

INK SLINGS.

—And council has been resolved. —It took the Granger's picnic to break the dry spell.

—The new moon is far in the southern skies which is a fairly good sign of warm weather.

—Seizing an opportunity has been interpreted as a neglect of duty by the town council of Bellefonte.

—President Harding certainly isn't giving the Mayflower any chance to get back to "normalcy."

—The Irish might do well to grab the half a loaf that England has offered them. It is better than no bread at all and they might grow strong enough on it to take the other half.

—It nearly always happens that the men who advocate big families as the salvation of the nation are the ones who have plenty where with to feed and clothe and educate the little ones.

—Since there are thirty-nine hundred and ninety-three residents of Bellefonte who probably feel that they wouldn't take the office of burgess as a gift it is only natural to wonder why the other three are putting up such a fight for it.

—The stock market has been looking up lately, but the rise is too new to determine whether the financiers see the dawn of business revival and are discounting it, as they invariably do, or whether it is merely due to technical conditions.

—Having lamed the lady teachers very carefully as they trooped into the court house for the sessions of their institute we feel that the parents of the county will be interested to know that, collectively, they displayed more brains than legs. And we regarded it as a wonderfully hopeful sign.

—If it was such an outrageously meddlesome proceeding for President Wilson to call on the country to elect a Congress that would support him three years ago is any less reprehensible for President Harding to be insisting that Oklahoma elect a Senator who will support his policies?

—So far as the crowd was concerned the Logan picnic was not one of its old fashioned outings. But those who were not deterred by the threatening weather had a good time and spent their money so freely that the firemen are richer by far than they usually were after the old fashioned picnics of years ago.

—Officials of the United Mine Workers of America, who are charged with having incited and directed the miniature war in the non-union coal fields of West Virginia, ought to know that the public wants a convincing refutation of the charge. In recent years general sympathy for labor has not been so unstinted as it once was because, always, out of such industrial conflicts as were those in Logan county, has come the intimation that labor was being exploited by its leaders who confound leadership with agitation.

—My, how the officers of the 28th must have adored the life in the trenches of France. With the lovely mansion, the perfectly appointed club house and all the other attractive and interesting buildings that dot the glorious vista of the Boal estate expectant with open-doored hospitality, the army of officers who assembled there last Friday seemed to see none of it. In thought and spirit they were back in France once more and the conquest of mind over matter was complete, for they took to the crude, dank, musty smelling "dug-out" immediately upon their arrival and only came out when the Colonel announced the zero hour.

—The more we expect government, local, state and federal, to do for us the more may we expect higher taxes. After all, government is merely us and when we place upon it the burden of furnishing the books for our children's education, caring for their eyes and teeth, building our roads and what not we foot the bills through taxation just the same. We pay collectively for what we would otherwise pay individually. Some might say that it is the same in the long run, but it isn't. Very often the individual discovers that he is without discretionary power and when that discovery is made a warning has been flashed as to the danger of paternalistic and centralized government.

—The announcement in another column of the "Watchman" that the next county Christian Endeavor rally will be held in Paradise might lead some, unfamiliar with the nomenclature of Centre county towns, to infer that Brother Smith and his band of Endeavorers have had a tip that the millennium is about to come. The Paradise here referred to has neither golden streets nor walls of jasper. It is just a village mid-way between Waddle station and Maternville, on the Buffalo run road and Arthur Thomas, not St. Peter, commands the approach thereto. But what we started out to tell the younger generation is this. While Zion has always been known by its present heavenly name time was when Paradise was Helltown, by name and some say in spirit as well. Be that as it may, it is a fact that an itinerant spy pilot called the villagers to a spiritual accounting one time and out of the travail of confession of the ugly sins of Helltown two churches were built and the placid little village of Paradise was born.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Prohibition in the Senate.

Observers of events in Washington of an analytical turn of mind expect a bitter fight on the pending Volstead enforcement act and some of the most earnest prohibitionists are apprehensive that the result will be inimical to the cause.

In the past enforcement officers are said to have gone far beyond the bounds of reason. They have searched baggage, personal effects, garages, barns and even dwellings in violation of the fourth amendment to the Federal constitution. To prevent such things in future Senator Stanley, of Kentucky, offered an amendment to the enforcement act forbidding searches without warrant. Upon that the impending fight is expected.

The Senate by a very large majority adopted the Stanley amendment but it was stricken out by the conference committee. The House promptly adopted the conference committee report, but the Senate refused to concur. The opposition increased in vehemence but diminished in numbers as the discussion progressed and the Anti-Saloon League got the ears of Senators. Finally the time fixed for the recess arrived and the Senate adjourned for a month, leaving the question undecided on the calendar.

