

INK SLINGS.

—Anyway Governor Sproul has been denied a chance to write a new constitution for Pennsylvania.

—Bellefonte registered an emphatic "No" to the proposal to hold a constitutional convention at this time.

—The proposal to hold a constitutional convention in Pennsylvania was overwhelmingly rejected on Tuesday.

—About the only business that the Harding administration has put any pep into thus far is that of the photographer.

—While Burgess Walker was being put through the 33rd degree up in Boston his rival, Mr. Johnston, was being put through the 3rd right here in Bellefonte.

—Sitting judge Thomas J. Baldrige defeated District Attorney Marion D. Patterson by nearly three thousand votes in their contest for judicial honors in Blair county.

—Marshal Foch is coming to visit us next month but as he is not going to stack up against either Mr. Dempsey or Mrs. Mallory he will go back to France as great an idol as he left.

—The Vire victory in Philadelphia was accomplished on a fifty-fifty slate. After the election the contractors will turn the other side around and the Brotherly Lovers will discover the real figures—ninety-nine—one.

—This word agenda that we hear rolled so glibly from the tongues of real and near statesmen means merely what is to be digested at a stated sitting. In other words, it includes everything from soup to nuts.

—The New York architect and furniture manufacturer who are in court wrangling over which one of them will be entitled to recognition in history for designing a chair recently presented to President Harding might do well to ask for a suspension of judgment. The fellow who designed the chicken coops for Rutherford B. Hayes isn't in the spot-light in the Hall of Fame.

—The primaries are over. The men of your choice may not have succeeded on getting on the ticket. If they didn't it was only because the majority of the voters didn't view your favorites with the same appreciative vision. Be that as it may, you still have many to pick from, for the election that is to come is not like the primary just past. At the election you can vote for any of the primary nominees, no matter what their politics may be, whereas at the primary the choice was confined to only such persons as sought a place on your own party ticket.

—Some folks are of the opinion that the whiskey found in the old steam heat works here last week wasn't stolen from the postoffice at all. The determination of that point isn't worrying us half so much, however, as the slander that is being cast upon our profession by the rumor that one of the few of us who has been professionally true to the teachings of Frances Willard and Mr. Murphy got four bottles of the illicit stuff and said he had only one when the officers called to replevin it. Of course we would have had to give him the brown derby if he had given up the other three, but we'll have to take the white ribbon away from him because he didn't.

—Years of dabbling in it have convinced us that when it comes down to playing politics our Republican friends are about the meanest specimens of humanity we have ever met up with. Of course we Democrats never expect anything better from them than to be kicked round like a miserable hound dog, but how they pull that kind of stuff on one another and then all pull together for the grand old party is something too abstruse for our single-tracked mind. Monday night one of the Republican aspirants for a place on his party ticket in Bellefonte hired a band to parade the streets and stir up enthusiasm for his cause. He had handsome banners flaring enticing assurances to the voters and the parade moved as scheduled. But one of his Republican rivals for the same office evidently got a tip as to what was doing and had a lot of banners made to sing his praises and then he hired a lot of boys to carry them ahead of the band and grab off all the thunder the other was paying for. Did you ever hear of such a trick? A Democrat couldn't pull such a thing and get away with it.

—Burgess Walker carried Bellefonte for renomination by a majority of 210 votes over all opponents without even having been in town while his political fat was in the fire. That is going some. There may be those who will attempt to minimize his victory by claiming that he had weak opposition, but as a public official it can scarcely be said that Mr. Johnston, his principal opponent, was any more vulnerable than he. Both were charged, and not without reason, of dereliction of duty in their present offices, but it seems that the voters preferred the "trust me" policy of the burgess to the pledges of the tax collector. We hope that Mr. Walker will now talk turkey to council, decide once and for all who is boss of the police of Bellefonte and run the town just as wide-open as some of his advocates believed he would or as tight shut as others would like to have it. Who cares whether automobiles menace them by day and boot-leggers seduce by night. The Big Spring flows copiously on and them that don't like Bellefonte can take Charles Pickle Snyder's advice and move to some other town.

