

INK SLINGS.

—Where is that cold wave that was scheduled for this week? —Vote No on the proposal to hold a constitutional convention. —The constitution of Pennsylvania is all right. Why spend a million dollars on a convention to frame a new one? —Fatty has joined Doug. and Mary in the twilight zone. The public is very fond of the movie stars but they must come clean. —Slowly the shamrock and the rose are abandoning the hot houses and showing signs of endeavor to thrive under the same gardener. —Who robbed the booze department of the postoffice? Surely the fellows who did it will never admit having been parties to such a bungling job. —Bellefonte's weekly band concerts are over for this season and right here we want to express our gratitude to the business men's association for having made them possible. —Japan's idea that if we are really going to reduce navies the strongest naval powers should reduce until they are no stronger than the weakest is theoretically sound but impracticable. —There is probably no reason to fear that the Ku Klux Klan will become popular in the North. The Know Nothings, about three-quarters of a century ago, gave us a lesson never to be forgotten. —Mrs. Renshaw couldn't possibly have been chosen Women's Democratic chairman because of fidelity to party principles, and it is equally impossible to imagine that she was selected on account of ability as a reasoner. —Next Tuesday will be the day when every one will have his or her chance to have a say as to who shall have a chance to fill local offices. Vote only for the men or women whom you think are really fitted for the positions they aspire to. —Crago is one of the Congressmen who voted against every proposal to give the soldiers a bonus. He wants to go back to Congress. The boys who did the work in France will have a chance next Tuesday to catch him out in No-Man's land. —In Boston unemployed men are voluntarily going to a public auction block and having themselves sold to the highest bidder for their services, often being knocked down at nothing more than board and keep. Surely this is a new kind of "Normalcy." —We have changed our mind. We are not going to give the brown derby to the man who gets the most noise out of one of Henry Ford's contraptions. We are going to set it on the ivory dome of the leader of the crowd that stole the booze from the post-office cellar and then couldn't think of a safe place to hide it. —Reports have it that Congressmen are not enjoying their vacation as much as they thought they would when voting for a month's recess. The folks back home want to know about too many things that were promised and haven't been done during the six month's session and don't seem inclined to stand for more stalling. —The sensational attempt to revive the old steam heat works had Bellefonte in a frenzy of excitement Tuesday morning. Had the company had a little of the kind of bottled heat cached there when it busted up in February, 1918, and left its patrons freezing with the thermometer away below zero there probably wouldn't have been as much crabbing as was registered then. —The Mr. Crago who is up for reelection as Congressman-at-Large at the special election next Tuesday, is the same Mr. Crago who voted against Woman Suffrage when it was before the House. He didn't want to give the ladies a chance to vote, but they got it just the same and if they vote for Crago next Tuesday they are —well we never called names when speaking of or to the ladies, but if they vote for Crago we reserve the right to think a lot. —Mlle Suzanne Lenglen, the French tennis champion, has been compelled to cancel all matches in this country because of her shattered health. The little lady who made such a fiasco of her first contest here is probably in a more serious condition than was supposed when she blew up on the Forest Hill, N.Y. courts a month ago, but be that as it may she has the love and sympathy of all of America because of the self-sacrificing spirit that brought her here to play for the benefit of her stricken compatriots. —Remember, that you will receive two ballots when you go to the polls next Tuesday. The smaller one will be that of the special election to elect a Justice of the Supreme Court, a Congressman-at-Large and decide the constitutional convention question. The other ballot will be for the primary. On it you must mark a cross opposite the names of the candidates you deem best fitted to fill the offices they seek. On the bottom and to the right of the smaller or special election ballot you will find two blank squares opposite the words "Yes" and "No." Take our advice and mark an X in the square opposite the word "No." The time is not propitious and the method of constituting such a convention is not on the square. Don't be a party to the trickery.

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Defeat the Convention Project.

