

INK SLINGS.

—Most people are hard up because they find spending money so much more to their liking than earning it.

—Just now Pleasant Gap has the rather unenviable distinction of being the meeziest place in Centre county. It is a lovely little village with a fine lot of people but its just polluted with measles.

—The Senate has passed the co-operative marketing bill that originated in the House so that soon the farmers will have another one of those panaceas for their depressed condition that won't pan.

—Anent the difficulty that council is having over the selection of a fire marshal, if all that is desirable is somebody who can be depended upon to be around when the conflagration happens why not "Dixie" Freeman?

—The Y. drive has gone over the top. With the budget for the current year thus practically assured there is nothing more to be done than help make it supply whatever need the community may have for an Association.

—Work has been stopped on fourteen ships that were building for our navy. This is part of the scrapping and limitations program and will be good news to the tax payers who would have had to settle the bills finally.

—Congress, having fooled all of its time away, now realizes that the time when the public will have a chance to pass upon its foolishness is fast approaching and expects to spend the rest of the present session conjuring up alibis.

—From those Republicans who are inquiring as to whether Senator Crow will be physically able to perform his duties should he be nominated and elected to succeed himself will be in for a lot of condemnation but they're right. Every person regrets the Senator's illness and hopes for his recovery, but if there is any uncertainty as to the time he will be restored to full vigor it should be known.

—Having scamed the proofs of the erudite contributions making for general intelligence, that appear elsewhere in this edition, almost we are persuaded to charge C. L. G. with plagiarism. Among the locals he has announced that it is just fifty-eight days until the opening of the trout fishing season. Any one who reads the "Watchman" will know that he stole that from us, because we have had it down pat, copyrighted for our annual use for so, these many years. Next thing, we presume, he'll be having the temerity to throw hints to our private boot-legger.

—Judge Bonniwell is giving the people of the State a lot of facts and figures about the government at Harrisburg that the organization would much prefer to have suppressed. The more he discloses the more unbiased people are convinced that there should be such a cleaning out at Harrisburg as has never been made before. Every county in the State feels the effects of the treasury bankruptcy. Schools and hospitals can't pay their bills and those who have been furnishing supplies for them have to wait for payment because the hordes of useless state officials grab the little bit of money that gets into the treasury as salaries.

—The drive for funds for the Y. M. C. A. ought to be supplemented with a drive into the ivories of those foolish folks who think a few ought to pay for all the pleasures, conveniences and general welfare of the many. Provision has been or will be made for worthy persons who really can't afford to pay the regular fees, but the person who could save the price by cutting out petty luxuries and non-essentials for a few weeks—and does not—and then expects some one else to put up for his pleasure at the Y. is looking for something he ought not to have and in all probability won't get. We have never made a compilation of them, but we hazard the statement that we could take two hundred men and women out of Bellefonte and leave the old town so flat on her back that she would never even attempt to turn over. Churches, schools, lodges, clubs, fire companies, welfare work, business enterprises and everything else would wither up and Goldsmith's Deserted Village would look like 34th and Broadway by comparison with our town.

—Mrs. John O. Miller's advice to the women voters, of whose League she is president, is rather ambiguous. After telling her sisters to have a care that only such party leadership be supported as will "be wholly devoted to the welfare of the people" she warns that "the leadership of her own party is at stake" and "the reactionary bosses will seek, also to have a hand in the control of the Democratic party organization." We can read in this nothing else than that Mrs. Miller is reactionary herself and wants both party organizations to remain as they are at present constituted. So far as her advice to the Republican women of Pennsylvania is concerned we are not greatly interested, but women who know and have faith in the principles of Democracy will be little impressed by her suggestion that they continue a leadership that has left them only the remnant of a party to affiliate with. All the more so will Democratic women accept "with a grain of salt" gratuitous counsel from one whose public utterances so often begin with "Of course I am a Republican, but."

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Coal Tax Legislation Affirmed.

