

INK SLINGS.

—March came in like a lamb, sure enough. —It won't be long until green will be in vogue, for a day at least. —In three lines let us say to those who have not paid up to 1922 that we need the money.

—Exeunt, Vis Count Lascelles. Hereafter he will be known only as the husband of Princess Mary.

—It seems that the harder we get the more home talent schemes there are to separate us from what's left.

—The new moon is lying well in the northern heavens and them that profess to know declare that it will be a cold one.

—Of course there isn't, but many of us think there must be ice in the Potomac because the Mayflower hasn't hauled those three Marionites who haven't had a ride yet.

—The British having annulled the Protectorate over Egypt, the Prince of Wales had better be beatin' it home. He's too nice a boy to take chances with his life in a country where lives don't count for much.

—In the light of recent enforcement activities in this neck-o-the woods we have a sort of sneakin' notion that, weather being favorable, it will be safer to set out onions at home than angle for trout on April fifteenth.

—That Harrisburg conference leads us to believe that the Democrats of Pennsylvania are more tractable than was supposed. Apparently all that is needed to completely harmonize us is to lay off the Democrats and lay on the Republicans.

—We're for any ticket with a chance of winning, but a ticket composed of men who have been actively identified with any faction of our party in the past won't have a ghost of a show of coming through in November. A fifty-fifty plan would scarcely solve the problem. Before the campaign would be half over one side or the other would claim it was being double crossed and then it would be cut, slash, trade. Every body for himself and the devil take the hindmost.

—While all the rest of us are working our wits to the thin end to grab something out of the air that will relieve us of the burdens imposed by the war Germany is at the same job, but in a much more practical way. She is digging in working hard, giving no heed to fake panaceas and has just announced that she will be able to pay her reparations at the rate of seven hundred and twenty million gold marks and a billion and a half in merchandise annually. Germany is work. We're dawdling.

—It is a very informal way of doing it, we'll admit, but as we haven't time to reply personally to all the communications we have received importing us to save Centre county and the Commonwealth by going to Harrisburg as Assemblyman we want to here announce the demise of all ambition we may have had to render our friends that distinguished service. We had held the matter in abeyance up to Wednesday morning, when the announcement was made that the State will no longer furnish pen knives, fountain pens, hair brushes and what not to her law makers in the form of "gift packages" at the opening of the sessions. That alluring perquisite removed all desire to revel in the legislative halls of Pennsylvania has died a bornin.

—The sentence that the court gave that college boy who opened his satchel so unwittingly to a state policeman who would have had no authority to open it himself, without a warrant, has caused a lot of caustic criticism. Post mortems never bring much comfort to any one, but a lot of sober thinking ought to come out of one of this sort. Have you ever really thought that when you make just a little dandelion, or grape or parsnip or rhubarb or elder blossom and then puff up because you have raked it off until it's so clear that some one just must see and taste it and you take a little bottle to a neighbor, merely to gratify your vanity, that you are, technically, just as guilty as was the college boy who is in jail for six months and will have to pay a fine of five hundred dollars.

—An argus eyed Milesburg minister endeavored to draft a committee of censors for a musical show that disported to a packed house here Wednesday night. He had lamped the advertising of the company and seemed suspicious as to whether those "Cuties in their underalls" would be proper things for men susceptible to the swish of an unholly skirt to gaze upon. We plead guilty as an accessory before the fact, because we published the very picture that has so disturbed this good man of the cloth, but our sated eyes failed to note the "Cuties" at all and when we started to pass the buck to the petticoat regime that holds more or less control in this office they came right back with the knock down argument that it is no worse for the girls to run around with less than half of one per cent. of clothes on than it is for boys and they had just seen a track team beatin' it out Spring street with less on than the "Cuties." So there you are. We intended taking sides with our ministerial critic, but, well, you know "the hand that rocks the cradle"—rocks most everything else in range.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 67.

BELLEFONTE, PA., MARCH 3, 1922.

NO. 9.

The Democratic Conference.

The conference of Democrats held in Harrisburg last Friday may be fashioned into a vehicle to carry the Democratic party into control of the government of the State at the next election. In any event it must serve a good purpose for the reason that in most part it was conducted in a spirit of fairness. The addresses delivered were earnest, inspiring and forceful. One self-appointed party boss projected factionalism into the early stages of the proceedings, those in attendance intimate, but his plans were defeated before harm was done. So far as the facts have been revealed the proceedings were held strictly to the purpose of harmonizing, uniting and heartening the party.

