

INK SLINGS.

The weather man is doing his best to conserve our little coal piles.

Judge Witmer has begun to salt Eighteenth amendment breakers with a vengeance.

Old Mother Nature put the blink on the moonshine in Centre county on Sunday night.

Pennsylvania now has two politicians and no Senator in the upper branch of Congress.

Nobody will ever imagine Senator Knox's successor is a "great constitutional lawyer."

The silence of Col. George Harvey makes a noise like he had really been told by Washington to keep his mouth shut.

Premier Lloyd George, of England, is coming over to the disarmament conference in Washington if he can get rid of the Seinn Feiners long enough to make the trip.

The peace treaties with Germany, Austria and Hungary were ratified by the Senate and the kind of war we have been in with the Central Powers since November 11th, 1918, is officially called off.

Football is a very rough game, but reports are on our desk to the effect that Greensburg, Pennsylvania, High school players and their followers have some rough stuff, not resorted to by regular sportsmen, that they bring into action when a visiting team appears dangerous.

Ambassador Herrick's sojourn in Paris is likely to be freighted with uneasiness. He received an infernal machine in the mail and only the prompt action of a servant averted an explosion. The attempt to blow our Ambassador up, before he has had a chance is hardly a fair deal.

The haste with which that Congressional investigation of the Ku Klux Klan was dropped leads us to believe that imperial wizard Simmons ought to be in Congress himself. At least he succeeded in getting final and decisive action and that is something the present Congress hadn't been guilty of before.

It is to the everlasting credit of the men of the Pennsylvania system that they are considering refusal to obey the general strike order. They know they are well paid. They know they are fairly treated and they know that no class of workmen any where have had such provisions made for possible disabilities and certain old age.

There is something more than mere desire to "dry up" Pennsylvania behind the coming of federal commissioner Roy Haynes into the territory of state commissioner McConnell. We are of the opinion that something big is going to happen in Republican leadership centres in this State before the fall of 1922 and that the crusade against the booze rammers is only a bit of stage dressing.

Certainly there was some reason for the appointment of Senator Crow, of Uniontown, to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Knox in the United States Senate. Opinion is unanimous to the effect that the reason was not because of Senator Crow's transcendent fitness for such an exalted position. It was political, pure and simple and it means the payment of a political debt or the hand-money in a new contract for the control of Pennsylvania. Nothing else.

The big strike of railroad operatives, called for November 1st, will be calamitous if a walk-out actually occurs. The public would suffer great inconvenience and the loss sustained by a complete tie-up of transportation would be incalculable. Notwithstanding such disastrous possibilities there should be no temporizing in the matter; no compromises that merely push a complete settlement of the difficulty a little further into the future. It is a public matter. The people are the ones who have to pay the bills in passenger fares and freight rates and since they know that in many instances the freight on a ton of coal is more than the coal cost at the mouth of the mine and since they also know that four years ago it was less than a third as much as it is now they are with the railroads if they can be shown that excessive wages are making the present prohibitive rates necessary.

My, how we would have liked to have been in Philadelphia, Tuesday, to ask our state chairman, Hon. Bruce Sterling, a few questions. He found occasion, while talking to the assembled women Democrats of the State, to call upon the men to let by-gones be by-gones and pull together for the redemption of Pennsylvania from machine control. Truly did he say that a great opportunity awaits a militant Democracy in the Commonwealth and just as true was his statement that thousands of Republicans would support the right kind of Democrats next year. Aye, there's the rub. The right kind of Democrats! If Mr. Sterling were to tell us that the candidates of our party will be picked next year by the Democrats of the State and not by the hand-picked committee over which he presides, then we would have hope. Hope that our nominees will be men to whose banners all Democrats can rally and in whom Republicans, who earnestly seek the redemption of Pennsylvania, may see their ideals fulfilled.

Democratic Watchman

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Interesting Political History.

