

INK SLINGS.

-Any one with a perception of the signs of the times recognizes an unmistakable swing to the theories and practices of Wilsonism in government.

-Anyway, it can be proclaimed to the world that there are more Democrats in Centre county than the Brock-erhoff dining room will accommodate.

-Almost there were enough Democrats from the West ward of Bellefonte at the get-together dinner, Tuesday night, to make a worth while gathering of themselves.

-The ladies, God bless them, added both dignity and beauty to the Democratic get-together dinner in Bellefonte, Tuesday evening. In truth, we didn't know there were so many good looking women in Centre county and we were tickled sick to find that they are Democrats, too.

-Sixty-five persons in this land of ours had incomes of a million dollars during 1919. If they have a chronic annual income of any such sum there is where the most of the soldier bonus should come from. No man can or ought to live on a million dollar a year basis. It isn't good for him, society or the rest of us who have to live on what he hasn't grabbed off.

-There is a correspondence course in burglary. There must be, for on the person of a young man caught drilling a safe in Providence, R. I., early Sunday morning, was found a diploma attesting to his having successfully passed the examinations requisite for his graduation from the school. It is interesting to know that there are places, aside from mere association with crooks and their environment, where crime may be studied and training in its practice acquired.

-And now in the wake of the adjourned arms limitation conference we are being frightened by tales from Washington to the effect that the defenses of the Panama Canal are at the mercy of our enemies and will have to be improved. After the love feast that Washington would have us believe has just terminated there we deem it pertinent to inquire as to just who our enemies are. We have been laboring, evidently, under a delusion. We thought Mr. Harding had insured us perpetual peace.

-Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis has resigned. How far his decision to quit the federal court bench was determined by the criticism engendered by his holding onto that job while acting as supreme adviser for organized baseball we don't know, but let the odium of dual offices be as it may we think a Judge who had the nerve to fine the Standard Oil company twenty-nine million dollars wasn't a bad kind to have on the bench, on occasion, even though he was "taking down" something less than fifty thousand a year for telling Babe Ruth and a lot of other pirates where to get off.

-If the Hon. Ives Harvey throws his hat into the legislative ring and starts messing things up for the Hon. Tom Beaver there's sure going to be some fun. Of course Mr. Beaver would have no come back, for he spilled the Harvey beans two years ago. The interesting phase of such a complication would be the line-up of their supporters. It is generally known that some elements are not satisfied with certain of Tom's actions in Harrisburg and will not be disposed to accept his. On the "trust me" theory of 1920, but with Harvey as his opponent it would be worse than jumping out of the jaws of Scylla into those of Charybdis to go to him, so what are they going to do about it.

-Listen, Lester! Much as we all hope and pray that great good may come as a result of the recent arms limitations conference in Washington we want you to stare right at the cold, irrefutable fact that not an agreement or a pact that Mr. Harding and Mr. Hughes succeeded in having entered into or signed in Washington, amounts to more than the paper it is written on until the child of Woodrow Wilson, the League of Nations, gives its assent. England, France, China and Japan are members of the League and Article XVIII of the covenant says: "Every covenant or international engagement entered into henceforth by any member of the League shall be forthwith registered * * * and no such treaty or international engagement shall be binding until so registered." This means, if it means anything, that the ideals of a Woodrow Wilson and not the crass bigotry of a Lodge sit as the court of last resort.

-Mr. Edison's latest questionnaire as to what is the basis of money and what gives it its value will reopen, no doubt, many a discussion that has been slumbering since the days of Mr. Bryan's 16 to 1 campaign and the Palmer and Bucker irritation. Of course Mr. Edison knows that gold is the basis of monetary value for the reason that of the precious metals it is the one the production of which is least variable in supply. But his inquiry as to what would be the value of gold if all governments were to demonetize it is easily answered for it would then be measured only by its worth to the arts and sciences as a metal, and in such an eventuality its value would be relative; depending wholly upon the basis adopted for the one that would supersede it. Gold, in itself, is nothing more than a rare metal, and while a unit of energy, as Mr. Edison suggests, might be a truer measure of value, since all wealth is created by energy, we can't conceive of its being reduced to practical use as money unless it is not beyond the wit of man to devise a system for its use.

