

INK SLINGS.

—Soon we will have the spectacle of a very lonely oyster in a dish of festival soup.
—Next to Santa Claus we honestly believe the kids of Bellefonte love Johnny Sourbeck most.
—Why the excitement over the invention of flashless gunpowder if we are to have no more wars.
—Next Wednesday will be the anniversary of the day Columbus discovered the makin's of America.
—The propeller of the Mayflower must be broken. The President hasn't gone cruising for a whole week.
—The new moon is in the southern heavens, so that we may expect warm weather during its period, at least.
—How rarely the parents of children who go wrong look over themselves when seeking the cause of their sorrow.
—There was a tang of winter in the air on Tuesday and the last straw hat disappeared and some overcoats came out.
—The Yanks took the first game of the world's series from the Giants without even putting the big Babe Ruth battery into action.
—Almost we had forgotten that there is a man named Coolidge in Washington until a usually well informed friend asked us, the other day: "Who is Vice President, anyhow?"
—It may be just because we all take more notice of it than we once did, but it does seem that there is more drunkenness on Bellefonte streets than a supposedly dry town can readily explain.
—If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery Woodrow Wilson must certainly be chuckling at the announcement that President Harding is going to march afoot in the parade in honor of America's unknown hero on Armistice day.
—President Harding having named Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt as America's three greatest men the country may feel well repaid for his eight month's occupancy of the White House. He has done that much, at least, to quiet the disturbed condition of the public mind.
—Former Vice President Thomas Watson Marshall visited Washington during the week and commented on the number of drinks that he was invited to take by welcoming friends. Mr. Marshall might feel wonderfully pleased at the generosity of his friends in the capitol if he didn't know that they knew that he hasn't taken a drink for over thirty years.
—The Rev. R. T. Western, the marrying parson of Elkton, Md., has been dismissed from the Methodist church by the Wilmington Conference. Rev. Western's "Gretna Green" is a very profitable business. He averages about one hundred ceremonies a month and as the fee runs all the way from two to ten dollars his brother ministers probably thought such monopoly should be crushed.
—Not content with a hotel steen times as large and stylish as a town of its size usually boasts Phillipsburg is turning an appreciative ear to a gentleman, by name Curtis, who is going to help all of the coal barons of the metropolis of Rush township lay out such parks, boulevards and other modern beautifiers as will make the shade of Hardman Phillips feel like Johnny New in a strange land.
—Will the next Governor of Pennsylvania be Judge Witmer, Senator Fisher, Lieut. Governor Beidleman or State Treasurer Snyder is the question that factional Republicans are asking one another? Penrose followers will probably tell you, ere long, that he will be Witmer. Sproul's friends will put you wise to the fact that he will be Fisher and Beidleman and Snyder followers will be telling how their favorite has been double-crossed. A big fight is on the horizon already and unless it is killed a bormin' the next Governor of Pennsylvania might be some good Democrat like the lamented Robert E. Pattison.
—Experimentation at the Carnegie research laboratory at Cold Spring harbor has produced a black skinned chicken. The scientists monkeyed with the chromosomes, changing the number and shape of the germ plasmas, until a real "boogie" chick was hatched. What they did it for is a matter of conjecture to the lay mind. But evolution is a wonderful thing and some day we may all be startled by the announcement that race troubles have been solved by putting the reverse English on the Cold Harbor experiment and changing the chromosomes of the infant darkey so that they will produce white children.
—When Charley Schwab comes up to State College next week he will probably have something to say about business conditions and unemployment, for Charley is a big business man and just now is a member of the Hoover commission on unemployment. Business being stagnant of course men are idle, but need they be. There is always something useful to do for those who have the will to do it. How different the homes of idle workers would be if the ones out of employment were to spend their time cleaning, repairing and beautifying them. Of course that would not put bread and meat in the pantry, but it would put a lot of hope and pleasure in the occupants of the home and loafing on the streets doesn't do either.

Democratic Watchman

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Factional Fight Creates Hope.