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Surprising News of Shantung.

Those of us who recall the hysteria of Republican Senators over the disposition of Shantung in the Versailles Peace treaty are again perplexed by a new development concerning that province in China. It will be recalled that long before the world begun China had ceded Shantung to Germany. After the beginning of hostilities it became an exceedingly useful and important army and navy station for Germany in her operations against Russia. For this reason the Allies entered into an agreement with Japan to dislodge Germany from the port and pledged the German title to Japan as a reward for the service in the event of the successful issue of the enterprise.

The Versailles treaty confirmed and fulfilled this pledge after Japan had given a promise, at the demand of President Wilson, that in the course of a short time it would be restored to China, the rightful owner. It was at the beginning of the war as much the property of Germany as any of the provinces and property of the German empire and the conquest by Japan gave that country as valid a title to it as France obtained to Alsace and Lorraine. But the Republican Senators went into hysterics over the great wrong which had been done to China and in the absence of a better reason cited that as one of the causes of their opposition to the ratification of the Versailles treaty. Senator Lodge "threw a fit" over it.

Now the surprising news comes that Japan has been trying to fulfill its promise to restore Shantung to China and China refuses to accept it. What the real reason for this attitude is, is left to conjecture, but it may be assumed that there is some subtle political scheme concealed in it somewhere. China declares that she is willing to take Shantung back but wants the United States government to make the conditions and define the terms of the restoration. Possibly there is no significance in this but the late Bret Harte had a thorough understanding of the "Heathen Chinee," and his tricks. In any event it would be both wise and safe to keep clear of Asiatic politics.

—Even if the Harding conference fulfills the expectations of its friends it will not accomplish anything in the way of progress. It may make it possible for big nations to boss small ones but we had that condition before the world war.

No Infringement but Dodging.

We have seen comparatively little comment and practically no criticism on the recent act of President Harding in personally appearing on the floor of the Senate to lobby against the passage of the soldiers' bonus bill. When Mr. Harding's predecessor in office invited Senators and Representatives in Congress to visit the White House and confer on pending legislation, not only all the Republican Senators but most of the Republican newspapers condemned it as a gross infringement of the prerogatives of Congress. Such epithets as Czar, boss, and other offensive names were applied to him, but when President Harding did an infinitely more offensive act, they all remain silent.

What President Harding did, however, was not an infringement on either Senatorial prerogative or dignity. It was simply a rather scurvy method of "saving his face." If the President had gone to the floor of the Senate chamber to lobby for the passage of a measure of legislation, he might be open to the charge of discourtesy, for such a thing has never been done. The constitution specifically authorizes him to "recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary or expedient." Therefore he was not infringing Senatorial prerogatives. He might easily construe his act as within that provision if he had been favoring a measure. But he was opposing pending legislation.

The constitution invests in the President of the United States the power to veto any measure of legislation passed by Congress and unless two-thirds of the members present of both Houses pass it again, "the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding," it is dead. Therefore courageous Presidents have never interfered with the passage of offensive legislation while pending in Congress. They simply wait until it comes into their possession and then swipe it with a veto. But Harding hadn't the courage to avail himself of his constitutional right to kill it. He hid behind the togas of the Senators.

—If the correspondence between Lloyd George and Mr. DeValera accomplishes no other result it keeps an anxious people of two hemispheres guessing.

Secretary Mellon's Curious Idea.

It may easily be believed that Secretary of the Treasury Mellon is correctly quoted in a statement that whatever improvement there may be discernible in business conditions is ascribable to the boll-weevil, though the esteemed New York World protests that he could not possibly entertain such an opinion. Mr. Mellon's statement, which is endorsed by other high officials in Washington, is to the effect that the boll-weevil worked such destruction to the cotton crop that a scarcity ensued and prices advanced. In sympathy with this incident prices of other commodities increased to an extent that started a purchasing movement and an apparent activity in trade operations. No doubt the cause and effect are both present.