Millions for Tribute but Nothing for Soldiers.

When the soldiers' bonus bill was about to pass the Senate some months ago President Harding violated all traditions by appearing on the floor and asking a postponement of the vote. Any other President from the beginning of the government would have exercised his constitutional veto prerogative to defeat a measure he appraised as inimical to public interests. But Harding lacked the courage to adopt that course and "passed the buck," giving as a reason that the federal treasury was not in condition to stand such a strain upon it. Within a few days, however, he recommended the advance of a larger sum to the railroads to carry them over a dangerous financial chasm.

The Republican convention that nominated Harding for President promised the soldiers a bonus. The failure to fulfill that promise has caused a widespread and vociferous protest. Congress being frightened by this demonstration in favor of the bonus has again taken up the question and President Harding has again remonstrated. Unless provision is made for funds to meet the demand, he has inferentially declared, he will veto the bill. In this connection he suggested a "sales tax" as an expedient for raising the money. But Congress is justly opposed to such an oppressive tax. It would necessarily increase the cost of commodities and bear most severely upon those unable to carry the burden.

Though Mr. Harding is persuaded that the treasury is in no condition to meet the requirements of a soldiers' bonus he feels that it is amply able to pay subsidies. In a recent letter to one of the Congressmen he cordially recommends the passage of a bill providing a subsidy to the amount of thirty millions of dollars or more a year to the ship owners of the country. Such legislation could not possibly be helpful to the country. But it would afford largess to the millionaire ship owners who contributed liberally to the campaign fund of 1920 and are expected to be even more generous in contributions to the slush in the coming Congressional campaign. This is inconsistent but it is politics.

It would be interesting to find out how the prothonotaryship of the Supreme court of Pennsylvania got onto the political auction block. Possibly a well-directed and searching investigation might reveal the secret.

Popular Interest in a Mystery.

The politicians of the State, immediately concerned in the matter or otherwise, are watching with interest the efforts of other politicians to eliminate Mr. W. Harry Baker, of Harrisburg, from the factional fight now in progress, for mastery of the organization. Mr. Baker is and has been for many years, secretary of the State committee, and is reckoned the shrewdest and best informed politician of the bunch. He is the personal friend, political adviser and campaign manager of Lieutenant Governor Beidleman. It is generally believed that if his friendship for Beidleman were alienated and his activities checked, the Lieutenant Governor's chances for the nomination would be extinguished.

Naturally all the other candidates for the Republican nomination for Governor have a common interest in the removal of Baker, though not in equal ratio. It may be assumed, for example, that State Treasurer Snyder would rather see Beidleman nominated than either of the others. That famous or infamous \$5000 check sort of links them together. But Mackey and Fisher and Pinchot alike stand to gain by the weakening of Beidleman and would cordially join in teamwork effort for one thing. The friends of these candidates are not of the same mind. Senator Vore would rather take chances with Beidleman than with Fisher or Pinchot and friends of Fisher, Mackey and Pinchot prefer Beidleman to either of the others. So there you are.

Moreover the methods which have been invoked to achieve the result are as surprising and perplexing as the purpose to suppress Baker. They involve the personnel of the Supreme court in an intrigue that may justly be characterized as questionable. The attractive office of prothonotary of that court is vacant and is being dangled before Baker's eyes as a lure. In other words, through some invisible agency, Mr. Baker has been assured that if he will get out of politics now he may have that office with a life tenure and a \$10,000 guarantee annually. In whose interest the court is acting has not been revealed, but it is certainly not in behalf of Beidleman, certain of a seat in the next Congress. interest in the subject.

A bonus bill without money to meet its requirements is only "a promise to the ear to be broken to the hope."

Beidleman "Has the Call."