Under a resolution offered by Mr. J. Frank Snyder, of Clearfield county, a committee consisting of six men and six women present was named by chairman Sterling, to select a larger committee which is authorized "to canvass the State for the best possible candidates for Governor, United States Senators and other offices that are to be filled at the election next fall." Under a separate resolution the several county organizations are instructed to create local committees for a similar purpose. Hon. Arthur G. Dewalt, of Allentown, was named as chairman of the committee of twelve and his associates on the committee represented about equally the former factions in so far as their preferences are known. During a recess the committee met and performed its assigned work.

During the proceedings of the conference all personalities were studiously avoided. Only one speaker named a favorite and he got no encouragement from the audience. There were at least four hundred present, probably one-fourth of whom were women. Two of the best speeches were made by women, and they indicated a complete understanding of party principles if not of practical politics. All in all the conference was a success and justified the hope of the achievement of the purpose for which it was called. The spirit of confidence increased as the work proceeded and if the atmosphere of the convention spreads throughout the State a glorious Democratic victory may be expected in Pennsylvania next fall.

Senator Lodge can imagine nothing more unpatriotic than opposing the ratification of a treaty approved by the President.

Senator Pepper and the Bonus.

Senator George Wharton Pepper is generous as well as profuse in his promises of help for the wounded or infirm war veterans, but inexorably opposed to extending assistance to those who are sound in body and mind. This sentiment uttered in ponderous figures of speech sounds fine. It is appealing music to the ear of selfishness. It is literally the exaltation of the contract. The soldiers entered the war under agreement. The amount of their recompense was fixed by law and understood by both parties to the transaction. The payment of the wages was therefore the fulfillment of the contract. It is not only absurd but dishonest, Mr. Pepper believes, for them to ask or expect the government to give more.

With corporations, however, Mr. Pepper sees a difference. He can understand why the government may extend largesses to railroad or manufacturing companies. The corporation managers may have been mistaken in their appraisal of the product of their operations. The cost of production, owing to unpropitious conditions, may exceed their estimates and the price fall short. This imposes a hardship upon those concerned that the government may well and properly remedy. There are various ways of accomplishing this. Protective tariff is the favorite but loans and bounties will do. Anything that will afford relief may be resorted to in order that crippled corporations and unfortunate speculations may be saved from trouble or distress.

The question of bonus of itself is debatable. If the troops claiming the favor have been volunteers entering into a contract with the government to perform certain service, however hazardous or onerous, for a certain consideration, the payment of their wages might be a discharge of all obligations to them. But they were not volunteers. They were selected and compelled to obey the summons. Meantime industrial conditions changed and those who remained at home profited immensely by the absence of the soldiers. They ask only such additional recompense for their services as will in small part equalize their rewards for work with those who remained at home. Besides Mr. Pepper's party promised such adjustment.

Mr. Beidleman's Rough Road.

Lieutenant Governor Beidleman's political life is just one hard jolt after another. Soon after his elevation to the office he now occupies he outraged the public sentiment of the community in which he lives by appointing a colored man to the position of private secretary. No doubt he appraised this as a piece of good politics. There are probably 2500 colored voters in the city of Harrisburg and many of them were complaining that only menial jobs came as a reward for their fidelity to the machine. Moreover the appointee, W. Justin Carter, is a lawyer in good standing and of considerable ability. But even Republicans have prejudices and resented the idea of a negro in such an office.

Time works wonders and the good behavior of Carter had reconciled even his white neighbors to the situation when another shock came. It was in even graver form. It was discovered that during the period he held commission as Lieutenant Governor Mr. Beidleman had accepted a check for \$5,000 from the Auditor General in recompense for nothing. He has since explained that it was given in compensation for legal services but as the law forbids an official from taking compensation for services to the State outside of the salary provided by law, his alibi has not been favorably received. It is not ethical, the lawyers say, and they may be right.

However, the criticism that followed this exposure failed to dismay the candidate, though it certainly discouraged some of his friends. But the campaign was moving forward under the impulse of Harry Baker's energy and skill until the other day when some one dug up the fact that upon his induction into the office of Lieutenant Governor he overdraw his salary as State Senator to a considerable amount and appropriated the money to his own use. The salary of Senator for a term is \$1500. He had served two days in the session of 1919 and drew salary for the entire session. This exposure seems to be "the blow that killed father." At least newspaper gossip indicates that he is about to withdraw from the fight.

