

INK SLINGS.

It is invariably a sign that the supply of "bright eyes" is running low when the host no longer invites you to "pour your own."

Old Dame Nature followed up the pumping demonstration last Friday night with a display of water throwing that chased even the triplex pump-er to cover.

Ament the prospects of a fruit crop we have seen green apples and green plums quite frequently lately, but only an occasional cherry on a tree in Centre county.

This thing of having frosts every morning is probably more disturbing to the fellows who are hoping for a good grape crop than to the ladies who have beans a few inches above the ground.

We await with interest some report from Washington to the effect that the administration has decided to turn off the Wilson highway and undertake the building of a better road of its own.

Wheat and coal have both advanced slightly in price recently and while we would not risk the statement that wheat will go higher we still advise those who can to lay in their next years' supply of coal now, for bituminous will not be cheaper than it can be bought at today.

Washington and Wall street are beginning to find out that former President Wilson's watchful waiting wasn't so much an old Vestuana Caranza and Huerta as it was an American oil speculator who have been at the bottom of most of our troubles in Mexico for years.

Chief Justice White, of the United States Supreme court, is at the point of death and his end may have come ere this copy of the "Watchman" reaches you. Aside from the general regret that the country will feel in the loss of the eminent jurist his passing may have a depleting effect on the faculty of a certain large New England University.

Germany's debt to the Allies will be paid in bonds which will be redeemable in gold. Their face value will be one hundred and thirty-two billion marks and as that represents more than three times as much minted and bar gold as there is in the world it will be seen that, after all, the yellow metal is really nothing more than a standard of value. If Germany pays at all the percentage of bonds actually paid in gold, the metal, will be very small. It will be in the balance of trade expressed in its gold equivalent.

Mr. Volstead is having a round in Washington with the manufacturers of hair tonic, proprietary remedies and flavoring extracts. They all say they can't manufacture without alcohol as the base and therefore Congress will be making a grand mistake if it tightens up the regulations any further. Personally we still have a little faith in proprietary remedies and flavoring extracts but so far as hair tonics are concerned we don't care a continental darn what Mr. Volstead does with them. We've tried everything from the Seven Southerland Sisters to Pinaud and so far as results are concerned anybody looking at us, unconv-ered, would share our opinion that they are a snare and a delusion.

Rev. Virgil C. Finnie, who is touring this State as general education secretary of the Church of the Brethren, declares that churches are dying and that community centres must be maintained as the only hope of keeping religion alive. We haven't heard the Rev. Virgil, but we read that he cites a Minnesota village of eight hundred population in which seven churches are without pastors, as evidence of the decadence of the House of God. We wonder if the Rev. Virgil ever stops to think that a village of eight hundred people would have about as much use for seven churches as it would have for the Woolworth building. Such dope doesn't frighten us. The churches are not dying. They are just as essential to the American heart and mind as they ever were, only there are too many of them some places and too few others.

The demonstration of a triplex motor pumper in this place, last Friday night, was very impressive so far as the capacity to lift water and throw streams was concerned. All of Bellefonte is interested in the question and most of those who saw the pumper at work were satisfied that it will do as represented. But is that all that is required in our case? We fancy that had three streams of hose been taken off the plugs at the Arcade or Bush house corners they would have equalled those lifted by the pumper and possibly been thrown nearly as far. In any event they would have gone high enough to have reached the tops of any buildings in Bellefonte. Unless our water mains have materially changed in recent years the lower parts of town and the central section up town have pressure at the plugs always sufficient that even the assistance of the old steamers was not actually needed. Our trouble has been on the hills and outlying districts where mains are small and pressure low. Will a triplex or any other kind of a pumper throw water if there is not sufficient to feed it? It seems to us that the places to have made on demonstration on Friday night was on Lermon, east Bishop or east High streets. Then we could have seen whether it would offer other advantages than the single known one of capability of getting into action quickly.

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Stage Set for a Farce.

