

INK SLINGS.

-We are right on the threshold of the last of the summer months.

-This weather is distressing but imagine what it would do to us if it came in January.

-Since the Volstead act has become operative a new meaning has been given to the word rob.

-Russia is sick and Russia a friend would be, but when Russia gets well, the devil a friend she'll be.

-If rear views were popular in portraiture many a dame of seventy could palm herself off as seventeen.

-Anyway Chief Justice Taft got on the pay roll in time to draw a check for the summer vacation period.

-Chewing tobacco may be a filthy habit but the way some folks chew the rag is positively vicious.

-The weather of the past ten days has been wonderfully favorable for farmers who have had grain to haul in and oats to cut.

-If you want to be a candidate for any borough or township office the last day for filing your nomination papers will be August 23rd.

-It is to laugh when a fellow squirms far enough out of the upholstery in an eight thousand dollar Lim. to tell you how hard the times are.

-Sandwiches were known to the ancient Romans under another name and we suspect that some of the old stock is being sold under the new name.

-The impression that Judge Witmer, of Sunbury, is the Penrose choice for Governor is spreading rapidly. The Philadelphia papers took it up on Sunday.

-It is a slow and humiliating process to train the skin that only silk has touched for the past four years to get accustomed to the harshness of cotton again.

-The department of law and justice can't possibly be as much interested in the proprietors of hooch caches as are those of our friends who hope to connect with some of it.

-The aeroplane fare from New York to Atlantic City has been materially reduced; business having fallen off appreciably since the crusade to clean the shore resort up began.

-English society women have abandoned smoking because it has become too common, you know, and probably the habit of aping the English on this side, which many of us have decried for years, will now prove a blessing.

-With Japan showing signs of really wanting to sit in the disarmament game and Soviet Russia expressing a tentative willingness to take some advice from the rest of the world really there seems to be some signs of the dawn of peace.

-Our misrepresentative at the court of St. James runs true to form when he wears a silk hat with a sack coat. The club with which President Harding thought he was hitting his predecessor has turned out to be nothing more than a "slap-stick."

-When you have a picnic dinner in the woods don't leave egg shells, waxed paper, empty shoe-boxes, paper plates, fruit rinds, etc., as a monument to your thoughtlessness. Some body else may be looking for a lovely spot for a picnic and not realize what attractions the one you used had before you married it so. Besides, paper and other litter in the woods often help forest fires in starting and breed flies as well.

-The State Grange has gone on record as being opposed to the calling of a constitutional convention at this time. The reasons it advances for the opposition are practically the same as those that the "Watchman" has been urging for months. The farmers of the State are vitally interested and they would be well advised if they were to follow the suggestions that have just been made public by the legislative committee of the Grange.

-Famine and pellagra are said to be raging in the South because the depressed condition of the cotton market has reduced the standard of living there to the point where many are without food entirely and most have been unable to procure that variety that is needed to maintain a constitution hardy enough to ward off pellagra. While it is a sorry commentary on the prudence of a section that three years ago had so much money it couldn't find ways to spend it fast enough, it is a fact, none-the-less. Calls for help are already going out and the Near East and other relief movements should properly give way until the nearer South has been fully succored.

-The earnings of the United States Steel Co., for the last quarter were the lowest that have been reported since the spring of 1915, just prior to the war boom. While no one could expect any corporation to make such showings as were reported from 1916 to 1918 the reduced earnings of "big steel" are significant in that they reflect the impracticability of greatly reduced production at almost war-bum costs, for only recently did the steel corporations ask its employees to take their first reduction in wage. Judge Gary views the situation hopefully. Optimism helps a lot in getting back to normal, but we fear that many of our great industrial concerns will find considerable difficulty in readjusting, to the economic consumption of a peace time basis, plants that were extended or built wholly for the waste of war.

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Grange Opposes Constitutional Convention.