The farmers of Centre county might offer the reward of a leather medal to any one who will discover any good the farmers of the country have derived from the recent agricultural conference at Washington.

Labor Leaders Aroused.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, is of the opinion that wage earners may be compelled to take an unusual part in politics this year. "Congress," Mr. Gompers says, "is in the midst of an amazing kind of muddling with tax and tariff questions, where little regard is shown for the interests of the great masses of our people and is no more constructive in dealing with transportation than it has been in other fields." State labor organizations are already preparing details," he adds, "and the standing committee has been authorized by the executive council to take up and co-operate in the work."

This purpose on the part of labor has been induced by the action of the administration in Washington in the treatment of employees in the navy yards. Without a day's notice or a moment's warning ten thousand men employed in the various navy yards were dismissed, and this heartless increase in the army of unemployed has caused a great amount of suffering. Of course it gave force to the pledge made by the Washington conference that no naval construction work will be done. But it was hardly necessary to be so literal in the matter. The men might have been kept at work through the winter months in dismantling the ships that are to be scrapped or in performing some other kind of work.

President Harding makes great professions of friendship for the wage earners. But his treatment of them doesn't run in line with his pretenses. He gives generous lip service in extolling the patriotism and courage of the soldiers, but is not willing to extend a helping hand in practical relief of their sufferings. There is no money in the treasury to pay bonuses to the soldiers or furnish employment to labor. But there is abundance to pay bounties to railroads or subsidies to ship owners. The railroad managers and ship owners have been ready to "step on the gas" when campaign funds got low and they must be reimbursed.

The French people are running true to form. They cordially approve an agreement between Poincare and Lloyd George which they condemned his predecessor in office for even suggesting.

Leaning on a Broken Reed.

The chairman of the Republican National committee, in a statement made public the other day, comforts the voters of that party with an assurance that the majority of 170 in the popular branch of Congress will not be overcome at the next election and that the majority of twenty-four in the Senate is safe for another term at least. He bases his opinion on plans he has organized to make a strenuous campaign for the coming election in every State in the Union. The achievements of the present Congress are to be "featured" in the newspapers and by the speakers and the work of the Washington conference for the limitation of armaments is to be held up as the principal accomplishment of the party.

Unless the voters of the party are mentally ossified the program of their national chairman will not get them far. The achievements of the present Congress are simply nil. During an almost constant session of nearly a year it hasn't accomplished a single thing of value to the people of the country. A temporary revenue bill has been enacted but by common agreement its principal effect will be the creation of a deficit which will make the \$40,000,000 shortage in Pennsylvania look like a candy toy pistol alongside of a sixteen-inch gun. It was hoped while the measure was pending that the facts wouldn't be found out until after the coming Congressional elections, but that hope has already vanished.

The work of the Washington limitation conference affords no greater support for the party. The only merit in that is in the scrapping of naval forces in equal ratio with four other powers and the League of Nations would have done that in a better way. China and Japan came to an agreement upon several disputed questions under the auspices of the conference but the President has declared that this country is under neither moral nor legal obligation to anything under the treaties and consent to a similar declaration on the part of the Senate as a prerequisite to ratification. So the Republican chairman is leaning upon a broken reed in his plan of campaign to save the party from disaster.

If the movement for harmony in the Democratic party achieves no other result than to compel the Republicans to nominate for Governor a man of the type of Attorney General Alter, it will be worth while.

Former President Wilson Gratified with Message from Centre County Democrats.

At the big Democratic banquet held at the Brockerhoff house last week the presiding officer, John Blanchard Esq., was authorized by a unanimous vote of the assemblage to send a letter of greeting to Woodrow Wilson, former President of the United States. Last Saturday Mr. Blanchard received in reply a letter which shows how much the former President appreciates the kindred feeling of his fellow party workers in Centre county. The letter in full follows:

Washington, D. C., 24th February, 1922.

My dear Mr. Blanchard: The message (for it was virtually such) which your letter of February 22nd brings me from the Democrats of Centre county has cheered and gratified me very much indeed.

It is delightful to learn of the friendship and confidence of my fellow Democrats, and I hope you will have some opportunity to express to those who were assembled the other evening my sense of gratitude and pride in being associated with them in planning high and lasting service to the country by our great party.

With best wishes; Cordially and sincerely yours, WOODROW WILSON.

Mr. John Blanchard, Bellefonte, Penna.

—State Treasurer Snyder issues statements from one set of books and Auditor General Lewis makes exception to them based on the figures in another. And the person most interested, the tax payer, looks on in amazement that such glaring discrepancies could be possible in any well managed, honestly administered department of the State.