Governor Sproul is now busily engaged shaving down the appropriation bills of the Legislature to a total that will keep them within the aggregate of the revenue of the State. In this task he has another purpose to subserve. He hopes to make himself appear the champion saver of the people's money. The stage is admirably set for him. The total appropriations will amount to about \$135,000,000. This is about \$32,000,000 more than the total appropriations approved two years ago. Deficiency bills amounting to about \$8,000,000 raised the expenses of the years covered by those appropriations to about \$121,000,000. It will be possible, therefore, to cut out \$14,000,000, which will look like a great achievement in political surgery. But a careful analysis of the facts will somewhat modify the enthusiasm of his admirers in this matter. The expenses of the several departments were considerably increased by the Legislature through the creating of new offices and increasing the salaries of many officials already liberally recompensed for the service they render. But during the closing days of the session \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 more than were needed were added to the measures in order that the Governor might have opportunity to cut heavily and look like a real "treasury watch dog." It was a "frame up," but so stupidly performed that even casual observers of affairs could see it with the naked eye. It will be economy that does not economize for it would be impossible to spend all the money appropriated and stay out of the penitentiary.

The profligacy of the last Legislature was appalling, but the Senators and Representatives who voted the amounts are not altogether responsible for it. They were literally forced to it by the Governor and the Republican organization of the State. Penrose having been declared politically dead, the Governor and chairman Crow, of the State committee, have set out to plant themselves in office of long tenure and honorable title through the medium of political manipulation. This enterprise will require a vast amount of money and it is expected that a judicious use of the funds appropriated for the State government will supply it. Safely in the Senate before an accounting can be exacted, they can laugh at the poor boob who supplied them with the sinews of war.

Mr. Julius Kruttschnitt, chairman of the board of directors of the Southern Pacific railroad, is too modest. He thinks the government ought to pay the expenses and allow shareholders to operate the roads and take the earnings.

Emergency Tariff Bill Passed.

The emergency tariff bill which has been in the hands of the conference committee for more than a week will probably be agreed upon and passed before this issue of the "Watchman" reaches its destination. It was introduced eight months ago under the pretense that an emergency existed. We have not learned that any such animal has been killed or captured since. It is true that at that time symptoms of a decrease in the prices of commodities had appeared in the market reports and indications pointed to the death or disappearance of that troublesome critter, High Cost of Living. Probably the emergency tariff bill was intended to head off that result until after the inauguration of Harding.

In any event the farmers of the country have not been relieved of any sort of suffering by the consideration of the measure. Before it was begun most of last year's crops had been taken over by the speculators in farm products and if it had been passed promptly would have expired by limitation before this year's crop is harvested. Meantime the downward trend of prices has enabled the farmers to supply themselves with farm implements and machinery in a declining market, which they would not have enjoyed if the bill had been passed seven months ago. These facts lead to the impression that the only reason for passing the bill now lies in the desire of Congress to show Woodrow Wilson that he is not loved by Republican statesmen.

The pending bill will expire by limitation within six months of the date of approval by the President and in that brief period will not be able to do much harm. But it will to a very considerable extent force American farm products out of foreign markets and thus vastly increase the surplus and incidentally decrease the prices correspondingly. It will also materially help to demoralize the magnificent merchant marine created during the last three years, and restore to British bottoms the carrying trade of the world, an advantage which might have been taken away if the authorities at Washington had taken advantage of opportunities open to them. The loss will be great but experience is a dear teacher.

Disarmament Must Come.

At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, in Philadelphia, last Friday, "a vigorous attack upon the chauvinistic military aspirations of the leading nations of the world and an equally strong demand for universal disarmament were made by one Democratic United States Senator and three Republican Congressmen," according to the esteemed Philadelphia Record. The speakers were Senator Thomas J. Walsh, Democrat, and Representatives Frank W. Mondell, Republican, Wyoming; John Jacob Rogers, Republican, Massachusetts, and Frederick C. Hicks, Republican, New York. The gentlemen appeared to be in full agreement both as to the possibility and value of disarmament.

