

INK SLINGS.

—Have you noticed how the days are lengthening? —Wouldn't a January thaw make a peach of a flood now. —Senator Newberry may say that he didn't know so much money was being spent to secure his election, but only those who have never run for office will believe him.

—Bellefonte's new pumps have been in action and the fact that their first victim suffered more from water than it did from fire would seem to be proof that they pumped some. —All the Centre county Farm Bureau need do hereafter, when it wants a large attendance at a meeting, is to let it be known that some movement is afoot designed to throw a monkey wrench into the machinery of Pomona Grange.

—The Republican organization in Pennsylvania will never have another Penrose. Not because there aren't hordes of them who would move heaven and earth to get into his political toga, but because there isn't the makings of a Penrose among them all.

—Because turtles and crabs have made their appearance in the Delaware old river-men about Wilmington declare that the end of winter is at hand. We heard this news in the midst of the great snow of Wednesday. Immediately we searched the bottom and the banks of Spring creek. Not a crab or a turtle was to be seen; so we concluded that while the winter might have went on the Delaware it had just came on Spring creek.

—We note that Harry Baker, secretary of the Republican State committee, is to have the last word on federal patronage in Pennsylvania now that Penrose is no more. Of course we can understand why Senator Pepper would be agreeable to such an assignment but Senator Crow is a horse of another color. He is a politician, pure and simple, and he must be either a very sick man or in bad in Washington if the only Senatorial work that he is really fitted for has gotten away from him.

—Many people have called to comment on what a wonderful edition the "Watchman's" first one in 1922 proved to be. The praise is flattering and we own a little pride with regard to it. The "Watchman" always was and, we hope, always will be a good newspaper, with accent on both good and news. It was unusually good last week because there was an unusual amount of news. Of course we might have fallen down in gathering and serving it, but we didn't. Everybody doesn't take the "Watchman" but nearly everybody who can lay hands on it reads it and they read it whether they like it or not.

—In naming George Wharton Pepper to take the seat of the late Senator Penrose Governor Sprout has been more than mindful of the welfare of Pennsylvania than of the exigencies of politics. While the "Watchman" has always believed Mr. Pepper to be utterly wrong in his evaluation of the treaty of Versailles it regards him as a man of signal ability and strong character. He is a partisan and he may be a politician but he has other attributes and not the least of these is ability to represent Pennsylvania in the upper branch of Congress comprehensively and creditably. We congratulate Governor Sprout. He chose from the best and not from the mediocre of his party's material.

—We've gotten into trouble every time we have essayed a paragraph on the Irish situation, so we face the inevitable again with certainty of censure and small hope of approbation. A lot of the sap in our own family tree is of Emerald hue, but we don't claim that as justification. The Irish question in Ireland, we have finally concluded, is a question at all for the very same reason that our intermittent elucidations of it have been questioned by every Irishman around here who has read them. No matter what we have said some have been for and others against it, with never unanimity in anything. We are glad that the Dail declined to reseat President de Valera after he resigned and we do believe that Cardinal Logue gave his people wholesome advice when he told them to accept what they got from England and make the most of it. We'll hold open house to our Irish friends for discussion of this paragraph Saturday afternoon at four.

—Because the congregation hadn't paid his salary the janitor of a Richardson Park, Del., church, closed the doors, cut the bell rope and wouldn't leave the flock worship in the building. We have never heard of such an arbitrary performance on the part of a janitor. We once had a pastor of a Bellefonte church who took the bull by the horns thusly. He didn't appear in the pulpit for the Sunday morning service and when some of the elders of his congregation called to inquire as to whether he had been taken suddenly ill, for they had seen him the evening before, they were amazed to find him comfortably ensconced in an easy chair in his boarding house. Upon inquiry as to why he was not going to conduct service the venerable D. D. politely informed his callers that inasmuch as his salary had not been paid he did not propose to preach to them. It is needless to say that there was some excitement among us Methodists and some digging up of delinquent church subscriptions.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 67. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 13, 1922. NO. 2.

George Wharton Pepper, Senator.