The Legislative committee of the State Grange has issued a timely warning to the farmers of Pennsylvania, against the proposed constitutional convention. After characterizing the law providing for the convention as "very objectionable legislation," the statement of the committee adds: "Never has the fundamental law of the State been so viciously attacked as is proposed in this act. The constitution of the State is the Bill of Rights of its people, and its revision should only be accomplished by the most fair and open processes. For the following reasons it becomes our duty as the Legislative committee of the State Grange, to earnestly advise our people to use their votes and influence at the September primary election to defeat the plan for the holding of a constitutional convention."

The reasons given are not new to the readers of the "Watchman." Some weeks ago they were expressed in these columns. But they are so true and timely that they deserve repetition. "The time is not favorable for deliberate judgment on so important a matter," the committee declares. "Distress, unrest and uncertainty are everywhere, and these distempers could not fail to be reflected in the work of a constitutional convention." This is a sufficient reason for opposing the convention but the committee gives other reasons equally sound. Election of delegates ought to be by Legislative rather than Congressional districts, the Grange officials allege, and finally "the appointment of twenty-five delegates by the Governor would be without precedent in the United States," and "it would place in the convention delegates not elected by nor responsible to the people."

What purpose, sinister or otherwise, the Governor has for asking the people of Pennsylvania to confer upon him this extraordinary power of control of a convention to frame a fundamental law, has not been revealed. It is almost equal to requesting authority to direct the destinies of the people for half a century, for that is about the life of a constitution in Pennsylvania. But this is not the greatest evil in the matter. As the Grange committee states the appointment of delegates to a constitutional convention by the Governor, is without precedent. Bestowing such power on the Governor in this particular case would create a precedent, however, which is fraught with the gravest danger. It would not be wise to create such a precedent. On the contrary it is important to avoid it and the Grange committee performs a public service in saying so.

A New York court has decided that "a wife cannot steal from her husband," and a court in another State has decided that a husband may chastise his wife for misbehaving.

Harden and Harding Agree.

Mr. Maximilian Harden, who is commonly designated as "Germany's foremost publicist," is quite as enthusiastic in praise of President Harding's proposed movement for disarmament as he is vitriolic in denunciation of the Versailles League of Nations. In a statement published in the New York World of last Sunday Mr. Harden says the "Versailles treaty of peace was a monument to anger, and vengeance and international jealousy," while "the forthcoming conference in Washington is to be an open well where all may quench their thirst and where none can deprive a neighbor of indispensable treatment." In this estimate he appeals to his hopes rather than his reason.

This may be accepted as the German interpretation of the subject. Mr. Harden is a German through and through. Before and during the war he was not always in accord with the plans and purposes of the Kaiser and the militarists who surrounded him and influenced his official actions. But he never faltered in his nationalism and frequently acquiesced in things he knew to be wrong because they expressed the policies of the German people. In other words, he believed in the precept of another nationalist who declared as a sublime principle: "My country right or wrong."

But Mr. Harden has expressed the views of a majority of the Republicans of this country quite as accurately as he has voiced those of the German people. Senator Philander C. Knox, who will be a candidate for reelection to the office of Senator in Congress for Pennsylvania at the coming election, protested against the Versailles treaty in almost the identical language employed by Mr. Harden. All the other Senators who voted against the ratification of the Versailles treaty inferentially adopted the same idea of the subject and the only advantage the proposed conference has over the other, with respect to disarmament, is that it delays the consummation so "devoutly to be wished for."

Mellon's Reasons Unsound.

Secretary Mellon's reasons for opposing the soldiers' bonus bill will not stand the test of careful analysis. He says it would embarrass if not actually bankrupt the treasury to pay the soldiers some \$300,000,000 in 1922 and about a similar amount in subsequent annual payments covering a period of eight or ten years. But he is willing and even anxious to pay the railroads \$500,000,000 right away and fund or cancel European war debts to this country to a vastly greater amount. The interest due on foreign loans would not only cover the expenditures of the soldiers' bonus, but leave a large balance in the treasury. Why let the soldiers suffer in order to ease up on European debtors?