The peace conference at Versailles more than two years ago developed and declared a plan to accomplish the purpose for which these gentlemen are now contending with much force and earnestness. One of the main reasons for the League of Nations is that it would make possible the reduction of armaments to what Representative Mondell designates "a reasonable peace, police or defense basis." Not only that but in Section 8 of the covenant provision is made for such reduction. But Representatives Mondell, Rogers and Hicks opposed the ratification of the covenant by the Senate and in the recent campaign denounced it as a conspiracy against the country and a covenant with evil.

Of course some plan must be devised to limit armaments. War expenses have caused more poverty and imposed greater burdens than all the other elements of government. For forty years Germany has compelled all progressive nations to maintain vast and expensive military establishments. The curious mind of the Kaiser led him to believe that big military establishments served as a guarantee of peace. Now he knows better. But Senator Lodge, and others who probably draw salaries from munition makers and manufacturers of arms, have adopted his philosophy and opposed the League of Nations because it provided for reduction in armaments. And Mondell, Rogers and Hicks supported Lodge in his action.

We have no authority to speak for State Treasurer Snyder but feel safe in assuring the Governor that there will be no objection to a cut of a few hundred thousand dollars in the appropriation for the Treasury.

Frauds in the Highway Department.

Within the period of a couple of weeks five or six employees of the State Highway Department have been arrested in Montgomery county for defrauding the State through the medium of padding the pay roll. The plan was to put fictitious names on the list of employees, draw the wages that would have been due them if they had been real employees, and dividing the money among those concerned in the fraud. Of course it was necessary that some of those engaged in the conspiracy should occupy positions of importance and that all of them should be crooks. But Montgomery county is equal to any demand upon its resources in either particular. She has plenty in high office and abundance of crooks.

In publishing the facts in these cases the Philadelphia newspapers intimate that similar frauds have been practiced in various other sections of the State. It is a pity that they were not frank enough to name the other places and the other persons concerned. A good many people may imagine that they refer to places and persons that they are not culpable. For example we should indignantly resent and promptly refute any charge of that kind against the employees of the State Highway Department in this section. But the Philadelphia papers which have made the charges are cautious, conservative and well managed journals and we feel confident that they have substantial reasons for the suspicions expressed.

Some time ago the State Highway Department employed a corps of expert accountants to make a survey of the affairs of the Department. The experts were Philadelphians and presumably had a friendly feeling toward those who employed them and the party under the auspices of which the affairs of the State are managed. But the investigation didn't continue long or probe deep. Almost at the outset one of the bureau heads tried to commit suicide because a deficit in his accounts was disclosed and immediately the investigation was called off and the experts dismissed. We are not in the confidence of those in authority and have no idea why the inquiry was stopped. But there must have been a reason.

What's the use of the fuss about women sitting on juries? The women, heaven bless 'em, will improve the jury service by sitting on juries and if the right is denied now it will be acquired later.

Primary Contest of Importance.

The speculators in political futures in Pennsylvania predict hot primary fights in the Republican primaries in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, this year. This would be interesting if the differences between the factions were upon anything more substantial than spoils. In Philadelphia the contractors' combine is striving to maintain its control under the sanction of popular vote and the chances are more than even that it will succeed. In the last contest the people succeeded in electing a majority of the councilmen, but within a few months the contractors bought up a sufficient number of the reformers to restore them to power. Their present aim is to get public ratification of the deal.

In Pittsburgh a similar situation is presented. Senator Leslie, who for several years has subsisted on the spoils of office, was defeated a year ago by a faction under control of Mr. Oliver, owner of several newspapers in that city. Leslie enjoys a strangle hold on the party organization but the Oliver element had an advantage in the fact that until the other day the Pittsburgh mayoralty was a non-partisan office. With the help of the Governor during the last session of the Legislature the non-partisan law was repealed and the Leslie interests greatly strengthened. Whether or not Oliver will be able to maintain his advantage of last year, in the face of these adverse circumstances, remains to be seen.