—The vote of the women of Pennsylvania will decide the election of the next Governor of the State if they are influenced by conscience in casting their votes.

—It is now up to the Democrats of Centre county. If they will get together and pull together the result of the next election will be all they can desire.

DESPAIR.

By Will Truckemiller.

The drifted snow lies deep Over hill and plain; And the wind goes moaning by, Seeking for rest in vain. December, the saddest month, Dreary, and dark, and cold, Nothing of warmth and cheer. And we and the year are old. Was it so long ago That we and the year were young? Twelve months, or three score twelve, And what has Old Time brought? Gray hair and dimming eyes, And sorrow and regret, Longing for other days, And eunuching care and fret. Under the drifting snow Soon we shall make our bed, Forgotten, as we forget, And we and the year be dead.

The Fight is On!

That the people of Bellefonte intend to clean up the town by driving out the bootleggers and closing the one open saloon may be taken as a foregone conclusion from the results of the last three meetings held to consider the subject.

Last Tuesday night, at the W. C. T. U. room, the attendance was such that a number of extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate those who came. Like the court house meeting last Friday night, when Dr. Tope delivered his remarkably telling and forceful address, the conference Tuesday night was opened and closed with prayer. Steps were taken to gather together a committee representative of a number of different county and local organizations, two or more delegates appointed by the president of each. The Centre county Sunday school association, with its eighteen thousand members, the ministerium of the town representing the various churches, the men's bible classes and brotherhoods, the Centre county W. C. T. U., with its between six and seven hundred members; the Centre county Civic committee numbering one hundred and fifty; the Bellefonte Woman's club of one hundred and seventy-five members, and the P. O. S. of A. were a few of the organizations mentioned. More may be added later, such as the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., the Bellefonte public schools and Academy, the Roman Catholic societies and patriotic orders. This committee will call on the local officials upon whom, under the latest law-enforcement code, the Woner Act, lies the responsibility for upholding the Eighteenth amendment. These officials are the judge, the district attorney, the burgess, the sheriff and the constables. Before calling upon these men the committee will be instructed and become conversant with the provisions of the State law-enforcement code. Results of the call will be given due publicity.

Another matter that was taken up at the meeting Tuesday night and acted upon was that proper authority be obtained from the State prohibition director to carry out the order issued by Judge Witmer some months ago, as published in the newspapers at the time, to utterly destroy, empty into the sewers, the remainder of the confiscated liquor now stored in the Centre county jail.

Matters pertaining to the coming primaries were also discussed. It was recalled that at the former conference in the same place last Friday afternoon, and again at the Friday evening meeting, all present were impressed with the necessity to "get the vote" at the May primaries—that all voters must see that they are duly registered, advisedly in one or the other dominant parties. In case of a change being desired by any voter from the way he or she was registered last fall it will be necessary to make his or her desire known to the assessor several days prior to the registration dates.

The registration dates for the May primaries are March 14th and 15th.

That the right and fair thing to do was to stand for those men who are running for re-election who supported the cause espoused, was emphasized. The good records of both Mr. Jones and Mr. Beaver were brought out. Also, those present were reminded of the politically wot record of Mr. Scott. His disdain and scorn of the temperance people were recalled and the warning sounded—not to be deceived by his diligent seeking now for the favor of the church and temperance folk while at the same time receiving unqualified support from his wet friends.

Contributed by \*\*\*

—They say we were all wrong about the possibility of the Hon. Ives Harvey going to the mat with the Hon. Tom Beaver in the legislative fight. If he goes for anything he's going for the Senate and the Hon. Harry Scott is in for this catch as catch can bout.

—Get your job work done here.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Flemington and Mill Hill were without water for some time a few days ago when a main laid from Lock Haven in the river bed was broken by the ice as it went out. An auxiliary line was put into service.

—Sunbury will be 150 years old soon and a sesqui-centennial celebration, the first four days of July is being planned. An energetic committee is at work and the old town will have an old home week of large proportions.

—On a petition of members of the borough council, the Clinton county court last week appointed Mrs. E. Jane Kessinger an overseer of the poor at Mill Hill, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, W. K. Kessinger.

—Because of lack of funds, the Red Cross Chapter at Punxsutawney on Wednesday, March 1st, closed its offices. On April 1st the visiting nurse will quit and the baby clinics will be ended. Only work for former service men will continue.