The fight will be renewed on the reassembly of the Senate on the 21st instant and the impression is that the conference report will be adopted, but that the result will impair rather than help the cause. Senator Borah, one of the legal experts of the Senate and a militant prohibitionist, has aligned himself with those contending for the Stanley amendment. He says "I feel that the cause of prohibition is just as deeply interested in the cause of constitutional government and the preservation of our rights under the constitution as any other cause or class of people."

Senator Stanley, author of the amendment, declares he "was amazed that members of the Senate sworn to protect and defend the constitution, learned jurists, would practically admit their willingness to ignore and violate one provision of the constitution in their zeal to more efficiently and effectively enforce another provision."

Other prohibitionists are equally emphatic in denouncing the methods of the radical prohibitionists. They favor the enforcement of the prohibition amendment vigorously and rigorously, but apprehend that in doing so by violent and unconstitutional methods, they will alienate a considerable number of the most earnest prohibitionists who will shut their eyes to violations of the law rather than encourage enforcement that involves such dangerous consequences.

The belief exists in Washington, however, that the conference report will be adopted for the reason that those supporting it care more to gratify their pride and feed their vanity than preserve the constitution.

That candidate for tax collector in Bellefonte who told a Spring street lady on Wednesday that he already had the pledges of six hundred women voters in Bellefonte, ought to be wise to the fact that very often when a woman says "no" she means "yes," and is just as likely to mean "no" when she says "yes."

In the meantime the gentleman is not resting on a sure thing but making a house to house canvass, and if he is short with the ladies when the final vote is counted it won't be his fault.

Nine thousand depositors in a broken Boston bank with claims amounting to \$2,000,000, failed to file claims for their share of the assets within the time limit. It is not surprising that Senator Lodge is able to fool the people of Massachusetts.

President Harding has just discovered that there are no fortifications on the line between this country and Canada and the discovery has given him a beautiful opportunity to platitudinize.

Six nations have expressed confidence in Elihu Root as a judge, but half a million majority of the voters of New York refused to ratify his work as a constitutional maker.

"France, stout of heart, has worked wonders in the mighty task of reconstruction," reads a headline. But France had no Lodges to contend with in its efforts.

We see no cause for complaint in the fact that President Harding takes a good many holidays. He never accomplishes anything when working.

Vote for John T. Bracken.

In addition to the importance of defeating the proposed constitutional convention the Democratic voters of Pennsylvania have opportunity to perform another signal civic service on primary election day. There is a vacancy in the Congressional delegation to be filled and the election of the Democratic candidate for that office, Mr. John T. Bracken, of Pittsburgh, to fill that place would be a valuable and meritorious public service.

It would serve to rebuke the Republican majority in Congress for violating the pledges made during the campaign and admonish it against the partisanship which has prevented the enactment of legislation for the restoration of peace and prosperity. In the Congressional campaign a year ago Mr. Bracken was one of the nominees of the Democratic party for the office of Congressman-at-Large. He is a reputable and successful attorney-at-law and in every respect well qualified for the office.

He ran several thousand votes ahead of his associates on the ticket, thus proving his availability as a candidate. But in the land slide which followed a campaign of false representation and calumny of President Wilson he was defeated by Mahlon M. Garland, his immediate competitor. Before the certification of the election of Mr. Garland, he died, and legal authority of the highest order advised Mr. Bracken to lay claim to the election, which he did. But the partisan majority refused to even allow a statement of the case.

In view of these facts the election of Mr. Bracken at this time would serve as a just retribution against the partisan spirit that denied him the unalienable right of appeal for justice. But there are other and equally potent reasons why every Democrat and fair minded voter of whatever political faith should vote for Mr. Bracken. He fulfills the Jeffersonian requirement as to fitness. He is honest and capable, while his opponent is simply a meek and servile follower of the party machine that has worked havoc to the industrial life of the country and betrayed every interest of the people.

We hope every Democrat in Centre county will fulfill his obligation to the public by voting for Mr. Bracken.

Mr. Hampton L. Carson is moved to a high pitch of indignation because Judge Landis has accepted an office in the baseball organization, but Mr. Carson is entirely contented to allow an ash cart boss to rule his native city. This is one of the anomalies of the legal mind.

God Save the Commonwealth.

The esteemed Philadelphia Record, which has given some support to the proposed constitutional convention enterprise, states in a recent issue, that "opponents of the proposed constitutional convention, which the people of Pennsylvania will vote on at the approaching primary, have been furnished their best argument in the character and calibre of some of the candidates aiming to represent the people in the convention, if one shall be held.