The Dauphin county court, in a unanimous opinion handed down the other day, has affirmed the constitutionality of the Act of Assembly imposing a tax on anthracite coal. This was the pet measure of Governor Sproul. It was one of the reasons for the invasion of the last session of the Legislature by the state constabulary and the revolutionary proceedings that followed. It was necessary to the profligate plans of the Governor to make his administration one of "magnificent achievement." It is expected to produce revenues to the extent of ten or twelve million dollars. Incidentally it will increase the coal bill of the people of Pennsylvania to the extent of double that amount.

A similar bill was passed during the administration of Governor Pennypacker and declared unconstitutional by the Supreme court. Governor Sproul supported it then as Senator in the General Assembly and resented the action of the court. From the beginning of his term as Governor he has been striving to reverse the court. In this purpose opportunities have favored him. He has been able to appoint two justices of the Supreme court and all three of the judges of the Dauphin county court. The unanimous decision of the lower court in the case proves that he selected his appointees intelligently. The chances are that changes in the Supreme court will equally serve his purpose.

The late Governor Pennypacker was the inventor of the theory that profligacy is good politics. When the capitol graft exposures spread panic among the leaders of the party he was unperturbed. He organized excursions to view the building, confident that inspection would convince the people it was worth the price. That saved the day and the party. Governor Sproul is of the same mind. He imagines that the public will not care for the expense if their vanity is fed up by boasted achievements. The coal tax is for that purpose and it may work the result. It will impose a heavy burden on an already overburdened people. But in the language of an esteemed contemporary "who cares?"

—Senator Pepper speaks plainly upon the question of the soldiers' bonus. He probably thinks the veterans are as foolish as they were two years ago when they voted for Harding.

Teachers' Retirement Fund Looted.

Some weeks ago the public learned that the State Treasury is delinquent in payments on school appropriations to the extent of several millions of dollars. The delinquencies ran back over a period of three years and were on appropriations for teachers' salaries, building construction and maintenance. Within a day or two the fact has leaked out that the State owes the teachers' retirement fund \$1,800,000, covering appropriations for three years. Yet according to the Grange News and other dependable sources of information the State Department of Public Instruction is spending money like the proverbial "drunken sailor," in the payment of exorbitant salaries to officials.

During the period that Charley Snyder, of the gold piano and fifteen hundred dollar dog, was Auditor General that Department was the asylum for political "lame ducks." It seems, however, that now the custody and care of those birds has been shifted to Dr. Finegan, the imported head of the Department of Public Instruction. At the last election one of the common pleas judges was defeated for re-election and left without a job. The constitution and the law provides that the Attorney General's office shall perform the legal service for all the departments of the State. But the sympathetic heart of the State machine bled for the suffering victim of popular disapproval and Finegan appointed him counsel for the department at five thousand dollars a year.

We have previously referred to the generous recompense of deputies, assistants, chief clerks, inspectors and other employees of the Department of Public Instruction. But the most amazing information that has yet come out of the department is this concerning the looting of the teachers' retirement fund. That fund was created in the full spirit of beneficence. It was a token of popular appreciation of the great service the school teachers have given and are giving to the people in the work of education. Now it transpires that the fund has been systematically robbed for a period of years and is at present in imminent danger of collapse. What additional shame has the Republican machine for the people?

—The Washington conference is ended but "for ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, the heathen Chinese is peculiar," and it looks as if Japan has been too amiable.

Mrs. Warburton "Knocked Out."

We deeply regret to learn that the application of Mrs. Barclay H. Warburton, of Philadelphia, for appointment as boss of the female portion of the Republican machine has been refused. Mrs. Warburton was appointed vice chairman of the Republican State committee by Governor Sproul a year ago and had some claim to the position to which she has since aspired. The vice chairmanship seemed a soul-satisfying solace when it was bestowed. But experience soon developed the fact that it was an "empty honor" for the reason that limitations expressed, divested it of all power and influence. But Mrs. Warburton was the pioneer, so to speak, in the movement and entitled to the usufruct of her enterprise.