Current political gossip indicates that neither the esteemed Philadelphia Record's suggestion of Senator Vare as the Republican nominee for Governor nor our own thought that State Treasurer Snyder should be named is likely to be adopted by the Republican machine. On the contrary conditions appear to be shaping up for a regular cat-and-dog fight between the Penrose and Sproul factions of the party for the favor. The Penrose entry seems to be United States district court judge Charles B. Witmer, of Sunbury, while the Sproul favorite is still under the shelter of a dark blanket with signs pointing to banking commissioner John S. Fisher, of Indiana. In the event that these favorites will be in contest it may be assumed that Vare will be with Sproul and Snyder with Penrose.
When Senator McConnell, of Shamokin, was appointed State prohibition director, and Jack Glass, of the same town, was named for United States marshal the "Watchman" discerned the "fine Roman hand" of the crafty jurist and suggested the probability of his nomination for Governor. These two officials, trusted lieutenants and close personal friends of Judge Witmer, have control of a vast amount of patronage. Neither of them could have coveted the jobs to which they were assigned. McConnell is a rich banker and never revealed even symptoms of sympathy with the prohibition movement and Glass had a better office in the State Highway Department. But the patronage of their respective new offices is a strong lever in political manipulation and their appointments meant something.
If this battle is staged, and it now seems inevitable, there will be fur flying during the primary campaign next year. The animosity between Penrose and Sproul, which began at the National convention in Chicago last year, has been increasing in volume and bitterness ever since. The friends of Sproul are persuaded that if Penrose had said the word Sproul would have been nominated for President instead of Harding. But Penrose had promised the nomination to Harding and entered Sproul as a "favorite son" candidate to help rather than impair his plans, and when Sproul took the matter seriously and actually tried to get the party favor, Penrose had no alternative but to abandon Harding or stifle Sproul's ambition. And the Governor had already revealed a spirit of rank insubordination.
Besides there are other disturbing signs apparent on the Republican political horizon of Pennsylvania. Lieutenant Governor Beidleman moved out of Sproul's path to the executive mansion in Harrisburg in 1918 under an implied, if not an expressed, promise that the nomination would be given to him next year. Penrose and Sproul were in complete accord then and Beidleman has a just grievance against both of them. The excuse that he has talked too much in the interim is hardly valid because he was urged to loquacity by both of them. State Treasurer Snyder also feels that he has been betrayed by both the big bosses and is nursing a grudge as big as a Minnesota farm. Then Auditor General Lewis is looming in the lime light as a reformer and minor troubles are multiplying.
But we can see no real reasons why Democrats should worry over the anomalous situation. And by the same token it would be hard to imagine why the people of the State should be discouraged on account of it. This atrocious political machine has been looting the public for many years and has finally brought this grand old Commonwealth to the verge of bankruptcy and the brink of dishonor. Out of this internecine quarrel among political pirates there may come enduring rescue from the brigandage that has disgraced the recent past and the restoration of the State government to the control of the people. A Democratic victory next year would achieve that result and in the circumstances there is hope.

Possibly a Significant Question.