There are a considerable number of judges to elect in various sections of the State this year, and as the judicial office has been restored to party determination, it may be expected that there will be more or less active primary campaigns in every county in which a judge is to be chosen. But outside of the two big cities the contests will be quietly conducted. The results in the cities will depend largely upon the attitude of the Senators in Congress. If Penrose helps the opposition to the contractors, the Vares will be put out of business and if Knox favors the Olivers, Max Leslie will be eliminated. If Vares and Leslie are defeated Sproul and Crow will be extinguished. So there you are.

Though the date for the official inauguration of Dr. John M. Thomas as president of The Pennsylvania State College has been set for Friday, October 14th, five months in the future, the college authorities have already begun preparations for the event, which they intend making a red letter day in the history of the college. Governor Sproul has already accepted an invitation to be present and among the invited guests will be many college presidents, government and state officials, Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly. The inauguration will be held the day preceding the annual alumni homecoming day, when hundreds of graduates are expected to visit the college. The committee selected to have charge of the official preparations is composed of Judge H. Walton Mitchell, of Pittsburgh; Hon. Vance C. McCormick, Harrisburg; and John F. Shields, Philadelphia.

Some person on Saturday was saved from a plunge over the high wall along South Water street by the iron railing along the stone pavement. From indications an automobile crawled the curb and ran into the railing, breaking off one of the iron posts, breaking the heavy flagstone at another post and bending the lower rail. The machine evidently got away without being discovered.

A class of 460 students will graduate at the forthcoming commencement at State College which will begin on June 11th. This will be the largest class ever graduated at the College.

Really Harding ought to be kinder to Senator Knox, of Pittsburgh. He knows that a word would guarantee the passage of that resolution but refrains from uttering the word.

The mine workers of West Virginia are also wondering what has become of the good times promised them during the campaign in the event of Harding's election.

If anything under the sun will convince the public that Harding is right it will be the opposition of Senator LaFollette. He is almost as bad as Bryan.

If Governor Sproul caught a thirty inch trout he is a great fisherman and if he didn't somebody is a great liar.

General Pershing may be able to get even with those who undertook to stifle his activities and ambitions.

Isn't it soon time for some one to suggest that we have a safe and sane Fourth of July?

In Wilson's Footsteps.

From the Philadelphia Record. Among the interesting episodes of a week more than unusually prolific in unexpected political turnings and twistings was the announcement the other day from Washington, made on authority, that in the policy of the Harding Administration toward Mexico "in a general way, it is indicated, the road to recognition pointed out in a letter former Secretary of State Colby handed to Roberto V. Pasqueira, confidential agent of Provisional President de la Huerta, is still the road to be followed." That is to say, the policy of the Wilson Administration toward our Latin neighbor, which has been the cause of so much Republican criticism, is to be carefully followed. There is to be watchful waiting and a close study of the Obregon regime before the question of recognition is to be taken up. This is good sense, of course, but it does not square with the campaign denunciations of 1920.

Another illuminating incident was Secretary Denby's condemnation as the same old "rot" of the charges of cruelty against American marines brought by a delegation of Haitians now in Washington. Mr. Denby is an ex-marine himself, and when he says that "the naval establishment has functioned in Haiti in a manner seldom equaled by military occupation anywhere" he gives his strong endorsement to the Daniels administration of the Navy Department. This is highly creditable to Mr. Denby, but where does it leave the Republican critics?

Secretary Weeks at the same time gave his approval to the policies of his predecessor, Secretary Baker, by his vigorous opposition to the plans of Congressmen for hamstringing the army by reducing its strength below the actual needs of the country. Mr. Baker, having had large experience with war, held out for an army of sufficient size to be of some use and protection in an emergency. Mr. Weeks has adopted his view and wants an army of not less than 175,000 men.