The hope of the supporters of the constitutional convention project rests on the credulity of the women voters, apparently. We have already referred to the activity of Mrs. J. O. Miller, chairman of the League of Women Voters, and Mrs. Barclay Warburton, chairman of the Women's Republican committee, both of whom have been inferentially promised seats in the convention if it is created. Recently Mrs. Clarence Renshaw, woman's chairman of the Democratic committee, has been enlisted in the enterprise, and she is quoted in the Sunday papers as urging all Democratic women to vote for the convention. Presumably she has received assurances of some sort that the Governor will name her for membership.

Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Warburton have substantial reasons for the attitude they have assumed on the question, for they are partisan Republicans, and naturally favor any proposition which will work impairment of Democratic principles and destruction of Democratic interests. But Mrs. Renshaw has no such excuse, for by virtue of her office in the Democratic party, she is morally bound to an opposite purpose. Yet she deliberately advises the Democratic women voters to join in an effort which is palpably intended to strengthen the corporate grip on the affairs of the Commonwealth and strangle whatever is left of Democratic sentiment among the people. Personal preferment hardly justifies such perfidy.

Happily, however, Mrs. Renshaw's reasoning is so feeble that it is not likely to work great harm. She says that the adoption of the Nineteenth amendment to the federal constitution makes necessary adjustment of the State constitution "to give the newly enfranchised women her just rights." That is simply absurd, or it might be characterized by an uglier word. The Nineteenth amendment fixes as fully and firmly as possible the citizenship of women, married or single, because State laws whether fundamental or statutory, must conform with the provisions of the federal constitution. The question of jury service, which Mrs. Renshaw says is in doubt, has been settled by the courts in favor of the women.

Mrs. Renshaw's next reason for a constitutional convention is the desirability of a "budget system." But there is no necessity of going to a million dollar expense to get that. The Legislature has full power under the present constitution to adopt the budget system. Congress has taken that step recently with respect to the government at Washington and the system is in operation with the militant and profane General Dodge at its head. Mrs. Renshaw's demand for a "charity chest" has also been anticipated in the so-called "Welfare Department" created by the last Legislature and recently organized. As a matter of fact Mrs. Renshaw's contribution to the convention propaganda is puerile.

No unselfish citizen of Pennsylvania, male or female, has yet given a forceful reason for assembling a convention at an expense of a million dollars or more to write a new constitution for the State. The present organic law may be defective in unimportant particulars, but it is infinitely better than any instrument that might be expected to come from a packed convention at a time when public sentiment is chaotic and industrial and commercial life in confusion. The proposition to invest the Governor with power to appoint nearly one-third of the members of a constitutional convention is insulting to the intelligence of the people, moreover, and the project ought to be defeated for that reason.

The Legislative committee of the State Grange has the correct idea on this subject. It contends that delegates to a convention assembled for such a purpose should be as close to the people as possible. In a recent statement of the case the committee shows that many of the counties of the State will be without representation, while others with no greater population and possibly less, may have two, and the spectacle of candidates for membership, some of them palpably unfit for the service, "going around urging the approval of the convention," is severely and justly condemned. If the people of the State are wise and awake to their interests, the project will be overwhelmingly defeated.

—Mr. Bryan says forty years in politics has made him an optimist. He might add that the last dozen years have made him a nuisance.

—It must be admitted that "Fatty" Arbuckle carried his fun too far in the case of Miss Rappé.

—Penrose has declared for reform but the people are inclined to take it as a joke.

The "Culminating Atrocity."

Our esteemed Republican contemporaries have grown exceedingly exuberant at times in commenting upon soup houses and bread lines to which communities have been forced to resort during industrial depressions that have occurred while Democratic Presidents were in office. The same conditions occurred at other times but they were conveniently overlooked or forgotten for the reason, probably, that Democratic newspapers are not in the habit of indulging in that sort of comment and Republican prints kept quiet "for the good of the party." During the last Roosevelt and the Taft administrations soup houses and bread lines were frequent incidents of industrial paralysis and were passed over without comment.