If the records of some of them in former activities as one-term officeholders, as boodling lobbyists and as professional leaders of special interests are any indication of what they might do to the State constitution if offered a chance, God save the Commonwealth."

The esteemed Record has in mind, unquestionably, the aspirants for seats in the convention for Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and other cities of considerable population, in which the most undesirable candidates predominate. In the rural districts, as a rule, fairly fit candidates have been set up and a good many of them will probably be elected. But the other sort will predominate and if the convention is called we may all join in the pious invocation of our Philadelphia contemporary, for the malign purpose of the promoters of the sinister enterprise will be achieved. The work of the packed convention may be defeated at the polls in November but the rescue will cost a couple of million dollars or more.

As the Legislative committee of the State Grange declared some time ago, the principles of justice and the rights of citizens of Pennsylvania have never been so viciously attacked as in this scheme to hand over to an individual the destinies of the people for half a century. And if it succeeds at the primary election it will be practically impossible to defeat it at the general election for all the crooked devices of a depraved political machine will be invoked in support of the iniquity. But it can be defeated at the primary and will be if the voters who have public interests at heart and a just appreciation of their rights and duties in mind will go to the polls and swipe it as a monstrous evil.

Senator France probably thinks much as other Republican leaders on the question of the Russian government, but the others are not as frank.

Lame Argument for the Convention.

The more or less esteemed Harrisburg Patriot, the multimillionaire owner of which has been practically assured a seat in the proposed constitutional convention, if one is called, is willing that a million dollars or more of the public money may be squandered in order to give a few aspiring gentlemen an opportunity to "discuss" the subject. "Whatever arguments against revision of a constitution," observes this sapient shaper of public opinion, "there can be none against discussion. It is easily possible that a convention after canvassing the whole ground might decide against scrapping the old instrument in favor of a new one. It might decide on few changes or many or none."

But in any event this experimental operation would cost the people of Pennsylvania a million dollars or more of good, hard-earned cash, at a time when the treasury resources are unable to meet current expenses. The proposed convention, if called, might make few changes but it is tolerably certain that the few would be in the interest of those who are promoting it. Or it might make many in the same direction, and like the Root convention in New York a few years ago, suffer an ignominious rebuke at the hands of the people after another million or so had been wasted in submitting it to a vote for ratification. But what's the use of all this trouble and expense? Discussion is free and nearly all those who favor a convention can afford to hire halls in which to talk if they are anxious to exploit their erudition.

There may be good reasons and many of them for making a new constitution but the present is not auspicious for such an important work. The times are out of joint. Industrial life is stagnant and the future of production and commerce uncertain. Besides the public treasury is in no condition to meet increased and unnecessary expenses. These reasons are more than sufficient to confute the contentions of the convention protagonists whether presented in public conference or private convention. Besides the proposed method of organizing the convention is fundamentally wrong. No constitutional convention ought to be made up of delegates appointed and responsible, not to the public, but to one man.

German statesmen still have hope of the restoration of the Empire and our separate peace greatly strengthened the hope.

Railroads and Auto-Trucks.

The complaints of the railroad managers that auto trucks are taking a large part of their business from them are puerile. The auto trucks are getting the business for the reason that they appeared upon the scene at the opportune moment and prevented the railroad managers from rifling the pockets of the public. In 1920 the railroad managers entered into a criminal contract with the Republican National committee to elect the candidate of that party for President in consideration of generous recompense, in the form of favors, after the election. In pursuance of that sinister agreement the railroads procured an increase of freight rates almost to a confiscatory point, and gave the truck owners a chance.

Naturally the truck owners availed themselves of the opportunity to enter into a profitable business by offering to carry freight, not only short-haul shipments but consignments at considerable distance, and the railroad managers set up a protest on the false and fraudulent pretense that their franchise from the State entitled them to protection from a competition that was less favorable. In other words they claim that they are required by law to maintain their rights of way, pay corporation taxes and meet other obligations to which the truck owners are not amenable. That is a good deal like pleading the "baby act."

The truck owners also have expenses more or less heavy, to meet. If the railroads had not undertaken to compel shippers to pay exorbitant rates for carrying freight the truck owners would never have found the opportunity to enter the field in competition. In the nature of things railroads have it all over truck owners in the carrying business, alike in short and long hauls. But the managers were not satisfied until they also got what they imagined was a cinch on the public and the truck owners were welcomed by the shippers into a competition which appears to be breaking in their favor. The railroads can probably recover their natural advantage by fixing freight rates at a just figure and if they fail to do that they deserve the defeat which is inevitable.