Within a week there has been considerable activity among the Republican strategists of the State in a contention for mastery. The real bosses being in Florida the minnows have been cavorting rather freely with the view, probably, of making an impression on the minds of the southern sojourners. Lieutenant Governor Beidleman formally announced himself as a candidate for Governor within the week, and Harry A. Mackey has been busy attracting attention to himself. The friends of Banking Commissioner Fisher have been holding meetings in some of the western counties and the ghost of Gifford Pinchot's ambition has been stalking abroad now and then spreading consternation.

The consensus of opinion as expressed by the political press reporters is that Mr. Beidleman is in the lead for the nomination at present. In his statement announcing his candidacy he attempted to explain that \$5000 check but did it in such a lame and impotent manner that his closest friends were disappointed. However, they reason that in the matter he did precisely as other Republican officials are in the habit of doing, and neither of his rivals in the contest can raise serious opposition. It was a sort of "get the money boys" affair and commands admiration rather than censure. He has promised a more complete statement in the future and great confidence is reposed in that.

As a matter of fact moral and mental qualifications get little consideration in the selection of Republican candidates for office. Party expediency is the only question considered by the bosses. If the signs indicate an easy Republican victory at the time of the nomination Beidleman will probably be nominated. He could be relied upon to serve the bosses better than either of the others. But if there is even a remote danger of defeat Beidleman will not do and the party may be compelled to nominate some man of the type of George E. Alter, of Pittsburgh, who could command at least the respectable element of the voters. But at this writing Beidleman "has the call."

Arthur J. Balfour, recently the British Ambassador in the Washington conference, has a good many jolts in his long and active public career but the hardest blow was administered to him the other day by Ambassador Harvey. Harvey compared him to Senator Lodge.

Republican Congressmen Alarmed.

Some of the Washington correspondents of the Philadelphia newspapers write that Pennsylvania Republican Congressmen are considerably alarmed about political conditions in the State. The signs indicate a vast change in political sentiment and a loss of a number of seats to the party. Of course the Philadelphia members feel secure and the Pittsburgh members are not much disturbed. But outside of the big cities there is a great deal of dissatisfaction and none of the country members feels certain of a seat in the next Congress. The big majorities given in some districts two years ago afford no guarantee of an election this year.

Naturally no Congressman blames the impending slump on himself and no two of them appear to agree upon any theory as to the cause. The consensus of opinion is that the contest for the gubernatorial nomination is largely responsible, though some of the wisest heads ascribe it to discontent over the Senatorial situation. Mr. Pepper is anything but popular among the active members. It is recalled that for a score of years he has been indulging himself in a "sniping fight" against the organization and now without any perceptible reason to justify it he is set up as a candidate for Senator with a "keep off the grass" sign all around him. Others would like to enter the field but are forbidden by the bosses in order that Pepper's election may be made certain.

A conservative estimate agreed to among Republicans is that the party will lose at least six members at the next election in Pennsylvania, with the Senatorial seat occupied by Pepper in grave doubt. At half that ratio throughout the country the next House would be about as strongly Democratic as the present one is Republican. Of course every effort will be made from now on to avert such a result, but the great trouble is that the differences of opinion as to the remedy are about as wide and irreconcilable as those as to the cause. The time is getting short and the menacing Congressmen are becoming hysterical.

The Prince of Wales started on his present journey to save India and he will be lucky if he saves himself.

Let us hope they will get Harry Baker out of politics. He is the key cog in the machine.

A Tale of Two Parties.

Today the active Democrats of Pennsylvania are assembled at Harrisburg for the purpose of devising ways and means to conserve the principles and promote the interests of the party. Impending bankruptcy, the result of shameless profligacy and astounding corruption in the administration of the State government, has admonished the people that immediate and important reforms are necessary and the Democratic leaders have determined to attempt a rescue. With that purpose in view the chairman of the State committee, Bruce F. Sterling, has asked the men and women of that political faith to come together to counsel as to plans and methods of achieving that result.