Of course the European governments recently engaged in war are in financial straits. But the soldiers who saved those countries from a worse fate, or at least many of them, need money. And the debtor European nations have other means of evertng the dangers and inconvenience of poverty. They can cut down expenses sufficiently to meet the interest account on their indebtedness. France is maintaining an army almost on a war footing. Great Britain is spending more money on her army and navy than before the war and lending to pay even the interest on money advanced by the government of the United States, when it was a matter of national life or death.

It may be a wise policy to help trading communities to a safe and sound financial position if there is a reasonable hope that commodity exchanges and commercial intercourse will work reimbursement. But we are building a Chinese wall of tariff taxes about this country which will make trade relations and commercial transactions with the outside world impossible. Without opportunities to reach foreign consumers our factories will soon be obliged to shut down and industrial paralysis become inevitable. And for what reason? Because President Harding and Secretary Mellon want to cultivate friendly social relations with the people of England and to accomplish that are willing to sacrifice our interests.

Of course mild methods sometimes produce results and the President seems to have silenced Harvey effectively in a quiet way. But a good many people think an axe would have been the proper instrument to use.

Fordney Bill Passes the House.

There are recreants in every party on all occasions but the six Democrats in the House of Representatives in Washington who voted for the Fordney tariff bill the other day may be said to have "gone the limit." The Pennsylvania who registered in this class, Mr. Guy E. Campbell, lives in Allegheny county, and probably imagined that his constituents favor the absurd economic principles expressed in the measure. The others are representatives of Louisiana and California constituencies and were influenced by purely selfish considerations. Principles do not cut much figure in those localities. The mighty dollar is the only magnet that draws them, and they are responsive to the jingle of coin.

During the discussion of the measure Mr. Fordney admitted that the purpose of it is to exclude imports. That is to say, it is intended to eliminate absolutely international commerce. If that result is achieved this country is approaching the most destructive industrial paralysis in the history of the world. During the last decade fully one-fourth of the products of American factories, mills and soils have been sold in foreign markets. Even with this foreign demand we have not been able to find market for all our products and more than one-third of our productive capacity has been idle or wasted. If the foreign market is cut off entirely, the idleness will vastly increase and distress multiply.

The chances are, however, that the measure will be defeated in the Senate. President Harding favored its passage in the House but his mind changes over night and somebody capable of thinking coherently may get his ear before the bill gets out of the Senate committee. Not long ago Senator Penrose, who is chairman of the Senate committee, declared that his mind has undergone a change on the tariff question. The late President McKinley changed his mind on the subject before he died and it is not improbable that enough other Republican Senators have seen the light to postpone for a considerable time and modify the measure or defeat it. There have been great changes in recent years.

Temperance is admirable in every respect but it looks as if the enforcement of prohibition will be as expensive and long drawn out an enterprise as Great Britain's struggle to govern Ireland.

Coal Tax Law to be Tested.

The Department of Justice of the State is preparing for an early judicial test of the constitutionality of the recent Act of Assembly levying a tax on anthracite coal. Some years ago a similar law was passed and approved but after the coal producers had collected several million dollars from the consumers the act was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme court on the ground that it was class legislation. The price of coal had been increased to cover the tax two or three times over and it was expected that the money would be refunded after the law was invalidated. That expectation was disappointed, however, and the excess price has been continued ever since.

What reason the recent Legislature had for assuming that the court will reverse itself in interpreting the law this year has not been revealed. There is no material difference between this law and the one declared void. Both levied tax on anthracite coal and left all other kind of coal untaxed, thus clearly discriminating against anthracite coal. Both are obnoxious to that provision of the federal constitution which forbids levying tax on exports of products. And the Legislature was admonished by the previous decision of the Supreme court that such legislation will not stand. Yet the Legislature passed the law and the Governor approved it. And carrying the analogy a step further the price of coal has been increased since the approval.