Her expectations in this respect have been rudely shattered, however, if information contained in the Philadelphia papers of Sunday are dependable. It seems that Senator Vare, who is the dispenser of such party favors, has conferred the honor upon one Mrs. Archibald R. Harman, also of Philadelphia, and more or less a rival of Mrs. Warburton in political ambitions and activities. Mrs. Harman probably resides south of Walnut street and environment goes a good way in such matters. In any event, within a day or two after Mrs. Warburton had "filed her claim" to the organization Senator Vare announced that Mrs. Harman will have the power of review and revision of female activities in politics.

Of course it makes no difference to the women voters of Centre or any other county which of these amiable and charming women politicians shall select the candidates or define the policies of the party. It is enough for them to feel that Senator Vare understands his business and that the woman he selects to boss the women voters of the State may be depended upon to justify his preference by servility to his mandates and devotion to his interests. A good many of them share in our profound regret that Mrs. Warburton has been spurned. But the fates of war and politics are equally uncertain and Senator Vare knows better than the women whom they want as "guide, philosopher and friend."

—The President is a great manipulator but in removing Senator Kenyon from the Senate and Representative Peters from the House by placing them on the Bench, he is bringing the court into disrepute without accomplishing much in the way of settling party troubles.

Inspiring Information to Democrats.

Representative Arthur B. Rouse, of Kentucky, chairman of the Democratic Congressional committee, gives the public the inspiring information that the Democrats "will make gains this year in every State in the east, north and west and will redeem the districts we lost in the last election in Tennessee and Texas." He bases this estimate upon a careful survey of political conditions throughout the country. "The people are not satisfied with the present administration," he states, "and are especially displeased with Congress because there has been a complete failure in redeeming the promises of relief that were made during the last campaign."

Inquiry among the people of any community confirms this statement of facts. Business is certainly "rotten" and growing worse day by day. Propaganda issued by the Republican managers make the false pretense of improvement but investigation or even casual inquiry shows such statements are without foundation. The per centage of unemployment is constantly increasing and the distress is becoming a menace. These conditions are clearly ascribable to the faults of the administration. If we had gone into the League of Nations and joined with the rest of the civilized world in an effort to readjust conditions immediately after the war prosperity instead of poverty would be present.

The activities of the Democratic National committee and the efforts of the Congressional committee to remedy these evils are most encouraging. But the efforts should have their beginning at the bottom instead of the top. The Democrats in the towns and townships should supplement the work of the organization in striving for the rejuvenation of the party. It is in the home environment that work of this kind proves effective. The county, ward and precinct committees should wake up to the importance of activity. We hope the Democrats of Centre county will set an example in this direction and that without delay. It will encourage the big committees to know that heaven is working at the bottom.

—When the Supreme court passes upon the constitutionality of the coal tax the public will find out just how successful the Governor has been in fixing the courts.

End of the Washington Conference.

The Washington conference adjourned finally on Monday in the spirit of a "mutual admiration society." Several of the members spoke in fulsome eulogy of the work performed and the results achieved and President Harding pronounced the benediction in terms of most extravagant praise. "This conference has wrought a truly great achievement," he said. "It is hazardous," he added, "to speak in superlatives and I will be restrained. But I will say with every confidence, that the faith plighted here today, kept in national honor, will mark the beginning of a new and better epoch in human progress." As a matter of fact it will simply be a clandestine ratification of the work of Woodrow Wilson.

Every right minded man and woman in the country will hope that the "faith plighted" will be "kept in national honor." But every intelligent man and woman in the country will feel that the ratification of the covenant of the League of Nations by the Senate of the United States would have accomplished the result more speedily and with greater certainty. That action would have secured the cordial co-operation of the whole civilized world in the purposes expressed in the several treaties signed on Monday while these treaties merely hold a big stick of five great nations over the heads of weaker nations to coerce them into good behavior. It is the substitution of force for reason.