The autobiography of the late William F. McCombs, chairman of the Democratic National committee in the campaign of 1921, recently published serially in a New York newspaper, reveals the fault of spitefulness here and there, but is highly interesting nevertheless. It exposes the ambitions as well as the hypocrisies of some of the prominent figures in the Baltimore convention which nominated Woodrow Wilson and the weaknesses of the candidate, though generously praising his merits. A reference in Part V, paragraph 1, to the activities of A. Mitchell Palmer is particularly appealing to Pennsylvania Democrats who have watched the development of that gentleman's ambitions in recent years.

It will be remembered that local friends of Mr. Palmer during that campaign and since frequently referred to his fidelity to Wilson as shown in his refusal to accept the nomination tendered to him during a crisis in the proceedings which threatened a deadlock. Mr. McCombs had chosen Palmer as "parliamentary expert" of the convention, not because of his ability in that line, but in order to "hold him to the faith." But during the work of the convention he found him in conference with Burleson, of Texas; Murphy, of New York, and Sullivan, of Illinois, not urging support of Wilson but scheming to get himself nominated. What happened can best be expressed in the language of Mr. McCombs. He says: "I went to Palmer Sunday night and told him the details of the conference and that if he did another thing I had fifty good, husky Irishmen to throw him out of Baltimore."

To those who know Mr. Palmer it was not necessary to add "there was no more display." With Mr. Bryan, who was also scheming to "break through the middle," Mr. McCombs was less candid but no less resentful. The common scold of Nebraska being more dangerous had to be handled more gingerly. But when Mr. Bryan directly asked him to betray Wilson and turn in for Bryan, Mr. McCombs answered: "Mr. Wilson entrusted me with the management of his campaign in Baltimore. I told him before I left Sea Girt that I would rise or fall with his fortunes. We have not fallen." Mr. Bryan flew into a rage, according to the narrative. But the strange thing about it all is that all these traitors were taken into favor.

Probably Congress became frightened when the ghostly uniforms of the Ku Klux Klan were exhibited in the committee room.

Republican Leaders Responsible.

Within the shadow of an industrial calamity that the people are to blame forces itself upon the thoughtful mind. If the people of this country had set themselves to an intelligent effort at readjustment immediately after the close of hostilities in France and Flanders we would not now be threatened with a condition which may cause infinite suffering all over the world. When the armistice was signed every condition was favorable to an easy return to a peace basis. But the Republican politicians made up their partisan minds to rob President Wilson of the glory that would necessarily have come to him and in their drive to carry the elections of 1918 laid the foundation of present troubles.

Every right minded man and woman in the country cordially approved of a peace just to all concerned. Germany had inflicted grave harm upon the world by creating the war and proper penalties should have been imposed upon her. Others of the belligerents had suffered vast losses and were entitled to just reparations. But above all civilization was entitled to a substantial guarantee that there would be no recurrence of such a war and to that end the League of Nations was an essential. All recognized that fact and favored it. But in order to rob President Wilson of his just reward the Republican leaders bought the congressional election of 1918 and sowed the whirlwind of disaster which is now threatening the industrial life of the country.

Three years ago machinery might have been easily set in motion by which wages and prices could have been brought down to a peace level without even a ripple on the surface of the industrial sea. But that was prevented by Republican leaders for partisan reasons and the menace which now appalls the country is the result. The strike may be averted and the suffering which would be inevitable as well as unbearable avoided. But a temporary armistice in the battle of elements that is impending affords no guarantee of future security from the horrors and the waste of war, and such a guarantee is what is needed. The Republican leaders are responsible for the present alarming condition.

Death of Senator Knox.

The sudden death of Senator Philander Chase Knox, at his residence in Washington, caused not only a distinct shock but is a loss to the people of the State. It is not that he was a great statesman, for though he had given considerable time to public affairs he never achieved great results. In the office of Attorney General he was efficient and successful until the prosecution of the coal trust was about ready for trial when under the advice of President Roosevelt he quit the office to become a Senator in Congress. As a Senator he accomplished little and as Secretary of State discovered and applied what became known as "Dollar Diplomacy." On his return to the Senate he fought Wilson.