Former Speaker of the House of Representatives in Harrisburg, Hon. Robert S. Spangler, of York, has raised a question which may develop into an important issue in the impending factional fight or be summarily dismissed as "a tempest in a teapot." He wants to know what the official record and history of the last session reveals with respect to his status in the body. A good many other people have expressed curiosity on that subject at one time or another since that eventful day when he was driven away from the speaker's chair by a posse of armed state constables. But thus far no information has been given and the official record and history of the event has not been published.
The facts are that at the opening of the session Mr. Spangler was duly and legally elected speaker of the House and appropriately installed in the office. He tried to be a fair and impartial speaker during the session but his sympathies were with the Penrose-Grundy faction, which was pretending to favor economy and oppose the profligate program of "magnificent achievement" which the Governor had fixed upon. By virtue of his office he was retarding the progress of the Sproul plans and because of his opposition their defeat seemed probable. On the Monday evening before final adjournment, after the session had officially ended, a rump session was called, a new speaker elected and he was thrown out.
Upon reassembling in the morning Mr. Spangler attempted to resume the speaker's chair but was forced by the state police off the rostrum and the newly chosen speaker assumed the office. Mr. Spangler protested but was bowled over as an intruder and disturber of the peace. He properly warned the actors in the drama that they were treading on dangerous ground, but they paid no attention to his admonition. They proceeded in violation of law and in contempt of justice to carry out the wishes of the Governor. Bills were taken from committees without legal sanction and measures covering appropriations of millions of dollars were passed in a riot of confusion and disorder, such as had never before been seen.
All this may be justified by expediency and the right of a deliberative body to change its presiding officer may be within the law. That was practically done in the House of Representatives in Washington some years ago when members of his own party revolted against the usurpations of Speaker Cannon. But the proceeding in Congress was orderly and gravely conducted in the open. The transaction at Harrisburg was surreptitiously conducted at a meeting that had been assembled clandestinely and without authority. A judicial inquiry might result in a declaration that all business transacted after the event is illegal and void and for that reason the question raised by Mr. Spangler may have much significance.

The Irish Conference.

From the Philadelphia Record.
The conference between the representatives of the British government and the Sinn Fein delegates is now assured. The preliminary jockeying, as was constantly predicted in these columns, has been merely a clearing of the air for the real test, which is now set for October 11, with London the scene.
Lloyd George's final note was business-like and brief, and de Valera's prompt letter of acceptance was equally free from entangling phrases. "Confidence, not correspondence," says the British Premier, "is the most hopeful and practical way to an understanding," and he now proposes the London conference "with a view to ascertaining how the association of Ireland with the community of nations known as the British Empire may best be reconciled with Irish national aspirations." There is nothing in that for Sinn Fein to balk at. It will let both parties to the long interchange of controversial notes enter the parley with their "faces saved."
There was in the preliminary fencing, as has been so often pointed out in these columns, no real danger of a slamming of the peace-door. But with the opening of the parley on October 11th the genuine battle will begin. So far there has been no real crisis calculated to disturb the evident desire of both sides to achieve permanent peace, but now the air becomes electric. "The negotiations may not be smooth," says "The London Daily News," "but the mere fact that the conference is meeting proves the one thing that really matters, that both sides are in earnest in desiring peace. If that is so, it is in a high degree improbable that they will part without achieving some tolerable settlement."
It is now declared that the Sinn Fein party may ask for "the restoration of Ireland as a kingdom under the British Crown." Whatever of truth there may be in this (and nobody can speak authoritatively of plans that have had little time to reach more than embryo stage), it is pretty certain that de Valera and his associates will fight for an undivided Ireland, whether it be a kingdom or a republic. Ulster, which has held aloof from the preliminary discussion, cannot help but figure prominently in these negotiations. De Valera has promised the majority element in Armagh and Fermanagh that their objections against inclusion in the Ulster province will have his support. Ulster will probably fight against any rearrangement; and it is over questions of this sort that crisis are almost certain to arise.

Evil of Industrial Espionage.

In the report of the commission of inquiry of the Interchurch World movement made public the other day there is a statement which affords food for grave reflection. It is that "widespread systems of espionage are an integral part of the anti-union policy of great industrial corporations." In other words, the employment of spies by large industrial corporations for one purpose or another is one of the leading causes of industrial troubles in this country. "Industrial espionage," the report adds, "is confined to the United States. What espionage there is in Europe is a government monopoly; no other civilized country tolerates on a large scale, privately-owned labor spying."
Probably the original offender in this evil is Pennsylvania. Years ago the anthracite coal producers were authorized by law to organize and maintain a body of spies known as the "coal and iron police." The justification for this extraordinary organization was the Molly Maguire outrages in some sections of the anthracite coal region and if the force had been held to the purpose claimed for it in the beginning no great harm would have resulted. But consequently it was perverted to spying on employees who had no connection with the murderous fraternity that brought it into existence and made an instrument of private vengeance and personal enmity and persecution.
It is said that some of the great corporations in this State and in other States employ a force of spies almost equal in numbers and expense to the laborers employed and that they encourage labor disputes in order to ingratiate themselves with their employers. Nothing more despicable could be imagined and yet this body of churchmen who have undertaken to ascertain and reveal the causes of labor troubles in the industrial life of the country declare that such a condition exists. In fact, according to the report in question, one of the spies in a Chicago industrial plant was indicted by the grand jury for "conspiracy to create riots, insurrection and murder."