The probabilities are that the treaties will be ratified because they represent, though in a feeble form, the hope of the world for permanent peace and for the reason that Democratic Senatorial minds are not so corroded with bigotry as to subvert their feelings of patriotism and sense of justice. But the glory is not to Harding, who, as Senator in the last Congress, voted against the principles expressed in these treaties. The triumph belongs to Woodrow Wilson, who laid the foundation of this "better epoch in human progress." The ratification of the treaties will be a stultification of the action of the Republican Senators in opposing the ratification of the covenant of the League of Nations.

—Senator Crow is taking a good, long rest in that Pittsburgh hospital, but he is pursuing a poor way to make people think he is getting well.

An Appeal to Voters.

Mrs. John O. Miller, president of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, in a statement to voters generally, says:

"I feel that I should fail in an obvious duty, as chairman of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, which includes members of all parties, if I did not direct attention to the supreme importance of the approaching primaries.

Pennsylvania is about to enter an entirely new political era. The result of the May primaries will determine, to a large extent, the leadership of both the Republican and Democratic parties. The great problem is to see to it that this leadership is alert, progressive, honest, sincere, and wholly devoted to the welfare of the people.

This cannot be had by sitting idly by while machine bosses set up states and fix up things in their own interest.

The leadership of the Republican organization is at stake. The reactionary bosses will seek also to have a hand in the control of the Democratic party organization. They know if once they can get their hands on the two party organizations, that it will take a long time to loosen their grip. And they are at work.

Just reflect on the important questions which will come up in the primaries. Two United States Senators; a Governor; a Lieutenant Governor; Secretary of Internal Affairs; the whole membership of the State House; a Congressman for every district are to be nominated. In addition, the State committee members are to be elected.

These nominations and elections mean control of the political and administrative course of the State.

The political bosses will stop at nothing to win the biggest prizes in a generation.

Don't let them make up a ticket and jam it through the primaries. You have something to say about it."

—It seems that Mexico is the place to sell stolen automobiles, and by the same token it is a good market in which to buy booze.

—With a deficit in the Postoffice Department of \$25,000,000 for three months Will Hays had ample reason for looking for another job.

—Next Wednesday will be the twenty-fourth anniversary of the sinking of the battleship Maine in the harbor at Havana, Cuba.

—Let us hope that Pope Pius XI may be preserved long for the service of peace to which he has dedicated his life.

Naval Curtailments.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The substance of Sir Arthur Hungerford Pollen's article in a recent Atlantic Monthly is that while England's safety demanded it its navy was maintained the most powerful in the world. When the danger ceased the navy was permitted to decline. Sir Arthur says that England has built, or is building, only one superdreadnaught since the battle of Jutland, and that was planned earlier, while America and Japan have built, or building, 16 ships embodying the lessons learned at Jutland. England has suddenly dropped from the foremost naval power in the world to a poor second, or even a third.

It is perhaps the converse of this that The Paris Temps presents when it traces the growth of the American navy as compared with that of Great Britain, until, it adds, "Britain saw herself doomed to lose her naval supremacy, which the dominions refused to maintain for her at their expense. She then preferred to compromise."

British safety long required that she maintain a fleet as powerful as the fleets of France and Russia combined. But about 30 years ago Germany started on a career of naval expansion. England could no longer maintain the ratio of 2 to 1, and had to content itself with the ratio of 1.6 to 1. Twice it tried to secure an agreement with Germany for a naval holiday.

But the enemies of Great Britain have perished, and the rivals, in Europe, have ceased their rivalry. Germany and Russia are no longer naval powers; France and Italy have dropped out of the race because the world war compelled them to do their utmost on land; the sea lost its relative importance for them. Thus in Europe Great Britain had nothing to guard against. But across the Atlantic the United States was developing a navy with which England could not compete unless its national existence were at stake.