But Senator Knox was a great lawyer and in his public and private life was clean and creditable. His most conspicuous speech in the Senate was against the ratification of the Versailles treaty and his strongest objection to that instrument was because he appraised it as too severe on Germany. He was the originator of the idea of making a separate peace with Germany and the author of the resolution which after amendment was adopted and has since become the basis of that convention. But that service contributed nothing to his reputation as an international lawyer. He assumed that a resolution by Congress was sufficient to legally end the war status. It is universally admitted now that he was wrong.

But the loss to the State is in the fact that his successor is likely to be of a different type. Knox was no politician and even though he fell short of the stature of statesmanship he was above the standard of the average Pennsylvania politician. While he sat in the Senate a Pennsylvanian might justly feel that he had something more than an intriguing partisan spoilsman in the body. But we are not certain of that distinction in the future. The new Senator is more likely to represent the underworld of politics than the aspirations of the civic leaders of the State, and for that reason the death of Senator Knox is a direct loss to Pennsylvania.

Everybody will be glad that General Pershing will be in London when the American tribute to the British "unknown soldier" is delivered. If Ambassador Harvey had officiated on that occasion every American soldier would have been insulted.

The Worst Seems to Have Come.

The suspicion expressed last week that Governor Sproul has "got under" Senator Penrose in Washington appears to be fully confirmed by events which have developed since. Senator McConnell has not been actually removed from his office as prohibition enforcement officer, but he has been compelled to accept a deputy with power to perform all the duties of the office, including the selection of subordinates. Of course the office can hold no attractions for the Senator with such restrictions in force. As has been said in these columns the office could have had little attraction for him in the beginning. He has never revealed even a suspicion of sympathy for prohibition.

It is probably true that the affairs of the office were administered in a slovenly way by Senator McConnell. He has never been a "snooper," and we can imagine nothing more repulsive to a man of his type than acting the part of a professional sleuth hunting criminals. But the political potentialities of the office might easily attract his favor. He loves politics and there is no agent more powerful in political manipulation than booze, and McConnell probably imagined that as enforcing prohibition oficer he might hope to become a dominant figure in the party affairs of the State. This expectation would come to him with additional force in view of the fact that he has a friend who aspires to be Governor.

But all such rosy expectations must vanish before the light that comes from Washington concerning the "clipping of his wings," so to speak, by the transfer of all his authority to a deputy whose partialities in politics may have taken a directly opposite slant. For example, with the Senator in full charge of the operations in enforcing prohibition it might be easy to establish a local force of Witmer boomers in every county in the Commonwealth. But if the deputy entertains views antagonistic to Witmer and friendly to some other candidate, and has power to make appointments or remove appointees, what pleasure could McConnell have in occupying an office without teeth or even good gums.

A justice of the Supreme court of the type of the late Judge Mestreza would give the Republican machine a hard jolt, and such a thing is possible.

Grave Charge Openly Made.

In accepting the Democratic nomination for Justice of the Supreme court Judge Eugene C. Bonniwell made some startling statements in view of his assertion that "he has documentary proof to back up all his charges." He accuses the Republican machine of increasing the salary of justices of the Supreme court, "in violation of the constitution; of ousting the legally elected Speaker of the House of Representatives "by the armed power of the constabulary;" of having passed by an illegal body "various Acts of Assembly, all to the end that the burdens of taxation might be magnified, the offices multiplied and the people denied a just and economical government."