Mr. George Wharton Pepper, the newly appointed Senator in Congress for Pennsylvania, has ability and learning to qualify him to fill the high office with credit to himself and honor to the State. He is a high class lawyer and citizen of irreproachable character. He has never held public office and is without experience in the practical work of official life but he has been active and helpful in civic affairs and his legal training gives assurance of efficient service. His appointment marks a new departure in the policies of the party machine which he will represent in Congress, if he lives up to the ideals expressed in his social and professional life.

We are not persuaded, however, that the appointment of Mr. Pepper was influenced entirely by a purpose to permanently improve the personnel of the official life of the Commonwealth. Our Republican contemporaries have been framing a radiant halo around the head of Governor Sprout for the reason that he effaced himself in the selection of Mr. Pepper when he might have secured the seat for himself by entering into a deal with Lieutenant Governor Beldeman. As a matter of fact there are strong symptoms of a deal quite as obnoxious to public morals in the appointment which has been made. Mr. Pepper in his statement to the public distinctly declares that he will only ask to remain in the office until the end of Senator Penrose's term and that is about the time Governor Sprout had fixed for donning the Senatorial toga.

The people of the State have reason to be thankful that so capable a man as Mr. Pepper has been appointed to the vacancy. In his previous appointment to the same office Governor Sprout was less discriminating and the same type of man named to succeed Senator Knox would have had a better chance of long tenure. It is obvious, however, that Governor Sprout covets the honor and that he will have an opportunity to enjoy it at the expiration of Senator Penrose's term. Meantime Mr. Pepper may be relied upon to fulfill every obligation to the Republican machine. He will begin by voting to retain Newberry, of Michigan, in his seat and as readily as he supported J. R. K. Scott, for Lieutenant Governor, he will help along any iniquity that the party managers deem expedient or desirable.

—Senator Vore's bluff turned out to be only a bob tail affair.

The Newberry Case in the Senate.

The Newberry case occupied the attention of the Senate in Washington last week. This case has been intermittently occupying the attention of the Senate for a couple of years and has attracted considerable public attention for even a longer period. It is a matter in which every citizen of the country ought to be interested. It involves the question of the right of an ambitious and conscienceless plutocrat to buy a seat in the Senate of the United States and hold it in the face of positive proof of the violation of the Act of Congress and the laws of the State which he aspires to represent. It is a question which touches the integrity of the ballot and the validity of legislation.

Mr. Newberry was nominated as the candidate for Senator in Congress by the Republicans of Michigan in 1918 over Henry Ford by a majority of a trifle over 4000. His campaign was an orgy of corruption and bribery. An investigation developed the fact that \$178,568.08 had been spent in his behalf, and it was admitted by his own friends and supporters that probably as great a sum was spent and not accounted for. In 1914 he was a candidate for Congress and spent money so freely that the Governor of the State urged the Legislature to enact legislation limiting campaign expenses and penalizing corruption in the future. The legislation was enacted but entirely ignored by Newberry and his friends in 1918. After his election to the Senate he was indicted in the United States District court at Grand Rapids, Michigan, convicted of violating both the National and State laws, and sentenced to prison.

At the opening of the session of Congress on March 4th, 1919, the vote of Newberry was necessary to give the Republican party a majority. The success of the conspiracy to defeat the ratification of the covenant of the League of Nations depended upon a Republican majority of the Senate and Newberry was admitted to the seat notwithstanding his tainted title. His conviction in the District court was subsequently appealed to the Supreme bench and reversed by a partisan vote on the technical ground that an Act of Congress doesn't apply to a debauchery of primary elections. The question now to be determined is whether or not the Senate will admit to membership a man legally convicted of corruption.

Ireland Secures Home Rule.

The ratification of the treaty creating the Irish Free State by the Dail Eireann in session in Dublin on Saturday justifies the hope that the seven hundred years' struggle of Ireland for self government has been successful. There will be both in Ireland and England men and women to protest against the settlement for various and different reasons. There are those in England who believe that Ireland has been justly held in political bondage during all these years and there are those in Ireland who believe that absolute sovereignty and complete autonomy should have been allowed. But these are extremists who have hindered rather than helped the cause of Irish freedom and English justice.