Taken in connection with President Harding's flipflop in his attitude toward the Allies and representation of the United States in the Supreme Council, those statements of Republican policy make interesting reading. They go far toward a complete vindication and indorsement of the Wilson Administration. But what do our Republican friends think of it all? Was it for this that they yelled themselves black in the face in oburgation of "Wilsonism"? Somebody seems to have been uncoed.

Errors in the Slacker List.

From the DuBois Express. The wisdom of former Secretary of War Baker in declining to authorize the publication of the list of draft evaders until absolute accuracy was assured is becoming increasingly apparent as the list now finding publication in a few of the newspapers stated. Most of the newspapers are refusing to publish these lists because of the doubt concerning their accuracy.

Complaints are reaching the War Department from all over the country regarding errors, the adjutant general of the army said: "If the names of men were placed unjustly on the list of draft evaders, the men themselves are to blame." He also declared that "wide publicity was given to the department's intention to publish the names of men charged with desertion from the draft. Consequently, registrants who had any doubts about their status and yet remained so indifferent as to whether or not their names were included in the lists as to make no effort to have their record straightened out have no cause for complaint if their names are published along with those of other men charged with desertion."

This form of special pleading is woefully lacking in the strength to carry conviction of its justice. The men in their eagerness to serve their country enrolled, as they thought properly, and they had a right to expect that the record of their service would be properly kept by the government. For them to assume that it has not been properly kept, is asking too much of them and, besides, is a confession of governmental inefficiency as custodian of the records. Instead of the authorities proving that the men thus erroneously listed were draft evaders, the burden of proof is placed on them to establish that they do not belong in that class. In the meantime, until this is done, they are subjected to humiliation, of which there is none greater to a brave man who did his whole duty in the hour of his country's stress.

Work 30 Hours Per Week.

From the Harrisburg Patriot. By recommending a smaller appropriation than his predecessor, dismissing some of the office force and promoting still further economies, Auditor General Lewis undoubtedly has made the public hopeful that he will retrench further in the interest of State thrift. However, his progress in this direction cannot be very rapid so long as he holds his office to a six-hour day five days a week and closes it entirely on Saturday. That kind of a schedule is not in step with sound business practice, either in or out of public service. And nothing that he or any other person has said so far justifies it.

Get your job work done at this office and get it right.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Edward Crossman, of Reading, received a fractured skull one night last week while witnessing an outdoor carnival. Crossman was thrown heavily to the ground by a woman acrobat who fell thirty feet, when a trapeze broke. Had the woman not struck Crossman she would have been killed. Crossman may not survive.

Because he forgot to lock a drawer of his desk when he left his office, Ralph E. Davis, chief clerk to the director of public safety at Scranton, had to make good \$1200 taken from the drawer during his absence. Davis was given the money, which represented court fines, by a police sergeant. He gave a receipt and left the office. Five minutes later it was gone. Davis was compelled by the mayor to make good the loss. He receives \$125 a month.

The future of the Grand Army of the Republic in Pennsylvania will be one of the most important subjects on the program for discussion at the annual encampment of the remnant of survivors of this one-time powerful organization of veterans of the Civil war to be held in Allentown June 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Meeting at the same time will be the conventions of the Women's Relief Corps, the Ladies of the Grand Army and the Sons of Veterans.

Walter Allen, who brought suit against twenty young men of New Castle for \$25,000 damages for a coat of tar and grease applied to him during the Liberty bond campaign in 1918, was awarded \$550 by the jury Saturday night, after being out for five hours. Six of the twenty defendants were acquitted by the jury, the members not being convinced that they had any part in the tarring. The case had been on trial for more than a week, and some eighty-eight witnesses were heard.

A boy at Lochabar, in the lower end of Clinton county, while plowing, felt a sting in his ankle, and turning found he had been bitten by a large copperhead snake. He killed the snake and went on with his plowing, with the reins about his neck. Nausea and faintness from the poison of the bite suddenly overcame him and he fell to the ground. The mules he was driving became excited, plunged and ran, dragging the boy after them, until his father released him. The boy is recovering from the snake bite.