Is the Tariff Issue Fading?

From the Charleston News and Courier.
Two or three years ago there were many persons who thought that the tariff as a political issue was dead. The war with its aftermath had so completely changed the world, it had brought to the front so many new questions of tremendous import, it had wrought such a revolution in the thoughts and in the very habits of thought of millions of people that the tariff as a leading issue seemed to be a museum piece, a mere relic and reminder of an age that had passed and gone. That, however, was too extreme a view. Not much was said about the tariff in the first political campaign after the war; but when that campaign was over, and the winners of it got down to work, it was revealed that the tariff was the first thing in their thoughts and tariff-making was the business in which they proceeded to devote themselves to the exclusion of everything else.
The war did not change the world so completely as some of us had supposed. The tariff is still a political issue; yet it is doubtful whether it is such an issue in the old sense and there are some who, in spite of its return to the stage in what seems to be vigorous health, doubt whether it will hold the stage long. There is, after all, only one thing that can remove the tariff from party politics, and that is its abandonment as a fundamental principle by the party which now has it as such a principle; and some people believe had the party which has stood so long on the tariff as its very foundation is now beginning to shift its ground.
To these people the difficulties which the Republican Congress has encountered this year in its tariff-making are profoundly significant. They regard those difficulties as not merely arising out of questions of detail, but as having a much deeper source. They interpret them as signs of a change coming over the mass of the Republican party—a change much more important and far-reaching than the rather superficial change which has taken place in the South with regard to the tariff question. If these objections are right, the "come-back" of the tariff as a political issue of the first magnitude is only temporary and the time is not far distant when the tariff will be out of politics.

Opened the Men's Eyes.