For more than a week the Republican bosses of Pennsylvania have been assembled in Florida for the purpose of devising ways and means to renew their licenses to loot the treasury. The active workers of the party have not been invited to the conferences, which are held so far away from home that it is impossible for most of them to attend, even if invited. The bosses sit snug within the shadows of palms, fanned by the gentle breezes of a southern temperature, and divide the spoils of office and the honors of power among themselves. When they have arrived at a satisfactory conclusion they will return home and tell the servile slaves of their organization who to vote for.

This is simply a tale of two parties. One represents the people and shapes its policies and methods through the voice of the people. The other represents the bosses and proceeds according to the rules of bossism to suppress the voice of the people. For awhile certain alleged leaders of the Democratic party tried to imitate the methods of the Republican bosses but failed to achieve the same results, and the conference in session at Harrisburg today is the expression of a return to the real Democratic methods. We sincerely hope the work of the conference will fulfill the best expectations of the Democratic people and bring to the party not only harmony but victory.

Up in Massachusetts Republicans are looking around for a good man to lick Henry Cabot Lodge for renomination for the Senate. Aside from the fact that it oughtn't to require a very good man to put that vain old bigot out of the running, if the Republicans can't do it at the primaries we predict that the Democrats will do it at the election.

Melting Snow Makes High Water.

The "Watchman" office came within four inches this week of receiving one of its infrequent baths from the waters of Spring creek. Monday was the first real spring-like day and the hot sun melted the snow on the mountains and in the valleys with the result that most of the streams were running bank full. Spring creek, at this place, had almost a four foot flood and reached its highest point at eleven o'clock Monday night. At that hour it was just four inches below the level of the floor in the "Watchman" office press room.

On Tuesday the water did not reach a threatening stage but on Wednesday afternoon it rose rapidly until at five o'clock it was within a foot of the "Watchman" press room, but that was its highest point that day. The probabilities are that the bulk of the snow has been dissolved into water and all danger of a flood in this place is past for the time being at least.

Bald Eagle creek ran very high on Wednesday, overflowing the banks in many places with the result that many places were inundated. Down near Howard some of the side roads were under water and travel was considerably interfered with. Considerable apprehension was felt at Lock Haven on Wednesday, according to reports received here, of the dangers of a flood in that place when the ice goes out of the river. The ice is from fifteen inches to two feet thick and up to Wednesday evening was holding fast.

Weather reports indicate colder weather but whether it will get cold enough to retard the dangers of a flood in the river sections remains to be seen.

Mr. Balfour, who was one of the principal figures in the Washington conference, modestly admits it performed an important service, but protests that the results are not "inimical to the League of Nations." On the contrary they are rather supplemental.

Of course it's wise to make the Washington theatres safe but if all Congressmen had been herded into one in a collapse staged, the country would be about as well off.

Even the artful dodger has troubles. The President is getting fresh evidence of this fact every day of his life.

Agreements Without Obligations.

The discussion of the net results of the Washington conference by Norman H. Davis, recently Under-Secretary of the State, is entirely just. The results amount to something. They are good as far as they go, and if they mean what they seem to mean. But they don't go very far, and it is not at all certain what some of the more important of the agreements mean. It is true, too, we have assumed restraints without a clear assurance that other nations will be bound by similar restraints.

Japan could hardly be expected to restrain itself in the fortification of her home islands, but Japan is as near Manila as Manila is to Japan, and we are simply trusting to the good will of Japan not to take the Philippine Islands. England may fortify Singapore—that is, may maintain a naval base there. The navies of Great Britain and Japan will materially exceed our own, and we cannot fortify the Philippines.

The agreements reached at the conference contain no provision for their enforcement, because the Republican Senators could not be expected to ratify agreements that did. But, then, what is the value of agreements that carry no obligations, and contain no provision for their enforcement, and make no provision for the contingency of their violations? The President told the Senate that we must accept the statement of other nations in good faith. But we needed no Washington conference to satisfy us that the present intentions of all parties concerned are pacific. What will be their intentions five years hence? If we won't make a contract with them for five years, we can't expect them to make a contract with us, and, therefore, no one knows what anybody will do in 1927.