But last week for the first time in the history of the country jobless white men were put upon the auction block and sold to the highest bidder as the only available means of averting starvation. As the auctioneer stated, they were not loafers and bums who were forced to this expedient by want. They were healthy and industrious men willing and anxious to work at any price that would yield them sufficient food and raiment "to keep body and soul together." The sale was not a great success for the reason that even upon such terms there were few jobs available. Plenty of witnesses to this distressing episode were in full sympathy with the suffering men but they were unable to give relief.

And this incident occurred during the administration of a Republican President. While the campaign was in progress last year newspapers and orators in every section of the country were sounding the praises of Republican statesmen and declaring that that party is the only one capable of managing the government successfully. They assumed complete control of the government six months ago and from that date industrial and commercial conditions have been going from bad to worse and the auction block for willing and capable workers, in Boston last week, is the "culminating atrocity." Will our Republican contemporaries give as full publicity to this as they did to the bread lines of a few years ago.

—Anyway the Monroe Doctrine has nothing to do with disputes between countries on this hemisphere. It is only the people of the other hemisphere who are warned to "keep off the grass."

Better Late Than Never.

The proposition which comes from certain labor leaders that public meetings be held throughout the country with the view of solidifying sentiment in favor of the disarmament, deserves to be encouraged. Every sane man and woman in the country realizes that the vast expenditures for maintaining big armies and navies constitute the principal cause of excessive prices. So long as these drafts upon the resources of the country continue high taxes will remain. High taxes make high rates for everything else and will ultimately result in national poverty and individual suffering. In view of these facts the disarmament movement should be cordially supported.

The proposition to hold these public meetings is timely, moreover. On the eve of the meeting of a conference of nations called by the President in the interest of disarmament, they will not only solidify public opinion on the subject but will give moral support to the delegates sitting in the conference in behalf of the United States. When President Wilson was working his heart out and wearing his health away in a similar benevolence the Republican leaders of the country joined in an effort to defeat his purpose. That was not only shamefully perfidious but actually treasonable. We are glad to see that Democratic leaders are inclined to a more patriotic course now.

The disarmament project came late but it is better late than never. The right time to take the matter up was immediately after the armistice and the right way was in joining the League of Nations as promptly as England, France and Italy joined it. If that had been done national conditions would have been adjusted on a peace plane two years ago, the United States would now be not only the leading but the most prosperous country in the world, and taxation could have been reduced a couple of billions a year by this time. But we would have had no selling of men on the auction block in such circumstances and the colossal vanity of Senator Lodge would not have been fed as it is being fed now.

—Fashion may fix a time for discarding the straw hat but the wise wearer will be governed in the matter by the weather.

Crago Opposes Both Woman Suffrage and a Soldier Bonus.

Considerable interest is being manifested throughout the State in the special election to be held on the same day as the primaries, September 20, at which a Congressman-at-Large is to be chosen to fill the vacancy created through the death of M. M. Garland. For some time electors believed that each party would nominate a candidate for this office at the primaries, but since learning that the nominations were made by the respective state committees and that the election of a Congressman-at-Large will be made on primary day, there has been considerable activity among the friends of the respective candidates.

To vote for Congressman-at-Large, each elector will receive a ballot separate from the usual party nominating ballots. These ballots will be held in a separate box and a separate return made by the election boards. Four parties have nominated candidates for Congressman-at-Large. The candidates, in the order in which they will appear on the ballot, are Thomas S. Crago, Republican; John P. Bracken, Democrat; Cora M. Bixler, Socialist; D. E. P. Prugh, Prohibitionist.