Otto Heier, of Elk county, awoke in a Pittsburgh hospital the other day, and found a young woman by his bedside, who claimed to be his wife. At first Otto did not want to believe it, because he said he did not remember having been married. The story got into the newspapers and the following day a constable arrived from Ridgway, Elk county, with a warrant charging Heier with bigamy. Mrs. Heier No. 1 was waiting with her two children at Ridgway. He is in the Elk county jail now brushing up his memory.

Attorney and Mrs. William L. Woodcock and daughters, Misses Eleanor Lee and Elizabeth F., of Hollidaysburg, are preparing to go to Europe on July 2nd. They will go to Naples, Italy, and after making a tour of that country, will go to Switzerland, Holland, France, England and Germany. This will be Mr. Woodcock's third trip to Europe. Eleven years ago he was there, spending much of his time in Germany. The party will go through the Rhine Valley on the coming home trip, but will not spend much time in that country.

Responding with a cheery "come in," to a knock on her kitchen door, Saturday morning, Mrs. Josephine Minshall, bride of two weeks, of Chester, turned to greet her visitor and was confronted by a negro who struck her over the head, knocking her down. He grabbed a handbag containing \$500 from the table of the living room and escaped. Mrs. Minshall was alone, her husband having left a few minutes before. The negro evidently timed his visit so that Mrs. Minshall would be an easy victim. The money stolen was to have been spent for furniture for a home, purchased recently. The negro made good his escape.

Friday, the 13th, did not cause any anxiety to George William Karl, aged 21 years, a Pennsylvania Railroad machinist, and Lillie Pearson, of Juniata, Pa., who journeyed to Cumberland, Md., last Friday to get married. The bridegroom and there were thirteen passengers in the coach, No. 2313, hauled by engine 2713, and that they arrived in Cumberland at 11:13 a. m. The taxicab driver had thirteen as the last numeral of his license, and they got their marriage license in thirteen minutes. The bridegroom's given name, George William, contains thirteen letters, and the same number is in the full name of the bride.

After having served under a half dozen postmasters during the past twenty-one years in responsible positions, James F. Erisman, attache of the money order department of the Lancaster postoffice, was arrested on Saturday for rifling the mails. Shortly after his arrest by Postoffice Inspector Smith, Erisman confessed and is held under bail for a hearing. Complaints of irregularities in the mails lately led to Erisman's undoing. When charged with the crime and searched, two letters addressed to the National Seed company, both containing money, were found on his person. Thefts have been going on for some time, postal authorities say.

Fighting a gallant battle at great odds, Thomas Husher, aged 73 years, one of the best known residents in the Brownsville section of Fayette county, is in the Brownsville General hospital in a critical condition. The battle came when two highwaymen forced their way into the home of Husher as he sat at a table reading a daily paper. He grappled with them and after a struggle which lasted about ten minutes, he was left lying unconscious on the floor of his home. Husher remembers grabbing a blackjack from the hand of one of the robbers and beating him over the head with it. When the Fayette county man regained consciousness he found \$100 he had in an upstairs room missing. The robbers also had partaken of a full meal before they departed.

A mother's instinct and a barking dog saved Herbert, seven year old son of John R. Kissinger, of Milton, from death in the Susquehanna, to which the boy was running, delirious from mumps, after he had slipped out of the house in his night shirt. About three o'clock in the morning Mrs. Kissinger awoke with a start, feeling that something was wrong, went to the boy's room, which she had left only a half hour before, and found him missing. She awoke her husband and a quick search was started. Outside they saw the little white form heading for the river. When near the water, John Tract's dog jumped out and barked at the boy. The lad turned back, then started in another direction for the river, but the dog again barked and turned him. By this time the father reached the child and seized him.