—By the will of Max Hess, merchant and philanthropist, of Allentown, the employees of Hess Brothers' store will share in a bequest of \$50,000, the amount for each being determined by the length of service. Charitable bequests total \$90,000.

—Liborio Senew, a French veteran of the world war, who had survived the horrors of a German prison camp, was fatally injured in a mine at Clymer, by being run over by a mine car while sitting down eating his lunch. He was 24 years old and leaves a wife and baby.

—A system whereby farmers seeking hands for their spring work can make their wants known to the chiefs of the state employment agencies in various parts of the State has been worked out at the Harrisburg district headquarters, and the first question blanks will be issued in a few days.

—In sympathy with the Presbyterians, whose church at Canton was burned recently when just ready for dedication, all the other churches in the town, Protestant and Catholic, are taking offerings this week to aid them in the rebuilding. A substantial sum is on hand and will be increased.

—A mysterious explosion at Brenner, a mining village near Blairsville, blew Paul Amergouch to pieces. He got up at 1:30 to go to work and a little later his companion was hurled from bed by the force of the blow up. When he was able to investigate he found Amergouch had been hurled into eternity.

—No appeal will be filed in the case of Daniel Benner, of Turkey Valley, convicted in Juniata county court last week of manslaughter in connection with the slaying of constable Thomas S. Uish, of Liverpool, in Benner's home. His lawyer, W. Justin Carter, had asked ten days in which to file his reasons for a new trial, but is now satisfied with the verdict.

—A valuable driving horse owned by Charles Snyder, a farmer residing in Ferguson Valley, reared, plumed and fell dead on Valley street, Lewisport, last Friday night when the band attached to an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" show blared forth the music of the street parade. The animal was hitched to a post along the street when the sound of the music smote its ears.

—A search of the home of J. H. Patterson, at Punxsutawney, revealed goods missing after a number of robberies in that town covering a period of six months. The man was arrested for receiving stolen goods. Two sons are sought for the actual robberies. Both are fugitives, one having given the officers searching his house the slip while they were at work.

—Kenneth Preisler, of New Bloomfield, vice principal of the Duncannon schools, has been having an enforced vacation on account of severe burns. Mr. Preisler was cooking potatoes in a skillet when the fat took fire and an explosion followed that set fire to the kitchen in a number of places. He was alone, but managed to extinguish the flames, being badly burned about the face, neck and arms.

—In return for the loss of his wife's affections, Theodore Robinson, a blacksmith, of New Kensington, will receive 1,202 rolls of wall paper, 10 gallons of varnish, 320 gallons of paint, 24 dozen cans of paper cleaner and 125 feet of linoleum. Robinson was awarded a verdict against Merle E. Christy, who told the judge he couldn't pay money, so he was ordered to turn over the stock of his wall paper store to Robinson in lieu of cash.

—There is no intention of putting a ban on bobbed hair at the Bloomsburg State Normal school, Dr. Charles H. Fisher, the principal, declared last Friday. "We don't intend to interfere with the rights of the girls to wear their hair the way they want to," he said. "It is theirs to do with as they see fit. I know there is a lot of agitation against bobbed hair, but it is only a fad, and if we let it go, it will soon run its course and be forgotten."

—Sitting quietly in his home a few evenings ago, J. W. Grubb, near Millersburg, was startled to see it so light outside. He investigated and found his barn, which he had left less than an hour before, was in flames. He and his daughter succeeded in getting the horses and cattle out and his wife released the chickens, but had her face and neck burned in doing so. A pet dog, "Collie," had been put up in the barn for the night and was burned to death. The fire is thought to be incendiary.

—Although a week has passed since a battered and bleeding stranger shoved a package containing \$2000 into the hands of Howard Shipley, of Brownsville, Pa., and suddenly disappeared, no clue has been obtained to the identity of the owner. Shipley had stopped on a West side corner when the man accosted him and said, "Will you be here a minute?" When Shipley replied in the affirmative the man disappeared. In less than two minutes he returned, battered and bleeding, thrust the money in Shipley's hands, and fled.

—At a meeting of the Central Pennsylvania League of Red Men, held at Lewisport last week, with seventy-five delegates representing the councils, plans were considered that will further the building of a home and orphanage for aged members of the Order or their dependents. The committee on location made a report on a farm of 100 acres that can be secured at a fair price. Every council represented voted 100 per cent. for the home and orphanage and many suggested \$1 per capita as an assessment as a means of providing funds. Dr. John Penley, great sachem, of Philadelphia, addressed the meeting.