The danger of a conflict with the United States was extremely small, and for the time being England suspended its efforts to maintain the most powerful fleet in the world. And yet England could hardly afford to occupy a secondary place. The United States had the resources, and was beginning to develop the wish to be the foremost naval power. England, therefore, gladly accepted an invitation to confer on the limitation of navies, for she had already ceased to expand her own navy, and the American navy was likely to surpass the British in 1926. A limitation of armaments was a promise by the United States not to outbuild Great Britain. Hence Mr. Hughes had the cordial support of Mr. Balfour throughout the conference.

Whoop 'Er Up Stuff.

From the New York Herald.

Former Senator Beveridge hit a fal-lacy on the head the other night in Indiana when he said "It is nonsense to tell people that if they will just cheer up everything will be all right."

The whoop 'em up brethren won't like Mr. Beveridge's stand, but he was telling the cold truth. The professional optimists have been preaching a gospel of deception. They mean no harm, but they produce no good. They talk the platitudes of the boom town. They paper the dead walls with messages of cheer. Everything is all right, they say, if you will only believe that it is all right and act accordingly.

It is one thing for buyer and seller, for capital and labor, to get together and work together. That goes a long way to make business and prosperity. But trying to fill the sails of business with the wind of mere optimism is futile.

To the professional optimist, as Mr. Beveridge said, is unwittingly an agent of the forces of upheaval. "His vain and impossible prophecies, unfulfilled, merely destroy confidence." He leads people to expect immediate prosperity, produced by some miracle, when the fact is that prosperity will come in on the slow but sure freight train of work and economy.

The beaming smile of the whoop 'em up orator will not start goods moving across the country as long as the freight rates paralyze business.

Smug posters of good cheer will not open the doors of closed factories so long as capital stays under cover, knowing that the moment it shows its head it will be hit with a legislative sandbag.

All the phrases of the professional optimist will not cause a man to build a house or a shop when he knows that the price of labor will make the building cost twice as much as it will be worth in five or ten years.

The devil of depression is not going to be successfully exorcised with sweet words. It will take a hammer to drive him out.

Editors in New Bloc.

From the Boston Transcript.

Sixty farm paper editors at the Agricultural Conference in Washington are said to have formed a bloc of their own. Who is the bloc head?

—The new Irish Free State is doing fairly well. She has borrowed \$5,000,000 already and some old States couldn't do that in a hundred years.

—Senator Newberry feels that he is vindicated but he doesn't indulge in much boasting over his victory.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Allotona bakeries cut the price of large loaves of bread from 15 to 13 cents or two for 25 cents.

—Rudolph Trinkle, a hotel proprietor of Allentown, is defendant in a suit for \$25,000 damages, started in court there on Monday by Wilson G. Woodring, of West Catasauqua, who alleges that Trinkle's automobile ran down his wife near Nazareth and killed her.

—Poison is believed by the police to have caused the death, last Friday, of Arthur Dubbs, of Harrisburg, who was to have been the star witness next month in the trial of John Toney and Jack Stanoff, indicted for the murder of Mike Kanoff, who was clubbed to death.

—While Mr. and Mrs. John Newcomer, of Williamsport, were busy in their kitchen one day last week there was a sudden explosion and pieces of the cookstove were hurled about the room. The man and his wife escaped without injury, although the stove was blown into so many pieces no stove man could repair it.

—When his horse took fright at a piece of paper in the road, Charles Houghavout, of Lower Augusta, Northumberland county, jumped as the team plunged over a sixty foot embankment. He escaped with a few slight bruises. The horses landed at the bottom practically unharmed. A wagon load of bottled milk was spilled.

—In the pulpit of the Lutheran church at Bloomsburg on Sunday night, the Rev. Norman S. Wolf attacked the rent gougers of Bloomsburg, and declared that they were acting contrary to the best interests of the community. His sermon caused much comment locally because most of the large property owners have recently made considerable increases in rents in town.

—When flames destroyed the Mrs. Margaret Gristle apartment house at Sunbury on Monday, Mrs. Moses Long, who lived on a top floor with her three children, was cut off from escape by the stairway, and passed her children out of the window to firemen, who caught them safely in a sheet. Then she jumped and suffered contusions of the body. The loss was \$3000.