The Bar Association may "resolute 'till the cows come home" but it can't stop payment on Judge Landis' salary check.

MANY MILITARY MEN AT CAMP BOAL.

Big Gathering of A. E. F. and National Guard Officers Attracts Many Visitors.

Historically speaking Boalsburg is one hundred and twelve years old. It has always been regarded as a beautiful village at the foot of the Seven mountains by those who knew it, but it remained for Theodore Davis Boal to put it rightly on the map. As soon as he had decided to locate there permanently he got busy. Whenever there was a farm for sale he bought it, until now the Boal estate extends almost as far as the eye can see. Then he turned to other fields to conquer. He organized the Boal Machine Gun troop and became captain. He went to France and became a major and since his return home was made a colonel. His love of the military must be hereditary. His old Boal troop achieved wonders in the world war and the present Boal troop is an integral part of the National Guard.

Col. Boal has set aside fifty or more acres on his estate as a military reservation, with permanent buildings of various kinds, even to a "dugout." This is the home of the Boal troop. Early in the summer he set about organizing the officers of the Twenty-eighth division A. E. F. into an association for the perpetuation of good fellowship. The organization was perfected on June 11th when Major General W. G. Price was elected president and Col. David J. Davis secretary and treasurer. A handsome and commodious club house was built on the bluff of the Boal camp, not very far from the "hoose-gow," and that is the permanent home of the officer's club, which now consists of about seventy-five members. September 3rd to 5th was the occasion of their first get-together and as many of the members still hold commissions in the National Guard the guard association was invited to meet at the same time and place. The result was the largest gathering of officers seen anywhere outside a state encampment. A few of them came in on Friday evening to avoid the rush, but the big influx was on Saturday.

When a "Watchman" reporter visited the camp on Saturday afternoon he found Capt. Charles E. Sohl, of the Boal troop, stationed at the mouth of the dugout registering the arrivals. The dugout evidently was not patterned after the approved German plans, because it is built on top of the ground. Your name on the registry book was a pass to the dugout. The reporter didn't register.

All told over one hundred men prominent in military affairs were present. These included Adjutant General Frank D. Beary, Major General W. G. Price, Major General George C. Rickards, and colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains and lieutenants by the dozen. Some fifteen or more were present from Philadelphia, an almost equal number from Pittsburgh and the balance from other sections of the State. They were quartered and fed in tents received from the state arsenal at Harrisburg. Many of the younger officers were accompanied by their wives. The American Legion band, of Clearfield, was present and gave a concert each day, while a dance was held in the officer's club Saturday night.

On Sunday night Boal troop gave a problem in military shooting on the mountain range near MacBride's gap, using tracer bullets. This exhibition was watched by hundreds of people who motored to the camp on Sunday. The gathering throughout was almost entirely of the social order. On one or two occasions a number of officers got together and discussed such problems as a suitable by-laws for the National Guard association, and some contemplated changes in officer's uniforms, but no definite action was taken. The camp broke up on Monday and by evening all had departed for their respective homes.

The I. O. O. F. band of Bellefonte is proving a popular musical organization. This is shown by the great demand for its services. During the month of August it filled seventeen engagements, held nine rehearsals and was compelled to turn down a number of requests for services owing to conflicting dates. In addition to the weekly concerts at Bellefonte the band played at Port Matilda, Blanchard, Beech Creek, Rebersburg, Millheim, Spring Mills, Howard, Hublersburg, Hecla Park and Hughes field. Willis E. Wion is manager of the organization and every member takes a deep interest in keeping it up-to-date in all the latest music.

Dr. John W. Thomas, the new president of the Pennsylvania State College, will fill the pulpit in the Presbyterian church on Sunday. The public is invited to attend and hear him.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Struck by a bolt of lightning as he was standing in the doorway of the barn of his farm at Hatch Hill, Fred Smith, 42 years of age, was instantly killed during a severe storm which swept over Bradford county last week.

—In a suit recently filed, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lyson ask \$15,000 from John Tercho, Sr., of Oardale, Fayette county, as the result of the death of their daughter, Ann, 11 years old, who was accidentally shot at the Tercho home, August 5th, by 14 year old John Tercho.

—Henry DeVillers Williams, a member of one of New Bethlehem's most prominent families, before ending his life with an automobile gun, wrote a note to a member of his family in which he said: "I am tired of attempting to live a Packard life on a wheelbarrow salary." He was employed as a bookkeeper.