Mr. Davis said: If a controversy should arise over the failure of one of the Powers to keep its pledges in respect to China or Siberia, it is not clear to me what our rights and duties would be. As this and the naval treaties are not in any way conditional upon the observance of these treaties, it would seem that we are in effect estopped from using force in the case of non-observance.

It is not clear to anybody else what our rights and duties would be in the event suggested, which is not a very remote contingency. There is no provision whatever for the use of force. The nearest that the Four-Power treaty comes to this is the agreement of the parties to confer with each other.

The Shantung controversy is likely to be settled, but, as Mr. Davis says, "if this withdrawal (of Japan) is to be made at the expense of a more secure hold on Manchuria and Siberia, it would be a costly one, and would not help the situation." And this appears to be the case; for Japan gives up no concession already secured in Manchuria, and it agrees to leave Siberia when it gets ready. Everything that was done at the conference could have been done in the League of Nations, and much more could have been done, and everything could have been done more effectively. There are definite obligations in the covenant of the League, and there are means of enforcing them.

They Love the Fence.

When a man is a public official he is very strongly tempted to sidetrack doubtful problems. He prefers to be opinionless, thus hoping to retain the confidence and esteem of all classes. He is represented fairly well by an old friend of ours who was a candidate for a county office a good many years ago. One of his constituents accused him of being a "temperance man," at a moment when persons of that sort were less numerous than they are now. He was obliged to admit the soft impeachment, but affirmed that he was "not strenuous."

The average occupant of a public office prefers to be opinionless. Unfortunately that is an attitude a member of Congress cannot very well occupy. Questions of considerable moment come up in Congress for discussion and settlement. Members are obliged to vote and thus record themselves on one side or another. A limited amount of dodging is possible, but that cannot be carried very far without exciting suspicion. Some Congressmen are fearless and decided, but a very considerable number are very much annoyed when there is difficulty in determining the trend of public opinion.

Many Congressmen are in the depths of bewilderment and despair at the present moment. They are confronted by the demand of the American Legion for a bonus and by the hostile attitude of the farmers and the business public to the proposition. They feel that if they do not vote for the bonus they will incur the displeasure of the organized veterans of the country. They know that to pass a bonus bill without providing for the payment of the claims of the young men would be worse than useless. And they realize that the organized farmers and the business of the country generally will resent increased taxation.

Our representatives are certainly in a quandary. We do not know how they will settle it. The chances are that they will be damned if they vote the bonus and damned if they don't. It's a hard lot, indeed. Perhaps the easiest way out would be to follow the lead of conscience and cast expediently to the winds.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-At a stock sale on a farm near Latrobe last week a stallion that two years ago was purchased for \$700, brought \$50. Other stock was sold at correspondingly low prices.

-In Clinton county court, Rex Vernesky, of Mill Hill, was fined \$1,000 and sent to jail for three months for selling liquor. He was regarded as the ring leader in a moonshining whiskey still operation.

-Half a million dollars will be spent for street paving in Williamsport this year. The Highway Department is preparing to begin work on its program as soon as the weather permits to furnish work for idle men.

-Watsonstown is rejoicing over an order received by the Watsonstown Door and Sash company for the woodwork for five hundred new homes in New York city. It is taken as an evidence of better times coming.

-C. W. Richardson, a salesman stopping at a New Castle hotel, climbed in his sleep to the roof of the hotel and walked over this and other adjoining roofs for 200 feet then plunged to his death. He was 50 years old.

-William Snyder, of Lock Haven, took two bi-chloride of mercury tablets in mistake for headache medicine a few days ago. The error was quickly discovered and he was taken to the hospital. It is believed he will recover.

-A Butler county jury, with two women on it, gave Mrs. Catherine Buckley, of Bruin, a verdict for \$5000 for the death of her husband, who was accidentally killed by a freight train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Bruin in June, 1920.