Until very recently Irish leaders have asked only for home rule and the illustrious Irishmen who gave the best of their useful lives, as did Parnell and others, never dreamed of more than has been given them in the treaty ratified by a meager margin on Saturday. The Home Rule measure enacted by Parliament on the eve of the world war, which fully satisfied the Irish statesmen who forced its passage, gave Ireland much less. If the war had not come the chances are that that bill would have become the law of the land and continued for years in the future. But the protest of Irishmen like Sir Edward Carson, who is content to be a funkier, and the disturbance of the war intervened to defeat it.

The new treaty places Ireland on the same level as Canada in the British Empire. She will have her own army, her own parliament, collect and disburse her own taxes and govern her own educational processes. In fact it may be said the people of Ireland will enjoy greater freedom from dominance by the central government than citizens of Pennsylvania. The British parliament will not have the authority over Ireland that Congress has assumed and expressed in the passage of the Volsted act and the adoption of the Eighteenth amendment to the Federal constitution. It is said that the leading Irishmen in America, and there are more here than in Ireland, are satisfied and all others ought to be.

—The Republican party whip is to be cracked in both branches of Congress, and any Senator or Representative of that party faith who lets conscience guide his votes will find life a burden.

Mr. P. B. Belknap's Grave Mistake.

It is to be regretted that Mr. P. B. Belknap, the more or less erratic, always critical and sometimes amusing contributor to the Philadelphia Record's mail box, has tied a string to his consent to become a candidate for Senator in Congress for Pennsylvania. Mr. Belknap lays down certain conditions as essential prerequisites to his candidacy, first among which is "that the nomination shall be tendered by a new party formed especially for the purpose and pledged to the policies" which he outlines. The first of these is economy, which he appraises as "transcendental." The second is greater Americanism, which contemplates the annexation of Mexico and Canada.

Mr. Belknap being an analyst and philosopher must know that it is impossible to organize a new party of the character he describes within the brief period of time between now and the May primary election at which the successors of Senator Knox and Penrose are to be named. There are a good many voters in Pennsylvania who might be allured to enlistment under his banner if there were sufficient time to canvass the State. But it would hardly be possible to cover the major lunatic asylums with propaganda within the limited time allowed under existing election laws. Therefore the more prolific sources of supply of voters likely to be enticed, the patients in institutions for feeble minded and cranks outside would remain uninformed of the movement until too late.

Besides most of those who are in sympathy with the policies Mr. Belknap professes to favor are already tied up in the Republican party. They have in the person of President Harding a leader who has Belknap shunted off the map as a compromiser and fixer. He has shown not only his ability but his willingness to take both sides of any question in dispute and, if necessary, project a good word for the middle. Therefore Mr. Belknap makes a grave mistake in demanding a new party as a vehicle of catapulting himself into the United States Senate. He ought to offer himself as an especially fit candidate for the Republican nomination and appeal to President Harding as a fellow laborer in the vineyard of sham.

—What Harding needs is some strong-armed guy who can knock the block off that agricultural bloc.

Trouble Over the Tariff.

The rumbling of discontent against the absurd provisions of the Fordney tariff bill seems to have reached the White House. Nobody except Fordney appears to favor the measure though it was pressed during the special session under orders of the President. Iron and steel makers as well as consumers have protested and wool growers and woolen goods makers are dissatisfied. The plan of levying the tax upon American valuation is as abhorrent to consumers and the only feature of the measure which has met with approval at all is the tax on hides, which is endorsed by the most meat packers who stand to make millions out of it.

The other day the President called a lot of Republican Senators, Representatives and cabinet members to the White House to discuss the subject over the dinner table. Senator Lodge was present and Senator McCumber, who succeeded Senator Penrose as chairman of the Senate committee on Finance, and is supposed to be a trifle heretical on tariff, was grilled. In addition to Fordney, of the House, Mondell, the floor leader, and Madden, chairman of the Appropriations committee, were in attendance. Of the cabinet Attorney General Dougherty and Secretary of War Weeks were favored and it is presumed that the purpose of the conference was to come to an agreement to let the President fix the tariff rates.

