegheny county, two negro highwaymen threw the woman to the floor, and, discovering a roll of bills in her "stocking bank," cut it out with a knife, escaping with \$320.

—The Moravian Widows' Society at Bethlehem declared a dividend of \$25 to each member on an original investment of \$50. This was the second dividend of \$25 for the fiscal year, making the dividend equal to the principal. The society is in its one hundred and fiftieth year, and only widows can be members.

—William W. Bloom, of Lewistown, has asked for retirement under the pension plan of the Pennsylvania Railroad with forty-six years of service. Mr. Bloom entered the service as a section laborer in 1875 when large gangs of men were employed to repair the tracks preparatory to the heavy traffic of the centennial in Philadelphia.

—Mrs. Emma Straw, wife of a Heckton, Dauphin county storekeeper, pleaded guilty to operating a gambling device in the store and fined \$50 and costs by Judge Hargest. The woman said an agent for a tobacco company assured her the chance game was not gambling. The court suggested that perhaps the agent would make good his guarantee and pay the fine and costs.

—W. G. Kerschner, who shot and killed Charles Keim, a neighbor boy of 8 on New Year's eve, pleaded nolle contendere to a charge of involuntary manslaughter before Judge Moser in the Northumberland county court at Sunbury, and escaped with a suspended sentence. Kerschner was directed to pay the costs. A coroner's jury had previously found that the killing was due to an accident. Police Chief Jackman, of Shamokin, was the prosecutor in the case.

—Robert Schell, one-time corporal in the state constabulary, was convicted of extortion in the Blair county court last week. Daniel Tolan, one-time private, jointly indicted with Schell, pleaded guilty. The men were charged with accepting a bribe of \$400 to \$500 to permit the illegal transportation of liquor. They intercepted two men carrying five cases of whiskey in an automobile and, after the money was paid, let them go. Both were discharged from the State's service.

—Laying a note, "I must die," planned by his lunch box, express messenger Andrew Brown, of Erie, leaped from a fast-moving Pennsylvania train east of Lock Haven on Friday. He escaped death, but was severely cut and bruised in his plunge. Brown, who left Williamsport on an express train at 7 o'clock Friday morning, turned his lunch box over to the conductor, asking him to give it to the agent at Lock Haven, after which he opened the car door and leaped out.

—His clothing catching fire when he slipped and fell while lifting a kettle full of hot lard off a hook over an open fire at a butchering last Friday, Harvey N. Moyer, a widely known farmer living near Shamokin, was a pillar of fire in a moment. With the wind fanning the flames to higher intensity, Moyer ran 100 yards to Penn's creek and plunged in. The flames were extinguished, but the flesh hung on his arms and sides only by slender strings. Doctors say he will likely recover.

—Reuben H. Hoffman, of Wilkes-Barre, former deputy revenue collector, said to have received \$10,000 for an alleged attempt to destroy evidence against a brewer, can keep \$5000 of the money, if he really got it. The other \$5000 it is alleged he gave to a revenue officer for assistance will be taken by the United States government. The \$10,000, said to have been paid by the brewer as a bribe, is contraband and the brewer could not claim it, neither could \$5000 of it be taken from Hoffman by the government, it is said.

—Heads of departments, yardmasters, firemen and brakemen suffered in a retrenchment order that went into effect in the big Pennsylvania classification yards at Northumberland on Monday. More than 100 men were affected. Yardmasters were put back to assistants, assistants to masters, masters to brakemen, conductors and clerks. Three shift jobs were reduced to two, and it is estimated that \$5,000 was cut off the expense. More than fifty lost their jobs. Many other railroad centres were also affected by the retrenchment order.

—A dynamite explosion believed to be the outcome of recent mine labor disputes in Pittston, Sunday morning wrecked the front of a store owned and conducted by James A. Joyce, a merchant of that city, who has been acting as a volunteer conciliator between the miners and the operators. Mr. Joyce and his family were sleeping on the second floor. They were not injured. The sidewalk was filled with debris and windows were broken in neighboring buildings, including a church. Four men were arrested by the police, who refuse to divulge their names.

—Almost \$1,000,000 deducted from salaries of school employees for the State retirement system has been received for the 1920-21 school term alone, according to a statement at the offices of the Retirement Fund, which shows a balance of only about \$800 due from districts on account of the previous term. The total membership of the school retirement system has reached 40,911, the deductions in 1919-20 having reached \$1,425,008.25. In several districts the secretaries neglected to make the necessary deductions from the salaries of the teachers last term and the districts will be called upon to make the payments.

—McEwensville, the smallest incorporated borough in Pennsylvania, which recently came into the limelight when it was found that there were more women in the village eligible to vote than men, is attracting more attention as a result of this unusual circumstance. At a recent meeting the women voters, representing the majority, discarded the old board of health and organized a new one, composed entirely of women. The new health guardians of the borough are Mrs. Lewis Buss, Mrs. John Baylor, Mrs. George Gold and Miss Ida McWilliams. Doctor Hummel, of Watsonville, is their medical advisor.