"They have imposed a tax on coal," Judge Bonniwell continued, "a needless burden upon every citizen, in the face of a decision of the Supreme court that this tax is unconstitutional; they have saddled upon the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania expenditures in the staggering sum of \$116,000,000 in the face of almost universal distress; the funds of the State have been so maladministered that millions of indebtedness presently due cannot be paid for lack of current funds. The firemen of the State of Pennsylvania," he added, "entitled by the records of the Auditor General's office to a sum approximating \$1,500,000, for the relief of their sick and disabled, seek in vain the payment of this huge sum, a portion of which dates back to 1919."

The Republican machine is anxious to have its unlawful acts ratified by the courts and the surest way to achieve that result is by filing the Supreme bench with judges in sympathy with its purposes. If the proceedings of the Legislature subsequent to the forcible eviction of the Speaker of the House from the chair are adjudged illegal, most of the tax bills would be null and void and such favorite and expensive measures as the Public Welfare Department would be illegal. The Attorney General, who framed most of this vicious legislation, is the candidate of the machine for a seat on this bench and his election will make certain the ratification desired. Are the people ready for such a thing?

Five members of the state constabulary were decorated with a medal by Governor Sproul at the annual field day events in Harrisburg last week, for bravery in the performance of duty. Included in the number was Corporal Cohee, of Troop A, Greensburg, who received three separate wounds while attempting to arrest a man whom he believed to be a fugitive from justice at Conestoga, Pa. Corporal Cohee was at one time located in Bellefonte and his friends here are glad to know that his act of heroism was properly recognized. Apropos of the field day events it might be stated that the Greensburg troop scored twenty-four points out of a possible twenty-five, which is evidence of its high standing. When the troop returned to Greensburg Saturday night the citizens of that place met them at the depot with a band and gave them a rousing reception.

The partial eclipse of the moon was plainly visible to residents of Bellefonte and Centre county who took the trouble to look at it on Sunday evening. While it was only a partial eclipse the moon was almost entirely in the shadow when it came up over the mountains shortly before six o'clock in the evening and it was after eight o'clock when the last vestige of the shadow disappeared.

Governor Sproul confidently expects the Supreme court to reverse itself on the question of the validity of the coal tax because he appointed three members of the court, and as Tim Campbell said, "what is the constitution among friends," anyway.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon is willing to yield a little. He will consent to have a commission deal with the foreign loan question if he is authorized to appoint the commissioners.

Harding is a fine compromiser, but thus far he has not been able to come to a satisfactory agreement with the "agrarian bloc" in the Senate.

A good many citizens of Pennsylvania who knew the old and know the new Senator will have doubts as to the fit of the toga.

Happily prohibition enforcer, Senator McConnell, will be allowed the privilege of drawing his own salary.

The urgent need of a man who would obey orders may justify the appointment of Senator Crow.

For a State University.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

In his address of installation as President of Pennsylvania State College last Friday, Dr. John M. Thomas outlined a plan whose working out would be to make a great State university with accommodations for 10,000 students out of the institution. If the plan were adopted, all State aid that is now given to higher educational institutions would go to the State university, and the others now receiving such aid, like the University of Pennsylvania, would be deprived of it and be forced to rely on funds and endowments derived wholly from private individuals. The new State university would be constituted as the capstone of the public educational system of Pennsylvania, which would then provide for the education of a child from the lowest primary grade through all the steps leading to graduation with a university degree.

At the installation exercises Governor Sproul indorsed the plan for a State university. Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has indorsed it. Public sentiment throughout the State will also indorse it, it is to be expected, as soon as the plan is understood among our people generally.

As an aid to understanding, the words of Dr. Thomas on the subject may be studied. He said:

Instead of asking whether Pennsylvania can afford a State university we should ask rather, "Can the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania afford not to have one?" Can we afford to say to the youth of this State, if you had been born in Ohio or Wisconsin you might have attended a magnificent university provided by the State. If you were a citizen of Utah or Arizona your own State university doors would swing open to you. But you had the misfortune to be born in Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania was too poor to follow the example of twenty-three other States and develop its land-grant college into a real State university. I cannot believe that it is the will of the people of this great Commonwealth that such answers should be returned to its ambitious youth.