Of course the proposition is absurd, and as the esteemed New York World states, "if the boll-weevil has such a miraculous effect on cotton every good patriot will pray from now on for grasshoppers in the wheat, drought on the pasture, smut in the corn and frost on the fruit blossoms. Come cinch-bugs, hail, flood, cyclones, sabotage and all the plagues of Egypt—every visitation will leave us better off than before it came. The short cut to prosperity lies through calamity." Our contemporary might have added a pious invocation for war because it is the most destructive agent known to the human mind and affords the greatest opportunity for profiteering and high prices.

But it is not surprising, as our New York contemporary imagines, that Secretary Mellon should express such thoughts. They voice the fundamental principle of protectionism and the favorite argument of tariff mongers. They have always contended that heavy taxation and high prices created and promoted prosperity and made a good many credulous voters believe that to be a fact. The late Mr. Blaine protested against such an absurdity after he had given up hope of election to the Presidency and the late President McKinley backed away from it before he died. But it is sacred doctrine in Pittsburgh yet and no doubt Secretary Mellon fully and firmly believes it.

—We refuse to believe the current reports of the abundance of oil in Bolivia. If oil could be scooped up in buckets full in that country the Standard Oil company would have acquired title to all the land there long ago.

World Opinion of Our Attitude.

The world opinion of the attitude of this country with respect to the League of Nations was tersely and truthfully expressed by Zinavasta Zastri, representative of India in the Assembly of the League, now in session at Geneva. Mr. Zastri is a lawyer and though native of India, speaks English admirably and eloquently, according to the Associated Press reporter of the meeting, and his speech "made a profound impression on the delegates." "I have no patience with those who have been mentioned in this debate who remain outside and criticize," he declared, adding, "it is easy enough to find fault but it is not always useful."

Among those "mentioned in this debate" was the government of the United States. Since the organization of the League we have done nothing officially but criticize and in every case "the wish was father to the thought" expressed in the predictions of failure. We have sneakily taken advantage of every provision of the covenant of the League which promised advantage and shirked every obligation it imposed. This fact is proved by the text of the separate peace with Germany which in itself was a dastardly and infamous act, according to Senator Lodge's speech in Boston at the beginning of our activity in the war. This is why the world condemns us.

M. Leon Bourgeois, one of the French representatives in the Assembly, refuses to believe that the people of the United States are not in full sympathy with the purposes and progress of the League. "It is not to be expected," he said in an impressive speech in the Assembly, "that a country which sent 2,000,000 men across the Atlantic to fight for liberty would afterward renounce a part in future affairs." So far as the people of this country are concerned M. Bourgeois' estimate is accurate, but he is apparently unfamiliar with the aims and aspirations of the petty, partisan pigmies who are now in control of our government.

—It may be only a coincidence but it is true, nevertheless, that burglar insurance increases in price in just about the same ratio that booze increases in cost.

—The declining value of the German mark is certainly a vindication of the law of supply and demand.

One Menacing Ghost Laid.

By a substantial majority of the people of Pennsylvania the ghost of one absurd ambition of the Republican machine has been laid. The proposed constitutional convention has been defeated and it may be safely predicted that no attempt will ever be made again to organize a convention on the plan which has been rejected. It was preposterous from the beginning. A constitutional convention is the voice of the people and its members should come from the people rather than from an individual or a partisan machine. The value of the victory of the people in this instance, therefore, lies in the fact that it has placed the seal of popular condemnation on an attempt to usurp power.

The campaign made by the Republican machine and others influenced by selfish ambition, was one of false pretense. The most effective argument in its support was the statement that unless the convention is called the building and improvement of the roads of the Commonwealth would have to be discontinued. As a matter of fact nothing except the profligacy or inefficiency of the Highway Department will check the road building in this State. The operation is not a program of the Highway Department or the work of a political clique. It is a matter in which the people are enlisted and the interest of the people in the work will guarantee its continuance until completed.