Fixing tariff rates is essentially legislation. The constitution of the United States declares that "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." It has been agreed since the beginning of the government that Congress cannot delegate this power of legislation. The proposition of President Harding is that the power be delegated to him so that he might fix high rates for one citizen and low rates for another. It would put a potent force in his hands to make or break men engaged in business, and the fact that he has sworn to "support, obey and defend" the constitution makes no difference to him.

—Ex-County Commissioner D. A. Grove, William Dreibleib and Malcolm Longwell had a thrilling experience in an auto ride down Nittany mountain last Saturday that pales into insignificance the famous ride of Paul Revere, of revolutionary fame. They were on their way over to Centre Hall to attend the horse sale. Longwell was at the wheel and when about half way down the mountain the hub on one of the rear wheels ground out and the driver had nothing wherewith to control the momentum of the car. It quickly picked up speed and notwithstanding the fact that he threw into low the momentum of the car could not be checked. In fact its speed increased every minute until the car and occupants were literally flying down the mountain. Fortunately the driver did not lose his nerve but guided the machine with unflinching hands. Mr. Grove wanted to jump but he was prevailed upon not to attempt it and the wild ride continued. Under the skillful manipulation of the wheel, and with the good fortune of meeting no cars, the machine was kept on the road and finally took every curve and turn and finally thundered down the last grade and into Centre Hall. After running half way through the town Longwell managed to turn into an alley or side street and run up onto a bank where the machine was stopped and the three men took a long breath, thankful that they had come through the ride safe and sound.

—Did you read "The End of Steel" when it ran in the Saturday Evening Post last fall? It was the story of travel in the great north. If you did you will probably agree with our belief that Dr. Meek's Alaska letters running in the "Watchman" are quite as interesting as tales of travel.

—Snows like Wednesday's may look beautiful to people who live in apartment houses but to the fellow with a hundred feet of sidewalk to clean the beauty of them is less than skin deep.

—With two or three more disappointments President Harding is likely to reach the conclusion that he can't even fool himself most of the time.

—It may be remarked that vice president Atterbury, of the Pennsylvania railroad, freely consented to the appointment of Mr. Pepper.

—If the Vore-Magee combination gets its hooks in the people of Pennsylvania would better supply themselves with life preservers.

—Governor Sprout's halo is not on straight.

Woodrow Wilson at 65.

From the New York World. When Mr. Wilson left the White House somebody asked him what he intended to do. In answer to the question he said that he was going to show the country how an ex-President of the United States should behave. He has done so.

Mr. Wilson has a remarkable gift of speech, but he also has a remarkable gift of silence, and he has been employing that talent ever since March 4. By no word or act has he sought to embarrass the Harding Administration or add to the difficulties of his successor. All attempts to induce him to criticize Mr. Harding's policies have been unsuccessful. Mr. Wilson's conduct has been diametrically opposite in every respect to that of Mr. Roosevelt, who assumed that his chief mission in life was to pull down anybody else who was President.

The silence of Mr. Wilson in respect to the Harding Administration is not the result of a waning interest in public affairs. On the contrary, Mr. Wilson's interest was never keener or more alert. Nor does he regard his political leadership as a closed chapter in his life. It is inevitable that while he survives a very large percentage of the Democratic party will derive its political inspiration from him, as it did from Jefferson after his retirement from the Presidency. In that respect it is a leadership of intellect and character that nobody can challenge, but it is also a leadership that Mr. Wilson shows no disposition to use for mere partisan ends.

This is Mr. Wilson's sixty-fifth birthday, and he can hardly fail to be gratified by the knowledge that the great policies for which he all but sacrificed his life have been making steady and uninterrupted public progress during the period of his retirement. The principles of international conduct that he represents were never before so strong as they are now. He left his vindication to events, and events have proved a most eloquent champion. More clearly than ever he stands forth as the one statesman of his day who had clear and comprehensive vision of the means that civilization must adopt to escape destruction and insure peace.