The late Senator Quay, in one of his periodical diatribes against offending members of his own party, insinuated that the Supreme court bench was filled by catapulating unfit men into the seats. At the time the other coal tax bill was declared unconstitutional there was one Democrat on the bench, the late Justice Mc. ezat, who had a wholesome habit of insisting on correct legal interpretation of laws. Since that time Mr. Mcgretz has "joined the vast majority," and the court is now unanimously Republican and mostly filled by the catapulating method. Can it be that assurance has been given that it will reverse itself on the coal tax question? In any event the machine is depending on increased revenue.

Those who worry because they believe that Germany will control the markets of the world show scant respect for the genius and industry of the people of this country.

Where Are the Candidates?

So far there doesn't seem to be any great rush of candidates for the office of Burgess in Bellefonte as successor to the present incumbent, W. Harrison Walker. Of course the office is entirely in the "honor" class and past experiences of those who have filled it have not been of the kind that places a halo around the head of the presiding genius. It may be a distinction when a man is away from home to be known as the Burgess of a town that has furnished three Governors to the great State of Pennsylvania but a thankless, "damned if you do and damned if you don't" job at home.

Then there is the office of borough councilman. The old members, whose terms expire this year, have so far shown no great activity as candidates for re-election and there doesn't seem to be anybody who wants to dispute their right to continue in that capacity. But there is still plenty of time for all who may aspire to either of the above offices, as the last day for filing nomination papers is August 23rd.

It is said that the corn and rye crops are fairly abundant but with the Eighteenth amendment and the Volstead act in operation what good is there in such abundance.

It seems that Dempsey has never voted and as he escaped the draft by somewhat devious methods he may be characterized as an all around slacker.

The sea shore hotels complain of poor business this year but that was to be expected. The silk shirt makers have also noticed a decline in demand.

It is a perfectly safe bet that the international disarmament conference is simply a back alley way into the League of Nations.

The Fordney tariff bill is not yet a law but it has progressed far enough to cause a considerable advance in prices.

The fellow who paid thirty dollars for a seat at the Dempsey fight has no valid excuse for not paying his rent.

Probably a course of treatment for locomotor ataxia would help Congress in its legislative progress.

Hailing Down "Old Glory."

From the Philadelphia Record. The shipping Board has seized five steamers which it had loaned to the United States Mail Steamship company on the ground that the company hadn't paid the rent of them. But what has that got to do with it? Are we running a merchant marine for the sordid purpose of making money, or to keep "Old Glory on the Seven Seas?" Senator Jones, who writes laws about the merchant marine, says whatever the cost may be. He is willing to pay subsidies, millions of them. If it costs more to build and operate vessels under the American than under the Japanese or the Greek or the Norwegian flag, the American taxpayer has got to foot the bill. We can't expect the United States Mail Steamship company, or anybody else, to incur the enormous expense of keeping "Old Glory on the Seven Seas."

One way of meeting the deficits incurred by corporations that undertake this expensive task is to pay subsidies. But that amounts to very little. Congress would be afraid to vote subsidies of several hundred million dollars, and last year it cost the Shipping Board \$380,000,000 more than the earnings to keep "Old Glory on the Seven Seas." Thirty years ago Congress voted what was regarded as a pretty liberal scale of subsidies; but all, or almost all, the lines that took advantage of it, except the American Line, afterward a part of the International Mercantile Marine, gave up their subsidies; the cost of keeping "Old Glory on the Seven Seas" was more than the subsidy. The American Line got \$4 per mile on the outward trip, say \$13,000 a trip, and has continued the service, but complained that it was inadequately paid.

It is pretty easy to keep the British and the Japanese and the Dutch flags on the Seven Seas—probably they could be kept on 17 seas. They cut their expenses to what they can earn, and they come into our ports and seek cargoes that they are anxious to carry to any part of the world where there is water enough, at rates that our shipping men have difficulty in meeting. But Congress tells our shipping men what they must pay their crews, and what they must feed them in addition to "salt horse" and "plum rum," and how much sleep they are allowed to get. It maintains duties on steel for the purpose of enhancing the prices of shipbuilding material, and the cost of keeping "Old Glory on the Seven Seas" is pretty stiff. Companies that are not very liberally paid for the patriotic job tire of it and drop it, except one or two companies that get the biggest pay and growl about its inadequacy.

