

INK SLINGS.

—Don't waste your time talking about what you are going to do. Go and do it.

—The Washington conference appears to be "petering out." Any incident now drives it off the first page.

—The Washington conference just can't agree to a cut in airships. In other words the conference doesn't want to do anything that would seriously interfere with the industry of making war.

—Postmaster General Will Hays has decided to quit the Cabinet at twelve thousand dollars a year and go in to uplift the movies at one hundred and fifty thousand. Most anybody who got the chance would do that.

—We don't know just how it is with the rest of the world but hereabouts we feel that the dove of peace is certainly hovering overhead. The new council got off to its first regular meeting last Monday night without a fight.

—Lloyd George celebrated his fifty-ninth birthday anniversary on Tuesday. Certainly all the pictures we have seen of the British Premier must have done him great injustice, for we certainly thought he was chasing Methusalem hard.

—Pity the poor farmer by the side of the state road to Lemont. He can't get out of his lane in anything but a sled and as the snow has all been scraped from the highway he can't get anywhere in the sled after he gets out of his lane.

—The Babcock dinner in Pittsburgh Tuesday was more of a culinary than political success, so 'tis said. Governor Sprout thought he had all the eggs unscrambled out there, but upon his arrival at the feast found them all scrambled up again.

—Cheer up, you fellows whose backs haven't straightened up since the bending they got shoveling snow. In California they are eating new garden vegetables, in Texas wheat sowing has begun and in South Carolina sweet peas are two inches out of the ground.

—Wanted: Some one who can tell our county Republican leaders where they are to get off or on. Theirs' is an unhappy lot indeed. While all the big talk is going on in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia the up-country fellows who do the real work when election time comes round, have to keep themselves gagged, because they don't know what side is going to win and they must be with the winning one.

—Isn't it wonderful the way Congress is restoring peace, progress and plenty in the land. They have an anti-gambling bill, an anti-cigarette bill, an anti-bloc bill, an anti-lynching bill and an anti-opium bill on the calendar for early consideration. All "don't" laws and no "dos." All the people back home, everywhere, should urge their particular Congressman to present an anti-upte bill. That's the kind of an ante this Congress promised the country.

—President Harding's boasts of a saving of \$462,167,629 in governmental expenditures for 1923 as compared with the proposed expenditures for this year didn't get far before turning back to haunt him. As a matter of fact the reduction, if any, will be only \$786,759 or less than one-fifth of one per cent. Gamaliel is a good newspaper man hence a bad mathematician. In figuring what his administration was going to save he counted in a lot of things that are automatically saved by laws passed long before he got to Washington.

—We note that the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Chicago has conceived and is going to launch a "star in the window campaign." Every home in the country in which there is no liquor is to have an emblem similar to the service flag used during the war continually displayed in a front window. This will either smoke out a lot of home caches or make liars of their proprietors. We await the launching of the scheme in Bellefonte with considerable curiosity. As for ourselves we propose to hang no star in the window, because, if we do we are sure to be stricken from the calling list of that ever increasing society of perigrinators who keep dropping in more hopefully than we that our private boot-legger will eventually get back on the job.

—It sounds strange to hear Republican leaders all over the State talking in a language that reveals doubt in their minds as to the probability of their party electing a Governor of Pennsylvania. Even the appearance of uncertainty is something new in Keystone Republican ranks. It is more than that now and disorganization and dissatisfaction must be very great else such admissions would not come to the surface. The party is headless. If it should become headless it is doomed to disaster. The organization is in no condition to put any kind of candidates across and the party ranks are honeycombed with voters who won't take orders next fall, so that hope, if there be any at all, lies only in the nomination of clean candidates who have no active factional alignment and whose names will carry some reassurance that there will be an end of such scandals at Harrisburg as have been nauseating to well minded Republicans everywhere. Surely the outlook is gloomy for Republican success in Pennsylvania. It might be altered if the present Attorney General should be named to head the ticket.

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Republican Confusion Continues.

The confused Pennsylvania Republican machine enjoyed a lucid interval for a brief period last week, according to the gossip in the Sunday newspapers. One of the writers of this always interesting stuff says "the Sproul people are now talking about George E. Alter, of Pittsburgh, the present Attorney General." Mr. Alter is easily the best prospect thus far brought forward. He is a fine lawyer and a fine gentleman. As Speaker of the House of Representatives in Harrisburg during the session of 1913 he earned the respect of all parties by his fairness and ability. Since then he has grown in public esteem and professional standing and as Attorney General he ranks among the best.