The present constitution of Pennsylvania is an admirable expression of statecraft. But it was made nearly half a century ago and in some respects has fallen behind in the march of events. If conditions were favorable and the public mind in proper frame good results might be obtained by the writing of a new constitution. In fact it may be expected that within a few years a convention will be assembled for that purpose. But when such a proposition is approved by the people it will be laid on a just plan and assembled under auspices more inviting to public confidence than the one which has just been rejected by the voters of the State. The convention will be responsible to the people.

—Autumn was ushered in on Wednesday with one of the hardest rains of the season; or perhaps the downpour was sent purposely to wash away any animosities engendered by Tuesday's primaries.

Revenue Legislation Agreed Upon.

The Senate Finance committee has finally agreed upon a revenue bill and will report it this week. It represents the skeleton of the House bill clothed in the language of the Senate committee. But the changes are of little importance to the general public. They show material alteration in phrasing but no important difference in effect. The rich man is benefitted at the expense of the less fortunate in both measures, the greatest difference being in the fact that the House bill was retroactive to January last while the Senate committee bill becomes effective in this respect next January. Chairman Penrose believes the heavy campaign contributors will stand the burden another year.

It is estimated that the measure as framed by the Senate committee will produce a revenue of \$3,200,000,000 for this year, which is the amount Secretary Mellon believes is necessary. But provision is made for borrowing about \$2,000,000,000, so that it is practically admitted that the pretense of reducing taxes is false and fraudulent. The estimated yield of the measure for next year is \$2,700,000,000, but as the congressional election of next year will be over before that deficit is revealed, it will be easy to get deficiency bills for any amount through. All that is needed now is a "good enough Morgan until after the election," and it is hoped the bill will serve that purpose.

Of course the Democratic members of the Senate Finance committee were not consulted in the framing of the bill. What their opinions are on that subject or this is of no consequence to Senator Penrose and his colleagues. But the people will have a voice in appraising the measure after it becomes a law and it may be predicted that they will speak plainly and to the point. Juggling of figures will not fool all the people even part of the time in this period of educational progress and Republican statesmen are likely to change their estimate of public intelligence when the popular verdict is expressed in the ballot box. But the trick serves its purpose for the present.

—The Boston police have stopped the auction sales of laboring men but the price of food has not even declined in price.

—The big trout are coming up Spring creek, which is evidence that the spawning season is about due.

Interesting News for Disabled World War Veterans.

Red Cross Chapters have received notice of the "Clean-Up" campaign organized by the Veteran's Bureau for the purpose of reaching every veteran of the world war who may be entitled to benefits under the war risk insurance act. The purpose of the campaign is to assist disabled ex-service men to secure compensation, medical treatment, and hospital care in cases where compensation claims have not yet been filed. Men whose claims are pending will be helped to secure final action in cases where further evidence is necessary to connect their disability with service.

To effect this "clean-up" of cases, the bureau has created in each State a "clean-up squad" consisting of a medical examiner, a compensation and claims examiner, and a member of the district manager's staff. To each squad there has also been assigned a state representative of the Red Cross and a representative of the American Legion. The squad will not actually make compensation awards, but they will have considerable authority in making decisions and recommending final action. Immediate physical examination will be provided when necessary.

The Pennsylvania squad has been in operation for some time in the eastern part of the State, and are in Pittsburgh this week. Their exact location in this vicinity and the date of their arrival have not yet been announced. In the meantime, however, all ex-service men whose claims are pending, or who have a disability for which they have not yet claimed compensation, should get in touch with the nearest Red Cross Chapter, where they will be assisted in preparing all necessary papers ready for the consideration of the clean-up squad. The work of the squad will be much more effective if evidence in each case is properly lined up before they arrive. Unadjusted questions of vocational training will be taken care of as well as compensation matters.