"Ballingerism."

From the Louisville Courier-Journal. Reports from Washington that "Old Guardsters" of the Republican party are seeking to place the Division of Forestry, now connected with the Department of Agriculture, under the Department of the Interior revive the memory of one of the most sinister features of the Taft Administration when "Ballingerism" became a stench in the nostrils of the nation.

Mr. Ballinger, Secretary of the Interior at the time, was charged by Gifford Pinchot with permitting and aiding lumber barons to denude American forests for their own aggrandizement. The issue was clear-cut. Mr. Pinchot, a highly intelligent and patriotic man, resigned in disgust as head of the Forestry Division. His resignation was the beginning of the end of the Taft Administration's popularity. Steadily thereafter the tide of protest arose against the "Taftites" throughout the country. It was Gifford Pinchot who met Theodore Roosevelt when that gentleman emerged from the African jungle and reported to him the reactionary trend of the Republican party. The rest is history.

Now when public attention is engrossed with the Arms Conference the leopard of unchangeable spots begins once more to prowl, being led about in this case, as it happens to be, by Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior, somewhat after the fashion he was paraded twelve years ago by one Ballinger, occupant of the same office.

Gifford Pinchot, however, is still "on the job," ready and willing "to take a fall" once more out of the exploiters of America's forests. Behind Mr. Pinchot is the mass of the American people.

Stealth is at work at Washington in more places than in the Arms Conference. Low cunning once more is active there. The tiger that was wounded by Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, twelve years ago is daring again to come out of his lair. He and his keepers should be watched.

Almost a Perfect Day.

From the Philadelphia Record. From the veracious columns of the Evening Bulletin, a great admirer of President Harding, we learn that in the Christmas holidays "not even the lure of golf at Pinehurst was sufficient to divert him from his desk at the executive offices. Instead, he was 'at home' to Eugene V. Debs, and also sat across the table from William R. Hearst at luncheon."

In the morning a charming and familiar tete-a-tete with a "peripatetic venter of State sedition," to use Disraeli's words, just released from the prison to which he was properly sentenced for preaching disloyalty to the government. At noon a cosy lunch with Hearst, the pro-German editor and enemy of everything decent in American politics. What a pity that in the afternoon George Harvey or George Sylvester Viereck could not drop in to bring to its close a perfect day!

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Police aid was asked to prevent the Rev. J. R. Bennett, pastor of the Calvary Baptist colored church, in Chester, from conducting the regular Sunday services, but the church was well filled at the day's services and no violence was attempted.

—The Anderson Construction company, of Parnassus, has been awarded the contract for construction of 32,669 feet of state highway in Clearfield and Indiana counties, 6008 feet being in the former county. The figure is \$297,432.50. It is a county aid project.

—Eighteen of the deaths during hunting season and 45 accidents were due to self-inflicted injuries, while nine deaths were due to accidental or careless discharges of firearms in the hands of other persons, according to official figures recorded at Harrisburg.

—John Jones, 9 years old, was drowned when the thin ice broke while he was playing with several other boys on a small reservoir of the Morrellville and Cambria Water company at Johnstown, on Monday. The body was recovered by the police about twenty minutes after the accident occurred.

—Seven nieces and nephews of the late Joseph Cassell, of Lansdale, lived up to the stipulation of their uncle's will and profited to the extent of \$1700 thereby. He directed in his will that the nieces and nephews should share in the estate provided they attended his funeral or give a satisfactory excuse why they did not. S. D. Conover, of Lansdale, the executor, reports that all seven attended.

—Mrs. Bertha Hook, mother of six children, went before Judge W. S. McLean at Wilkes-Barre on Monday and pleaded guilty to two charges of forgery. She was sentenced to pay a fine of \$5 and costs and to serve one year in the county jail. The woman admitted forging the check of Catherine Perry to a check for \$25 and the name of Grace Mitchell to a United States government check for \$419.