—Thomas McCole, aged 36 years, an employee of the Atlantic Refining company, of Allentown, saying he was wolfishly hungry when he sat down to supper at his boarding house Saturday night, ravenously tackled the roast beef. He took too large a bite and was unable to swallow it. A physician was called who hurriedly summoned an ambulance. On arrival at the hospital it was discovered that he had died on the way of strangulation.

—Mr. and Mrs. John Miller, of Woodward township, Clearfield county, have started suit against three hunters for \$10,000 damages. In the bill of complaint the Millers say that on November 5th, 1921, Orville Waite, John Gemill and James Masterson, of Woodward, saw a rabbit near the Miller house. All three shot at the animal. Although the rabbit escaped, one of the bullets went through the Miller house and hit Mrs. Miller in the shoulder. She has been in a hospital ever since.

—Charles Steele, of the Whitmer Steele company, Northumberland, has ordered from the State for reforestation purposes, 25,000 young trees. These seedlings will be planted on his farm at Lamar, in Nitany valley. Of these, 16,000 are Norway spruce, 5,000 are hard maple and 5,000 yellow pine. The order was placed through Dill Conrad, state forest fire warden, of Northumberland. The spruce will be used for paper making at times when the trees mature. The trees will cover about 12 acres.

—Harry T. Ebling, a lineman for the Eastern Pennsylvania Light and Power company, was electrocuted within full sight of companions at Easton, last Thursday, it being impossible to aid him. Ebling was at work on a high ladder on Mill creek avenue, when wires carrying high voltage crossed, throwing him to the ground. A severe burn across the palm of his left hand indicated that he was almost instantly killed by the electric current. He made but a few gasps after the accident. Ebling was 22 years of age and unmarried.

—The Cameron County Press and the Emporium Independent, weekly papers of Emporium, have been consolidated, and a corporation to be known as the Emporium Publishing Company will issue the resulting product. It will be under the management of J. R. Klees, former proprietor of the Independent. Advanced printing costs during the war and since made the publication difficult for the two weeklies. The offices had to help each other in getting out their respective papers. There is enough business in the community, it is believed, to keep the consolidated paper going nicely.

—The European starling is anybody's game now and threatens to become a problem, probably as great as the English sparrow. The starling resembles the blackbird and is often taken for the black-couted visitor in winter time. The starling does not migrate, but remains all the year and in winter time goes into cities much like the sparrows. It is pugnacious and destructive, and State game authorities say it is not protected, but may be shot. Secretary Seth E. Gordon, of the State Game Commission, has been getting letters about the starling from farmers, who want to know whether they can kill off the bird.

—Dauphin county authorities on Saturday ordered the arrest of Lloyd Smeltz, 23 years old, of near Elizabethtown, and charged him with the murder of his father, John Smeltz, shot to death Wednesday night as he drove into the lane of his home. The boy, who accompanied his father at the time, said bandits had murdered his father, but later made contradictory statements. A fatal admission that he had a revolver in his possession the night of the murder and had thrown it away directed strong suspicion toward young Smeltz. The gun was recovered. Edward Smeltz, a younger son, is being detained. The authorities believe Smeltz was killed as the result of a family quarrel.

—Judge Bechtel, of Pottsville, was considerably shocked last Thursday when Mrs. Oliver Fenknor, of Mahanoy City, with six small children hanging to her, was brought before him on a trifling charge. The oldest of the children was only 11 years. It was alleged the mother was cruel to one of the children. The husband told the court he was suing for divorce. "Six small children and suing for divorce!" exclaimed Judge Bechtel. "Let me tell you, you will support those children even if you do get a divorce." Fenknor, a railroad employee, draws \$200 a month, but wants to have the children sent to a home. He has been contributing \$50 a month to their support. Court will make a full investigation of the circumstances.