This enterprising and patriotic corporation, the United States Mail Steamship company, is keeping Old Glory on one of the seas. Apparently it does not get its money back, and it can't afford to pay for the use of the steamers. But what of that? It's the merchant marine that we want, isn't it? It's "Old Glory on the Seven Seas" that we are pledged to, is it? Then why haul Old Glory down between the vessels that fly it to not earn expenses? Is that not the reason why we pay subsidies, and a lot of our patriots want to pay a lot more subsidies? It only cost \$380,000,000 last year.

Farming Pennsylvania.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Urban Pennsylvania, complacently consuming what rural Pennsylvania provides, is imperfectly aware of the enormous investment represented by our farming interests. No other State supports so wide a variety of industries on so considerable a scale, and it is Pennsylvania's glory that colossal manufacturing and mining enterprises co-exist with agricultural interests of such magnitude.

Our farms are valued at \$1,330,254,700, which is a gain of 28 per cent. in a decade. Each farm is worth \$6577, if the average is struck.

The reason Pennsylvania has led since 1756 in the production of iron and steel and holds at the same time so commanding a position in a multiplicity of manufactures and in husbandry as well is not merely the opulence of natural resources, wherein the Keystone State is singularly favored. Other countries have been blessed by Providence, and the inhabitants have been too slothful and improvident to delve and plant. It is not in Penn's plantation. We had drones in his time and drones plague us yet, but the greatness of the Commonwealth is chiefly due to a general willingness to work, without which no industrial supremacy or lasting social felicity is to be won.

Chance for Preacher Mayor.

From Town Topics. If the Rev. Dr. Maitland Alexander should be elected Mayor of Pittsburgh what would happen? It seems hardly likely the pastor of the fashionable First Presbyterian church, who declined to leave it to accept the chancellorship of the University of Pittsburgh, would be willing to be Mayor of the city should he be elected. Dr. Alexander offers no opinion as to what he might do. He listens a lot and talks little.

Normal Costs Solve Problem.

From the New York Herald. The American farmer, like other producers, is discovering that more normal prices do not spell perdition when his costs are more normal.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Following Sunday's services West St. M. E. church at York, Pa., which has been used as a home of worship for 74 years, was closed. The building has been sold and will be used in the future as a garage.

-Because she was bitten by a vicious ram so that she suffered a broken leg and other injuries, Mrs. Ida Rholf, of Fayette county, has filed suit for \$30,000 damages against Mrs. Elizabeth Sprowl, keeper of the sheep. Mrs. Rholf says she was attacked by the ram while walking on the public highway. The suit charges negligence in allowing the ram to roam.

-Alleging that a liquid mole remover applied in a careless and negligent manner permanently disfigured his face, Harold H. Murphy, of Philadelphia, has brought suit against Guy Grillo, a barber, for \$5000 damages. Murphy contends Grillo prevailed upon him to take the treatment six weeks ago, while he was getting shaved. The moles are gone, he alleges, but the liquid burned blemishes in his face.

-One man is dead and six others are in a serious condition as a result of drinking "white mule" at a party in a woods near Blaine City, Clearfield county. Wade Harkins, aged 37 years, of Blaine City, died last Wednesday. Harkins and the others were on a picnic, and one of the men went for some booze. After drinking almost a gallon of the liquor he obtained, the party became unconscious and were found a short time later.

-Within twenty minutes after a crime is committed in Pittsburgh, news of the deed and descriptions of the criminals will be in the hands of police throughout the United States and Canada, officials of the Department of Public Safety of that city announced last Friday. The Department has arranged with a manufacturer of wireless apparatus to use a powerful transmitting "set" to flash the details of crimes in that city to the authorities of other cities.