Strong opposition to Crago has appeared among women and soldiers inasmuch as he, when in Congress, voted against woman suffrage and the soldier's bonus, according to the official records of the House of Representatives. Members of the marine corps, particularly, are active against Crago. The women and soldiers are giving their support to candidate Bracken, who is a veteran of the Spanish-American war. During the world war he gave much of his time and money in aiding the soldiers. He is a member of the United Spanish war veterans, Mr. Bracken is a business man and a member of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce and the Pittsburgh Association of Credit Men.

Supporters of Mr. Bracken have been waging an aggressive campaign quietly for many weeks. During the remaining days of the contest they have arranged to put a lot of "pep" into the fight. Many prominent Republicans have joined in the campaign work for Bracken. His friends are confident he will be elected on September 20th. Every elector, regardless of party affiliation, is entitled to a ballot on which to vote for Congressman-at-Large, inasmuch as it is the same as at a general election.

—Whether business is good or bad President Harding enjoys himself in one way or another. Taft may have the long distance record for Presidents but Harding is ahead in the matter of frequent absences.

Choice of Evils in Philadelphia.

After an earnest, prolonged and exhausting effort we are compelled to give up hope of arousing enthusiasm for either side in the pending quarrel between the Republican factions in Philadelphia. There are many and potent reasons for "deep feeling" on the subject. There is an old adage that "when rogues fall out honest men come by their own." That of itself should arouse the spirit of partisanship in behalf of one side or the other in the contention. But political perfidy, selfish ambition and sordid cupidity have so depleted the Democratic force in that city that there is not enough left to take advantage of opportunity.

As between Senator Penrose and State Senator Vare one might work up some semblance of enthusiasm in behalf of Penrose. But it is almost impossible to believe that the dividing line is drawn there. One might easily choose between Mayor Moore and the coterie which controls the city councils, moreover. Mayor Moore was a confirmed machine politician before his election, but the responsibility of office and his obligation to the public seems to have worked a complete change in his methods and by fidelity to duty he has earned popular respect. But we can't persuade ourselves that the issue is between the Mayor and the perfidious councilmen.

Two years ago the better element of the Republican party in Philadelphia appeared to have gained substantial victory over the vicious machine which had been looting the city for years. But within a few weeks after the election the corruptionists had debauched a sufficient number of the officials elect, to nullify the triumph. The indications are that the same result will follow this year in the event that the better element wins at the polls. That cloud in the horizon prevents any measure of enthusiasm over what appears now to be a hopeful prospect of the defeat of the machine at the coming primary.

—It isn't so much pride as rapacity that is interfering with charity work in Russia. The Soviet government officials want the money even if the people are starving.

West Virginia's Troubles.

From the Philadelphia Record. When the West Virginia miners shall have returned to their senses and their homes and order shall have been completely restored there ought to be an investigation into the cause of the long-standing trouble there by a thoroughly impartial body. To be sure, a committee of the Senate is supposed to be making such an inquiry, but nobody ever pays any attention to Congressional recommendations. The hearings may drag on indefinitely, and public interest may have disappeared long before a report shall be made.

In the not unnaturally heated language of President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, "the mines of West Virginia constitute the last refuge of autocracy in the mining industry. In these mines an unrestrained, unlimited greed dominates absolutely. Absentee owners hold immense tracts of rich mining lands, demanding only dividends." There is exaggeration in this, of course, but the fact remains that absentee ownership is one of the flagrant evils of the situation, and that the acquisition of great tracts of coal and lumber lands by companies and individuals who take no interest whatever in the workers has caused great bitterness of feeling.

Another element contributing to the existing disorder is the character of many of the miners. These are Americans of sturdy stock which many years ago became marooned in the mountains of West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee and has remained there ever since. The high pay offered by the mines has attracted these mountaineers from their secluded homes, and they have taken up an industrial existence for which their training has not well fitted them. Suspicious, sensitive, undisciplined and long accustomed to deeds of violence in the primitive life of the mountains, they become very inflammable material when the thought finds lodgment in their minds that they are being exploited and oppressed by soulless corporations. Resistance to such authorities appears to them as natural and well justified as the drawing of blood in a family feud.