That is the broad way of looking at the question, unobscured by academic policy or problems of administration. The broad view-point will convince the public that the principle underlying the innovation is correct. Adjustments of academic policy and problems of administration, which are after all the detail, can be made later. One of these adjustments will concern the policy which the State is to adopt toward the other institutions of higher education which have been receiving State grants and have come to rely on them in their scheme of financing. Principal of these institutions, if not the only ones, are the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh.

The University of Pennsylvania already has discontinued the effect of appropriations to receive appropriations from the General Assembly. After much discussion, the alumni and the University authorities have agreed on the policy of divorcing the institution from even partial dependence on public money. An endowment campaign is under way. The appointment of General Wood as administrative head of the new policy. It is believed generally his first task on taking up his new duties will be to reconstitute the finances of the institution so that aid from the Legislature will be unnecessary. This will take time, of course; and nothing is more likely than that a "tapering down" of appropriations by the General Assembly over a period of years mutually will be agreed upon between the University authorities and the appropriating agencies of the Legislature. A similar policy probably will be agreed upon with respect to the University of Pittsburgh.

In the meantime, the process of building up State College into a modern State university comparing favorably with the many models that are available in other States will be begun. When all these steps are completed, we shall have what we ought to have—a great State university providing free tuition for ambitious sons and daughters of Pennsylvania and wholly under the control of the State on the one hand and, on the other, great universities supplying the needs that can be best supplied by private institutions and wholly free from any control by the State. The two types of institutions live side by side in many other States, and there is no reason why they cannot cultivate their essentially separate fields just as successfully here in Pennsylvania.

An Event of Events.

From the Boston Globe.

One month hence comes an event the importance of which, to every one of us, is nothing short of terrific. These words are no exaggeration. For the governments of the so-called civilized nations are going to assemble in Washington to determine whether they can get along without more fighting. If they cannot, the development of war engines, and especially of chemical bombs, is such that another war would probably do to our present-day society what the barbarians did to the Roman Empire. Such is the situation quite simply stated, and, be it added, not overstated.

United States and Australia.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

There is a general agreement that the next great commercial and industrial development will be among the peoples bordering on the Pacific Ocean. We have much in common with Australia, and it is well for us and for the Australians also that our relations are so cordial.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Resolutions expressing disapproval of the holding of funerals on Sunday, except in rare and special cases, were adopted by the Altoona Ministerial Association on Sunday.

Arrested for begging on the streets of Philadelphia on Sunday, Sarah Lipschutz, 70 years old, no address, was found to have \$129.98 in cash, a diamond bracelet, diamond brooches and bank book showing deposits of \$3,048 in her possession.

Robbers broke into the residence of Perry M. Lytle, of Huntingdon, former member of the Legislature and former collector of the port of Philadelphia, last week during the absence of the family and stole watches, rings and banknotes valued at \$850 and \$150 in gold.

Ten additional cases of diphtheria were reported to the Lock Haven board of health during the past week, but thus far but one death has occurred. These cases, as well as some of the fourteen cases previously reported, are of a mild type, and the patients are already on the road to recovery.

Thomas M. Shively, aged 65 years, associate judge of the Union county courts, died at his home near Millburg on Friday, from a skull fracture when he fell from a silo on October 4th. He never regained consciousness. He leaves an unexpired term of two years to be filled by appointment by the Governor.

Overcome by natural gas fumes last Friday while taking a bath, Theodore Kavashoff, 24 years old, of Farrell, Mercer county, toppled out of the tub to the floor. The water ran over the top of the tub and flooded the room. Kavashoff, who had dropped face downward, was drowned, according to the verdict of coroner George Morgan.