-Professor J. S. Gottlieb, choir-master at St. John the Baptist Catholic church, of Pottsville, on Saturday saw a string sticking up from the ground in his yard. Pulling on it, he drew out of the earth a bag containing \$300 in gold. A wealthy family formerly occupied the home where the professor lives, at No. 1009 Howard avenue, and it is believed the money was buried treasure. For years it reposed nearly on the surface of the ground, ready for any one to pick up.

-The finding of three large deposits of calcareous marl in Franklin county within the last few weeks, a second deposit in Huntingdon county and the knowledge that beds exist in Erie and Adams counties, gives assurance that a large number of Pennsylvania farmers have opened to them an unusual and good supply of agricultural lime. The location of a marl bed in northern Huntingdon county last fall by extension representatives of The Pennsylvania State College has led to greater investigation, with the result that thousands of farmers will be benefited.

-Magistrate J. J. Sweeney, who conducts hearings in central police court, Pittsburgh, bluntly declared last Saturday that he has for a man to carry a large quantity of liquor intended for private use. At the Pennsylvania station special policeman James Waddell arrested a man calling himself "Smith." Waddell told the magistrate that Smith was trying to smuggle thirty half pints and several quarts of whiskey in his luggage. Smith said he was starting on a camping trip. The liquor was restored to Smith.

-The executors of the estate of the late M. F. Elliott, of Wellsboro, former general solicitor of the Standard Oil company, who died a few months ago at Mansfield, have filed their final account with the register of Ulster county, disposing of \$500,000. The only public bequest that Mr. Elliott made was the sum of \$50,000 to the proposed Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial hospital at Wellsboro. After the specific legacies, there remained \$420,000 to be divided among the residuary legatees in sums ranging from \$16.21 to \$18,271.30, of which there were fifty-eight, all told.

-George Melly, of Lexington, Columbia county, has three baby pole cats. They were found by one of his sons after the mother was shot. The little orphans were given milk and bread and started eating with a good appetite. They are black and white striped and very pretty. They are becoming very tame and are frequently left out of their cage, showing no desire to run away. George says they will make pretty and affectionate pets and will prove better mousers than cats. They were successfully operated upon to remove the objectionable disposition for which they are noted.

-Theodore A. Boak, of Hughesville, last week opened to the public the beautiful trout pond grounds between Hughesville and Muncy. The property recently came into possession of Mr. Boak through purchase. He intends to give its use to the public free of charge, and to keep the ponds, which were first stocked with trout in 1872, well stocked as one of the attractive features of the park. The idea of purchasing the grounds and preserving them for the public's use was conceived in Mr. Boak's mind when he learned some months ago that the fine stand of timber on it was being cut down for lumber.

-Mr. and Mrs. Imro Broomall, Harry Broomall and daughter, Miss Anna S. Broomall, all of West Chester, have instituted proceedings in the Chester county courts against Samuel J. Miller, of Lancaster, Pa., to recover \$20,000 as the result of an automobile accident which occurred on the Lincoln highway near Berwyn in June of this year. Mrs. Broomall was injured, and her neck was permanently scarred. Imro Broomall sustained injuries, including a fracture of the arm. Harry Broomall was prevented from going to work the day following, and as a result lost his position, while the daughter, Miss Anna, sustained a fracture of the collar bone. It is charged that Miller was driving his automobile on the wrong side of the road.

-The army's champion eater returned to Sunbury last Saturday with an honorable discharge, having eaten himself out of a job. Samuel Ding, of Hartleton, Union county, enlisted at a Sunbury recruiting station eight months ago and was sent to Camp Jackson, S. C. He came back under escort of a corporal, who had orders to be sure and get him home safely. "Why, he ate the potatoes, skins and all," said the corporal. "Two loaves of meat were sliced into helpings of meat were his single meal capacity, and he cried all night the other night when he couldn't have a meal at taps. That settled it. Sam got his discharge, and I was sent along to see that he got her safely." Ding admitted that he was "some eater" as he ordered two sirloin steaks with a double order of potatoes at a local restaurant.