Ex-service men in Bellefonte and vicinity whose claims have not been settled are advised to get in touch with the Bellefonte Chapter Red Cross, or Miss Helen K. Shippis, executive secretary of the State College Chapter. Miss Shippis can be reached at the Red Cross office in the basement of the bank building at State College from nine to twelve in the morning, or by letter sent to the same address. She will be glad to give immediate attention to all calls from ex-service men, or from others who may know of cases that should be taken care of.

—It may be said that Republican statesmen would rather have another war than an enduring peace made by a Democratic President.

—Admiral Sims is again denying things. If the Admiral would hold a tighter tongue he would have less reason for explaining.

—The "joy-riders" are also impairing their health by burning too much midnight oil.

The Resignation Rumors.

For some weeks Washington gossip has been whispering of an impending break-up of the Cabinet. In clubs and hotels the names of members about to resign have been knowingly mentioned. First it was Secretary Hoover. He was going to wash his hands of policies he could not approve. Then the report was most positive that Secretary Mellon was going to get out. His financial plans had been inconspicuously rejected by Congress, the President had not backed him up and he intended to retire from public life. Finally, with great detail and appearance of authenticity, came the statement that the Attorney General meant to leave the Cabinet in order to become a candidate for the Ohio Senatorship. This one-third of President Harding's official family were making ready to desert him!

All the stories have been denied, and presumably had their origin only in rumor. But who started the rumor? This is the question that deeply interested the Washington correspondents, who have been trying to run down the answer to it. And they are said to have discovered a surprising thing—namely, that the unfounded and malicious yarns were put in circulation not by marplot Democrats but by disgruntled Republicans. The trail seems to lead in the direction of Representatives and Senators who have not hit it off any too well with the President, and who are taking this means to annoy him and to give the party leaders concern. It is a good deal like taking pot shots at an enemy from behind a hedge. Even if he is not hit, he is startled and worried and does not know where the next firing will be directed.

No doubt the gossip mongers at the capital will soon have other members of the Cabinet planning to quit their posts. Meanwhile, Mr. Harding bears himself as one who has an unflinching faith in the Jeffersonian dogma that few die and none resign.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSSTONE.

—Although John Freyman, of Lehighton, is 90 years old, he recently cut six acres of grass with a scythe.

—Senator Charles E. Donahue, of Lock Haven, has been appointed district deputy exalted ruler for the B. P. O. Elks of the Central Pennsylvania district.

—Governor Sproul granted respites for two Lackawanna county men sentenced to be electrocuted. Frank Palmer was given a respite from October 3 to 24, and David L. Jones from September 26 to November 21.

—Attorney W. L. Woodcock, wife and two daughters, have returned to Hollidaysburg from a six week's tour of Europe, during which they visited many of the battlefields. The Woodcocks are residents of Hollidaysburg.

—Arthur M. Replage, for seven years connected with the staff of the Second National bank of Altoona, has been elected cashier to succeed John D. Meyer, now vice president of the First National bank of Tyrone. W. S. Kilgore and C. K. Nagle have been appointed assistant cashiers.

—Pickpockets, believed to be members of a gang "working" the crowds at the Reading fair, and spending their evenings in station and theatre crowds in that city, made a big haul when they stole the purse of Frank Gerhart, of the Independent Gun Club. It contained \$500 and a lot of checks.

—The state forestry department is erecting more than 100 huge steel signs on state forest lands, cautioning visitors to prevent fires. Pictures of a burned area showing the charred stumps and devastated land are shown on the signs. It is said that this is the first time any state forestry department has attempted an extensive use of out-door picture signs as propaganda for the prevention of forest fires.