From the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.
The speed with which a woman as chairman of the New York State Democratic convention handed the meeting bewildered the male delegates. They must have been bachelors or they would have understood.
—It may be said now that former President Taft has literally "entered into his reward." In other words, he is actually "on the payroll."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The State firemen's convention was held in Wilkes-Barre this week.
—Frank Ott and Robert Walker, found guilty of holding up and robbing P. F. Beyer, near St. Marys, about three months ago, were sentenced to five years each in the western penitentiary at Ridgway on Monday, by Judge Heck in the county court.
—The Tioga county officials, commissioners and auditors, who took excess salary under a recent law to which Judge Boughton, of McKean, specially presiding, decided they were not entitled to, and as backed up by the Supreme court, have returned the same to the county treasury.
—Women must not quibble about their age if they wish to vote, according to a decision handed down in Common Pleas court at Pittsburgh on Monday when an appeal of Miss Elizabeth Warnock from action of registration officials was dismissed. The court held the exact age is necessary for identification and that the words "approximate age," will not suffice.
—An aerial hobo is the latest thing, and two of them dropped in on Bloomsburg one day last week, and admitted their identity. They were Merrill Riddick and Robert Jefferson, both originally from Philadelphia, who have been hobbing in the sky across the continent twice for the last year. Both are former army flyers and Riddick was in the mail service for several months.
—White Mr. and Mrs. Edward Flanagan, of Strany valley, were away from home last week; three of their children found a 22-caliber revolver which was loaded. William Flanagan, aged 8 years, who was handling the weapon, pressed the trigger and the ball entered the forehead of his younger brother, Jack, aged 4 years. The ball was imbedded in the skull. His recovery is expected.
—Jacob C. Brown, a Williamsport manufacturer, has offered to the American Legion and the Boy Scouts of that city the use of a plot of fifteen acres of ground in the west end of the city for a recreation center and athletic field. The plot fronts on Lyeomberg creek and adjoins Memorial park, the city's largest municipal park. The gift is a memorial to Mr. Brown's deceased brother, the late Max M. Brown.
—Burns Lyons, a prosperous farmer of Uniondale, is dying in a Carbondale hospital from wounds received at the hands of unknown robbers who beat him up and stole \$2,000. Lyons' farm is on the outskirts of Uniondale, his home being in the town. Sunday morning he left his home for the farm about 6 o'clock. Three hours later he was found unconscious in a barn on the farm with his head battered in. A wallet which his wife said contained \$2,000 when he left home was missing.
—Thieves stole a small truck from the garage of H. G. Douthett, in New Brighton, and then backed it up to the rear of his meat market. They bored their way through three heavy doors of the store and moved the safe from its moorings. They tried it toward the door, only to discover that the truck would not hold the safe. Meanwhile the Douthett family slept in upstairs apartments. The robbers were frightened away while pondering what to do. The safe contained no money or valuables.
—John Knuth, a Langhorne news dealer, fell dead on Sunday with a bullet in his head while talking to W. T. Lightcap, who had stopped him on a country road to buy a newspaper and for several hours the shooting remained a mystery. Investigation by a state police developed that Knuth had been killed by a stray bullet fired by John A. McCarthy, who was practicing with a rifle 150 yards away. McCarthy was locked up in the Doylestown jail for a hearing. The police said they were convinced the shooting was accidental.
—A contract to electrify the Chilean state railroad between Valparaiso and Santiago at a cost of \$7,000,000 has been awarded to the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company of Pittsburgh. It was announced September 28th. The equipment to supply the road includes passenger and freight locomotives, electrical appliances and substation materials. The main line of the Chilean state road is 116 miles long and is the most important railway line in Chile, it is said. It connects Valparaiso, a seaport, with the capital.
—Muney is preparing to entertain the Thirty-fourth Infantry, United States army, on October 8th and 9th, when the regiment will stop at that place on Sunday on a hike through that section of the State. The regiment will arrive at Muney on Saturday afternoon and remain there until Monday morning, when it will resume its journey up Muney creek valley. Monday night the soldiers will camp at Mawr Glen and Tuesday at Eaglesmere. The regiment will be en route from Camp Meade to New York for a change in station.
—Seizing Constable D. Harvey Sykes, of Chester, by the neck and tossing him across a meat block in her husband's butcher shop, Mrs. John Rykiel threatened to administer a spanking to the law officer as punishment for the part he took in a legal affair in which her husband is interested. Christy, another constable, was delegated to arrest Mrs. Rykiel, and when he appeared with a warrant she threatened him with a butcher knife, according to Christy's testimony before Alderman William J. Leary, who imposed a fine and warned Mrs. Rykiel.
—All records for the number of bidders on state highway work were broken last week when 200 contractors submitted 396 bids on thirty proposed projects. On one bid alone, for a stretch of a little more than five miles in Butler county, there were twenty-eight bidders. The number of projects also was the greatest ever advertised at one time by the State Highway Department, and the bids averaged ten to a project. A considerable drop in construction prices was shown by some bids, which ran lower than \$40,000 a mile for durable concrete highways. This is believed to be the lowest bid since war times.
—George Miller, a negro child 7 years old, is dead, and Miss Hettie Walker, 27 years of age, also a negro, is in the Lewistown hospital with a bullet in her brain as the result of being shot, it is alleged, by Joshua Perry, aged 45 years, a negro, for whom she was housekeeper. Perry is in the Millin county jail, charged with the crime. Perry, who lives at Sandlines, three miles west of Lewistown, accosted his housekeeper as she was motoring to that city with Jesse Miller, his wife and son, George. Perry ordered the Walker woman to return to the house and she refused. He then drew the gun and fired. The bullet struck the child, killing it, and then entered the woman's head.