-John Yoschin, appraiser in the estate of Edward Blumer, a hermit living at Mountaineer, Berks county, reported to the register of wills his desire to find all the property the deceased might have left he had torn a stone out of a wall and discovered \$25,000.

-An unknown woman undressed on the banks of the Susquehanna river at Wilkes-Barre, on Sunday and then waded and swam out into the river where she drowned before rescuers could reach her. Police used grappling irons in search for the body several hours but without avail. Her clothes gave no clue to her identity.

-Rev. T. J. Fulton, who last September gave up his work as pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Salona on account of ill health, died at Sunemahoning early last week. Surviving are his wife and two sons. Previous to his entering the ministry he was a resident of Mahaffey, engaged in school work, and many friends throughout that region knew him.

-Seven merchants at Muncy were victimized by a slick agent who collected from them \$4 apiece, the purchase price of a book in which to compile income tax data. The Wilkes-Barre company that handles the book is all right, it is said, and if it can be proven that the man was really a bona fide agent, the company will likely make good. Meanwhile the suave salesman languishes in jail.

-Dan and Guy Moffat, the former of Donohue and the latter of Crabtree, were shot at an early hour Tuesday morning of last week while walking along the road near Crabtree. Dan died at the Westminster hospital from the wound in his stomach and Guy has a serious wound in the shoulder. State police are looking for James Opeola, of Crabtree, who disappeared after the shooting.

-Freeland police thought that two men engaged in chiseling off rivets and drilling through iron in the basement of the First National bank, of that town, were burglars and the whole force surrounded the building, together with a number of citizens who had been summoned, including assistant cashier John J. McGarvey. When the latter arrived he discovered that the men were repairing a furnace, having put on a night shift to hurry the work.

-A craving for excitement caused Charles Harvey, 19 years of age, of Danville, to start four fires in the hardware store of his benefactor, which resulted in losses aggregating more than \$100,000. At least that is what he was said to have told the police on Sunday when he was arrested and charged with having set fire to the store upon four different occasions in the last month. The latest blaze occurred on Sunday. Harvey, an orphan, recently was given a home by Warren W. Welton, a hardware merchant. On January 24 fire in his store caused damage estimated at \$50,000; two others on Saturday destroyed the warehouse with a similar loss.

-Members of the mortuary fund of the P. O. S. of A. who have held insurance in the organization, some as long as forty years, will get no returns, according to letters from the State Insurance Commissioner to residents of Pottsville. The affairs of the fund are being wound up and all the money in the treasury has been used to pay the death benefits of members who have died, while those still living will get nothing except the value of the protection. Among the oldest members of the fund is Frank Kaiser, a merchant of Pottsville, who paid in \$1200 but does not expect a cent back. While composed of P. O. S. of A. members, the fund had no official connection with the organization.

-The Supreme court on Monday heard argument on the appeal in behalf of Gilbert McCloskey, under sentence of death, having been convicted of murder in the Blair county court for the shooting to death on August 3rd last, of William E. Niehaus, of McKeesport. The court reserved decision. The shooting occurred in Altoona when McCloskey and two confederates, George Lafferty and Edward Yon, attempted to hold up and rob Niehaus, Counsel for McCloskey in their argument contended that Judge Baldrige, before whom the case was tried, had not adequately stated the defense's side in his charge to the jury and that the charge was almost a peremptory direction to convict the defendant.

-A verdict of manslaughter was returned last Thursday night by the jury at Millintown in the case of Daniel Benner, on trial in the Juniata county court in connection with the killing of constable Thomas M. Ush at the Benner home in Turkey Valley September 1st. The case was given to the jury at noon that day. Ush was shot when he and state trooper Earl Wilson went to the Benner cabin to serve warrants on several persons charged with stealing chickens. Wilson was wounded and Roy Jones, a brother-in-law of Benner, was killed in the fight that followed. Benner is the second member of his family convicted in connection with the shooting. His son, Charles Benner, was found guilty of first degree murder in December. Sentence in his case is being delayed pending argument on a motion for a new trial.