This is a situation which obviously calls for a great deal of tact and forbearance, and unhappily these admirable qualities seem to have been singularly lacking on both sides. Many of the miners are fierce and lawless, and the mining companies seem to be equally reckless in their employment of force. Many years ago there was a very similar condition of affairs in Pennsylvania, culminating in the great anthracite strike of 1902. That led to the establishment of Boards of Conciliation, and a little later the state constabulary was formed, replacing the old Coal and Iron police, the private detectives and the deputy sheriffs, whose aggressive mistakes had done much to anger the miners. For nearly twenty years now there has been peace, followed by prosperity, in the anthracite regions. Apparently there is no reason why West Virginia should not achieve equally happy results if both sides could be brought together in a conciliatory spirit and made to see that their interests are identical.

Oil in Our Politics.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

To read France on Russia is to feel that one has read the worst thing in propaganda that may be read. The only thing possibly worse than France on Russia is Stephen Bonsal on Mexico.

"Five important oil men," begins Bonsal, "have gone to Mexico for a conference" with President Obregon. Bonsal's bubbles are all made of oil. It was in the cards. For months it has been in the cards. Certainly since March 4 last, this thing called "oil" has been in the cards now being played at Washington.

Oil helped to nominate Harding. Oil helped to elect Harding. Oil carried Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and many another State for Harding. Behind the scenes, the big prizes in the campaign were oil. Colombian oil ratified the Colombian treaty that had been hanging fire for 15 years and more.

Oil persuaded Henry Cabot Lodge and others to reverse their positions on that treaty and to vote \$25,000,000 to Colombia, although Lodge, as well as others, had for 15 years denounced the proposition as "blackmail."

Oil placed Albert B. Fall in the cabinet. Oil leased a big tract in the Osage Nation in Oklahoma to private individuals.

Oil named Scott Bone to be Governor of Alaska. Oil set up Henry P. Fletcher as Under-Secretary of State.

Oil wells or oil tanks, afire and inextinguishable, in Tampico petroleum fields have been the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night to Charles Evans Hughes in formulating his Mexican policy. Oil's "the thing!"

Corn is Again King.

From the New York Herald.

Corn is king this year as usual, and in its habit of growing sturdily and complacently in spite of adverse conditions, it is the symbol of the Nation which devotes so much soil and energy to its cultivation.

—Get your job work done here.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Apple trees in some sections of Fayette county are blooming for the second time this season. Two on the Moser farm, near White House, are out in full bloom.

—Arthur Summerson, a Clinton county farmer, committed suicide one night last week by shooting himself in the head. A shotgun was the weapon used. He is survived by his wife and several children.

—Governor Sproul has granted a respite staying the electrocution of Sydney A. Rhyne, Delaware county, from the week of September 29th to that of October 24th. His case will be presented to the State Board of Pardons.

—Dominick Pelagim, keeper of a boarding house at Madera, was shot to death by John Cavalier, a boarder, police say, when he attempted to drive the latter away from his house. Cavalier, who suffered a gun wound in his right leg, says the shooting was done in self-defense.

—Levi Welkin, a Negro, aged about 30 years is an inmate of the Clearfield county jail, charged with robbing Tony Araker, of Madera, of \$1,300 in money, a shotgun and other articles. Previous to going to prison Welkin confessed and turned over the money and other articles to the officer who arrested him.

—While leaving a hunting cabin in Clearfield county for the purpose of shooting at a chicken hawk, one of the steps of the porch broke, and the gun carried by Frank Ross was accidentally discharged, the bullet striking Leslie Derrick, causing a wound which resulted in his death a short time afterward.

—Dr. M. L. Emerick, of Lancaster, and his chauffeur, James Stauffer, charged with arson in connection with setting fire to the Aluminum Paint company's plant at Dalmatia, waived a hearing before "Squire" W. Landis Zerbe last Thursday, and gave bail for their appearance at the September term of Northumberland county criminal court. An effort is being made to have the prosecution dropped, it is understood.