Oil has been struck in Bedford county, contrary to reports by geologists that there is no oil east of the Alleghenies in that region. Juniata township farmers organized a company drilling on Hillegas farm, Schelburg. Oil showed at 1100 feet, and the well is filled with twelve feet of the top. Tests by Pittsburgh specialists show 140, specific gravity.

Finding a big elk feeding on his winter wheat, Norman G. Witt, a farmer near Duaneville, shot and killed the animal. Game protector Frank Myers took the carcass to Altoona, had it dressed and divided the meat between Altoona and Mercy hospitals. The head and hide were sent to the Game Commissioner at Harrisburg. The buck dressed 450 pounds and its antlers had six points.

Diamond rings worth \$5000, tied in a linen handkerchief, were kicked about the streets and trampled by residents of Tarentum two days before Joseph DeNaze, of Tarentum, picked up the bundle in Centre street. The diamonds were lost by Mrs. Joseph Klein, of Tarentum, last Monday morning, when she was shopping. The jewelry was turned over to the owner by DeNaze. Mrs. Klein had offered \$500 reward.

Commissioner of Forestry Gifford Pinchot has been informed by E. A. Sherman, acting forester of the United States, that the government is about ready to begin acquisition of lands in Pennsylvania for the national forest reserve. This reserve will be located at the headwaters of the Allegheny and the state forestry and water supply commissions have given assent to the proposed purchases. The federal authorities will give preference to purchases in this State for a time.

The new steel bridge erected by the State across the Susquehanna river at Lock Haven was formally opened for vehicular traffic at 3 o'clock last Thursday afternoon. Five minutes before the time set for the opening the bell in the court house tower pealed forth the glad tidings that the old West Branch was again spanned by a modern steel bridge and that vehicles could cross by that means, for the first time since the destruction of the old wooden structure by an incendiary fire in January, 1919.

Norman E. Hause was instantly killed and H. L. McClintock was seriously injured when their automobile crashed into the side of a Pennsylvania passenger train on a public crossing a few miles east of Monticello early Friday morning. Both men were on their way from their homes in Dewar to Montgomery, where they were employed in the construction of a bridge. The automobile slid over the roadway sixty feet, crashing head on into the train when the brakes of the machine failed to work. The injured man was placed on the train and taken to the hospital.

The first automobile license tags, for 1922, manufactured at the Pennsylvania Industrial Reformatory at Huntingdon, have just been turned over to the State Highway Department by John R. Wald, president of prison labor bureau of the state welfare department. The tags have a background of cream white, with dark brown numerals. The first shipment of the tags to Harrisburg numbered 600,000. One hundred boys at the reformatory are engaged in manufacturing the tags. They will manufacture the entire number required, 1,700,000, all of which will be completed for the Highway Department by March 1, 1922.

Mrs. Mary Collins, of Shenandoah, will probably be one of the first women constables in the State. The petition for her appointment has been presented to Judge Bechtel by Luther Edwards, solicitor for Shenandoah borough council. As there is no opposition, court indicated the appointment will be made. Mrs. Collins will succeed her husband, who was elected to the office and died recently. The high constable of a borough is seldom called upon to make arrests, except at election polls, and Mrs. Collins' friends believe she would be equal to the emergency if necessary. The office is entitled, the chief duty being the posting of election proclamations, and it is believed only a question of a little time until the Legislature abolishes it.

Sheriff Anthony Gorman and his chief deputy, F. S. Gilliland, of Clearfield county, motored to an out-of-the-way home near Philipsburg one afternoon last week for the purpose of serving a landlord's warrant to dispossess one Charles Mitchell, who is alleged to have failed to pay his rent. Upon approaching the house they found it apparently abandoned, but, forcing their way in, found a twenty-five gallon still busily pouring out a fair grade of whiskey. The officers sat down and waited for several hours, watching the still pursue its unlawful production, when the owner finally drifted in. A lot of finished product had been dumped upon the ground, and instead of ejectment proceedings Mitchell was arrested on a charge of violating the Woner law and is now languishing in the county jail.