—The meanest thief in Pennsylvania paid a visit to Nippenose valley one night last week. When Frank Bower, of Colmansville, entered his woodshed early in the morning to get an armload of fuel to make a fire in the kitchen range he first rubbed his eyes and then was convinced they did not deceive him. The woodshed was empty. During the night some one had quietly carried away his winter's supply of fuel.

—Laziness has become a ground for divorce when a husband suffers from it chronically, that being the cause for divorce given by Mrs. Mary K. Shannon, awarded a decree at Bloomsburg from Ralph Shannon. Shannon was indolent, his wife said, did not like to work and she was obliged to support the family, her testimony showed. Judge Whitehead, of Lycoming county, specially presiding, granted the decree.

—Convicted of the murder of William E. Neidues, of McKeesport, an insurance agent, in Altoona, August 30, last, Gilbert McCloskey, of Altoona, was on Monday sentenced by Judge Thomas J. Baldrige, at Hollidaysburg, to die in the electric chair. Edward Yon and George E. Lafferty, his accomplices in crime, are serving twenty years sentences. All three men were charged with holding up the Manhattan Limited over the Pennsylvania at Galtitzin last August.

—Confronted by a masked burglar in the kitchen of her home, Mrs. Edward Elmer, of Reserve township, Allegheny county, seized a large butcher knife and sprang at the intruder. With a shriek of fear he jumped backward, leaped through an open window and fled, with Mrs. Elmer close behind. Several times the pursuing woman was able to get within arm's length of the highwayman to give him a jab with the point of the knife, causing the fleeing man to shriek. He finally escaped.

—The big plant of the Nickel-Alloys company, at Hyde, Clearfield county, which has had an erratic history in the last ten years, has just marked up another epoch, having been sold at receiver's sale to Harry B. Wassel, of Philadelphia, for \$50,000. The property was sold subject to mortgages totalling about \$150,000. Mr. Wassel did not indicate for what interests he was acting, but residents of Hyde are hopeful that the new transaction will be followed by the resumption of operations at the plant.

—Attorney Henry P. Keiser, representing Helen Davis, the leading girl who helped the authorities to capture the six Wyoming bank bandits last year, has filed a claim in court for a share of the \$5000 reward offered by the robbed bank. The latter recently asked the Berks courts to apportion the reward among numerous claimants. The girl accompanied the bandits on a motor trip to Philadelphia and New York, not knowing until after the robbery and the trip that the men were the bank bandits.

—J. Harry Rakestraw, a Montoursville dairyman, found that one of his valuable Holstein cows was not producing its usual amount of milk. Accordingly, the cow was killed for beef, and an investigation made of its stomach, which was found to be punctured by nails and other pieces of metal the cow had eaten. In the cow's stomach were found a ten-penny wire nail, an eight-penny cut nail, an eight-penny wire nail and a six-penny wire nail, three shingle nails, two barbed wire staples and other pieces of metal. The cow was valued at \$500.

—Judge Strouss, of Northumberland county, who took his oath of office a week ago, officially showed the new jury commissioners, Frank S. Pilarsky, of Shamokin, and J. Stanley Lewis, of Mt. Carmel, that he is the Judge when he read them the law and directed that in future they keep the wheel containing Northumberland jurors' names in the vault in the office of Treasurer Phillips. The custom for eighteen years has been to keep the jury wheel in the office of the sheriff, according to Sheriff Martz, and the Sheriff agreed that he did not "care if the jury wheel was taken out and chopped up."

—Colonel George S. Beck, retired newspaper man, who died at Reading last week, left an unique will, probated last Friday. He left only \$5000, but established trust funds for orphanages at Womelsdorf, Topton and Reading, as well as making bequests for two daughters and a housekeeper. Beck directed that his remains be not exposed to public view at his funeral, and that a coffin, without silver trimmings and of the kind used at almshouses, be provided for his remains. The will further provided that the "poorest paid pastor" in Milroy, Pa., place of burial, was to conduct his burial, and to get \$10 for the service.