—Timely intervention by Berwick police about midnight Saturday night saved William Bailey from a coat of tar and feathers at the hands of an angry crowd which had failed in its efforts to effect a reconciliation between Bailey and his wife after she had accused him on the street of being intimate with another woman. The crowd quickly gathered when the argument started and sympathized with Mrs. Bailey. Men were getting the tar and feathers when the police took Bailey to safety and guarded him the remainder of the night.

—George Bossinger, aged 14 years, of Lewistown, was accidentally hanged last Friday evening while playing in the barn at his home. He was swinging on the rope on a carrier, in the barn, that is used to carry hay to different parts of the farm, and in some way the rope became entangled in the rope and he was strangled to death. When the boys' father, William Bossinger, found him, the body was still warm and he was bleeding from the nose. The father was frenzied with grief and in trying to get the boy loose severely cut his hands on the rope. Death was pronounced due to strangulation.

—Making six million feet of gas, a well was drilled in by the Pinecreek Gas company in Pinecreek township, Jefferson county recently—a comparatively new field. After great efforts by a large crew of men the well was capped and shut in. The well was drilled in the southwest corner of a 500 acre lease and a prior development showed a gas streak extending north and east the lease looks like a valuable property. Pay sand was struck at 2200 feet. It is understood that the Humphrey Brick and Tile company, of Brookville, has the largest individual interest in this lease and that the major portion of the gas produced will be used at their works.

—A confession that plans had been made to rob the First National bank of Juniata, and also the bank at Bellwood has been obtained, the Altoona police say, from Warren VanZandt, following his arrest a day or two ago. It was the intention to hold up the banks in banking hours and escape in a waiting automobile. VanZandt, the police say, implicated in the plots, Gilbert McCloskey, Edward Yon and George Lafferty, all of Altoona, arrested on the charge of holding up the Manhattan Limited several weeks ago, and also charged with the murder of William E. Niehaus, an insurance claim agent, in Altoona several days later. Others also were connected with the plot.

—Harrisburg police are trying to solve the motive behind the slaying of Roy Bruce, 40 years old, of Wormleysburg, who died on Saturday after having been found Friday night with his skull crushed, lying in the gutter of the old Erie State ball diamond on Island Park, now a Harrisburg city park. So far not a clew has been discovered. Bruce was alive and able to stand up, although bleeding profusely from wounds in his head, when two small boys directed a park guard to his assistance. He was unable to talk, and shed no light as to who his assailants were. The only fact the police have to work upon is the story of the boys that they saw several men running away from the grandstand.

—Attorney Porter W. Lowry, aged 66 years, for more than 40 years a prominent member of the Butler county Bar Association, was sentenced to from eight to nine years in the western penitentiary on Saturday and fined \$200, after he had pleaded guilty to two charges of embezzlement, one of forgery and one of larceny by bailor. Upon entering his pleas the attorney strongly implored the court to show no mercy and, in addition, pledged himself to redeem his debts upon his liberation from prison. The defalcations in the case were connected with the settlement of the estates of Mrs. Mary F. Hyde, of Ithaca, N. Y., and Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, of Los Angeles, and amounted to \$41,500.

—The Girard Mammoth coal company, of Pottsville, lost its \$1,000,000 suit against the Raven Run Coal company when the court dismissed the bill of injunction granted the Girard Mammoth company and refused to direct specific performance of a contract. The case involves the ownership of lands of the Raven Run company worth \$1,000,000. It is alleged the Raven Run company agreed to sell out to the Girard Mammoth company, but the deal was called off when the question of some of the land titles became involved. As a result, the Raven Run company held the \$200,000 deposited by the Girard Mammoth company as a guarantee. Efforts were made by the Girard Mammoth company to go through with the deal with the Raven Run company.