—Wiley Titus, aged 9 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Titus, of West Middlesex, Mercer county, was dragged to death by a run-away cow. The boy was leading the animal and had the rope tied around his waist. The cow became frightened and ran away, dragging the boy about 250 feet, causing his death.

—John Carver, of Lebanon, aged 65 years had been courting Emma Hornberger, aged 26, and, during the course of the courtship presented his lady love with a \$100 phonograph, a \$27 wrist watch, a \$9.50 ring, and clothing and cash to the value and amount of \$300, and now the young lady jilts the aged Apollo and he demands the return of the articles specified.

—District Forester B. D. McPherson, of Lock Haven, has reported to the State Forestry Department the presence of a large flock of ravens in the vicinity of Ranchtown, Clinton county. The birds have been found roosting on rock ledges at Ranch's gap. It was believed that ravens were extinct in that section, but McPherson believes they have nested there for years unobserved.

—Forty barrels of elderberry wine were used to extinguish a fire on a farm near Carlisle one day last week, after the available water supply had been exhausted by a bucket brigade, which had worked strenuously for six hours. A barn and out-building were destroyed. A handsome lodge, upon the roof of which the wine was used, was the only building saved. The owner, Gilbert Beeten, estimated his loss at \$10,000.

—Judge Fuller, of Luzerne county, has directed that a permanent injunction be issued restraining the borough of Sunbury from taking over the electric light property of the Pennsylvania Power and Light company at Sunbury, which had been decided upon by popular election four years ago. The property is worth \$350,000. Council had directed a special election and the vote was overwhelmingly for municipal ownership.

—John J. Kelly, for six years supervising principal of the schools of Conyngham township, Columbia county, has been ousted from his position and Mrs. Mary Fennessy, a daughter of a former member of the board, who was removed from office several years ago after dishonest practices were charged, was named to the post by the present board, which is now facing removal in proceedings before the court. Kelly, it is declared, sided with the minority of the board in the trouble between the two factions.

—While Harry Sherwood and I. J. Focht, of Wellsboro, were visiting the Asaph oil well in Sheppen township, Tioga county, two "motor-crazed" porcupines took possession of their auto. When the men returned, they found one animal chewing the upholstery for a choice morsel, while the other, more ambitious, had attacked the steering wheel. As they could not be handled without gloves, the men armed themselves with long poles and after much effort succeeded in dislodging the usurpers and regaining possession of their car.

—The State prison labor commission which has the contract for furnishing automobile license plates to the State Highway Department, was low bidder to supply 500,000 brass dog license tags to the State Agricultural Department. It bid \$3398.62. Other bids were made, but the commission will likely get the contract. This is the first time the State has contracted for the tags in this manner. Each county will have its own series and there will also be kennel tags. Enforcement of the dog law by the State will start next January. Heretofore it has been a county matter.

—James E. Young, 57 years old, of West Nottingham township, Chester county, was almost instantly killed by a vicious bull at his home Thursday evening. His body was found in a field, by his wife, who went in search of him after the cows had gone to the field to drive to the barn had arrived there without him. The body was found lying close to a fence, which Young had evidently endeavored to reach when attacked. Young went into the field where the bull was pasturing with his cows and had apparently been attacked at once. His body was badly gashed by the horns of the animal and he had also been trampled.

—Mrs. Sadie Dean shot and accidentally killed Mrs. John Bates at Bedford, last Wednesday. Both were endeavoring to protect themselves from John Bates, who was drunk and threatening to do them bodily injury. Bates had been drinking home brew during the day and in the course of the afternoon at the Bates home, he became vicious and threatened the women. To protect themselves against the man the women secured a gun. In making their way hurriedly to a place where they could better protect themselves Mrs. Dean stumbled and the gun was discharged. The charge struck Mrs. Bates in the neck, killing her instantly. All are colored. Mrs. Dean gave herself up immediately after the homicide. Mrs. Bates was dead. Bates was arrested and held on the charge of violating the liquor law.

—Asserting that his pretty wife had been stolen deliberately by a man in a large touring car, Charles Fillingier, of Geneva, N. Y., appealed to the Sunbury police last Friday for aid in finding her. He asserted that he and his wife were walking along the road near Millinburg when the tourist, alone, offered them a ride. At Millinburg the husband got out to go into a store, and the stranger drove off with the woman. Fillingier is 35 years old, and his wife, Nora, is 30. She has dark hair and blue eyes and is pretty, the husband asserted. They had left their home in Geneva, N. Y., and were "hiking" south in search of work, when the stranger, who said he was on his way to Philadelphia, met them. The police have thus far been unable to trace her. Fillingier was frantic with anxiety. He said they never had been apart before since they were married.