—The Pennsylvania State Firemen's Association will hold its annual convention in Wilkes-Barre, October 3rd to 8th, in conjunction with the celebration of the city's old home week, the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of Wilkes-Barre as a city. Among the speakers at the convention will be Judge Eugene C. Bonnell, chairman of the State Firemen's Association executive committee; Charles H. Grakelow and Samuel B. McCormick.

—Dr. Ellen C. Potter, formerly of Philadelphia, and connected with American educational work in Indiana, will become director of the bureau of child welfare of the department of welfare of Pennsylvania. She is now chief of the division of child health in the Department of Health. Dr. Mary Riggs Noble, of Philadelphia, will be advanced to succeed Dr. Potter. Miss Mary Moss, of Reading, will leave health department social service work for a position with the welfare department.

—No time has yet been fixed for the sentencing of the six men held in jail at Reading since last March for the \$180,000 robbery at the People's Trust company, Wyoming. Four were convicted and were last week refused a new trial, and two pleaded guilty. Copies of the opinion by Judge Schaeffer refusing a new trial were mailed to the men's attorneys in New York. Sentence may not be imposed for a week or more to give counsel an opportunity to take further steps if they see fit.

—Mrs. Clara Kibler, 43 years old, of Nesquehoning, Lancaster county, has been acquitted of the charge of killing her husband, by a jury in Lancaster quarter sessions court. The verdict was returned after deliberation of fifteen hours. The defense claimed the act was committed by Mrs. Kibler while in a somnambulist state and called physicians to prove that such was possible. Her husband, Christian Kibler, was shot in the head twice as he lay sleeping in bed on the morning of May 12, 1921.

—John S. Myers, of Birmingham, nearly 102 years old, was born in Missouri, on a plantation owned by his father. He left there when 11 years of age, surreptitiously, and went to France, the land of his grandfather, who had come to America with Lafayette, where he remained 33 years. Returning to America in 1837, he settled in Pennsylvania. He has lived in Montour, Lancaster, Huntingdon and Blair counties. He enlisted in the navy in 1847, served during the Mexican war and was mustered out in 1852.

—The ancient doctrine that a man has a right to beat his wife and cannot be prosecuted for doing so was involved in a case in court at Pottsville, on Saturday, when John Cecepini, of Shenandoah, prosecuted for beating his wife, asserted that in Europe he had a legal right to beat his wife, and he thought the same right existed in America through the English common law. Judge Berger directed the defendant to pay \$30 a month for the support of his wife, who does not like her husband's doctrine and is not living with him.

—Frank Valeroso, tried for the murder of the Rev. Felix Novak, his wife and three children, at their home on Pond Hill, Luzerne county, was found guilty of murder in the first degree, last Friday. The jury deliberated for three hours before informing the court that a verdict had been reached. The evidence against him was circumstantial. District attorney James told the jury that the Rev. Novak was shot to death, then the house was ignited and the wife and three children lost their lives. He charged that there was ample proof that Valeroso committed the crime.

—Coming upon a large wounded bald eagle while they were hunting groundhogs near Leckrone, Fayette county, three men battled with the bird for some time before they managed to place it in a sack. Frank Sova, who first noticed the bird, wounded it the second time, and it attempting to get it home he was attacked as he crossed a fence. Frank Enzer, who heard Sova's cries for assistance, was bitten on the hand when he attempted to free Sova from the bird's beak. Andrew Spawtz, who attempted to subdue the eagle, was so badly bitten on the arm that medical attention was necessary.

—May Slagle, aged 17 years, of Johnstown, who lost both legs when run over by an interurban car Thursday night, admitted to the district attorney on Saturday that she was responsible for the action. According to the girl's story, she placed her legs across the rail and propped them in place with stones, then waited twenty minutes for the car to pass. She explained that she intended to commit suicide, but wanted death to come slowly, so that she could have time to make peace with God and her parents. Immediately after the accident, Miss Slagle had maintained that a man gazed her and placed her on the track. She said that her home life was unhappy. The girl's condition is still critical and her recovery is doubtful.