The nomination of Attorney General Alter for Governor by the Republican machine at this time would be a wise act. It might even save the party from the wreck that is impending. But we have no idea he will be nominated. He couldn't be depended upon to serve the machine in emergencies. For example, it is impossible to imagine that if he had been in the office two weeks ago voting for Newberry would have been made a condition in filling the Penrose vacancy in the Senate. He would have named a high class man, no doubt. But his appointee would have been free to vote according to his conscience on all questions. That quality in a candidate ought to be a recommendation but with the Republican machine it isn't.

In any event it may safely be said that most of those believed to be in the running two weeks ago are now eliminated. Lieutenant Governor Beidleman's financial or professional relations with State Treasurer Snyder seem to have wiped both of those aspirants off the slate. Beidleman has still a considerable asset in the friendship of W. Harry Baker, who is likely to be "dispenser of patronage" in the immediate future, but it is not believed that even that substantial support will serve to get him the nomination. There is talk of a "new high class entrant," but this is only opening up a new field of conjecture. The party is in "the dumps" and its safest way out would be the nomination of Alter.

—If Mr. W. Harry Baker is as keen a politician as his reputation indicates Senator Vare will not be able to make him a buffer in an effort to keep Governor Sprout out of the Penrose seat in the National committee.

Running True to Machine Form.

The new Senator in Congress for Pennsylvania is running true to machine form. His first vote was cast in favor of retaining in his purchased seat a man who had already been convicted of violation of law in a court presided over by a Republican judge, and by a jury presumably Republican. But the vote of Newberry was needed two years ago to pack the Senate committee on Foreign Affairs against the League of Nations and unseating him now would be stultifying the party. Senator Pepper is too good a party man to contribute to such a result, and as we predicted before he had been sworn into office, he voted for Newberry. As a mark of appreciation for that party service he was called to the chair.

Senator Pepper, who is an able lawyer, had been trying for years to break into politics by the reform route. He had taken an active part in various civic enterprises and frequently got so far as to be "mentioned" for important public offices. But he never got further than a seat in the body organized soon after we entered into the world war which was euphemistically called "a Commission of Public Safety and Defense," which expended an appropriation of two million dollars and nobody has ever been able to find out what it got for the money. But the Republican machine got Pepper through it.

We may readily believe, however, that Senator Pepper will be an active and capable member of the body into which he has been projected. Four years ago he earned the cordial friendship of the Vare gang by issuing a fulsome eulogy to J. R. K. Scott, whom the ash cart combination favored for Lieutenant Governor of the State. Since that he has labored assiduously to win the favor of Governor Sprout and by his vote in behalf of Newberry he has pleased all those in party authority who have been "fighting Wilson" ever since the League of Nations was agreed to in the Versailles conference. He will probably receive the nomination for the remaining part of Penrose's term and then the people will talk.

—The New York Herald suggests that Newberry resign and run for reelection. That would be a manly solution of a nasty problem but it would be bad for Newberry's aspirations.

Will Hays Uplift the Movies.

Postmaster General Will Hays has finally determined to abandon the enticing field of statesmanship and enter the more lucrative arena of screen theatricals. The fact was developed in Washington last Saturday and President Harding has regretfully assented to it. "I could not well interpose any objection," Mr. Harding declared, "to Mr. Hays retiring from the cabinet to take up a work so important. It is too great an opportunity for a helpful public service for him to refuse." Mr. Hays indicates the same spirit of beneficence. "I am assuming," he says, "that a satisfactory contract will be possible which will make certain the carrying out of the high purpose by this industry."

Thus the "movies" become anointed by the endorsement of the President and the sanction of the Postmaster General from a sanctimonious as well as an educational angle and the kiddies, young and otherwise, who gather their pennies and save their nickels and dimes to pay their way into the screen temples are perceiving a philanthropic work as well as cultivating an understanding of the lives and habits of the "Fatty" Arbuckles and other stars who wax wealthy through the credulity of the curious and admiring youngsters. There ought to be comfort in this idea to those of us above the age of adolescence who have formed the "movie habit" and sometimes neglect to pay the rent in order to see the play.

The fact that there is considerable difference between the salary of a Postmaster General and the honorarium offered to Mr. Hays never entered the mind of either the President or the gentleman more directly concerned. But those of us less inclined to idealism naturally let our minds wonder along all the lines of probability in such matters and are led to the reflection that the Postmaster General quite as well as his campaign agents understand the philosophy concealed in the slogan "Get the money, boys." Of course we will all cultivate the beneficent side of the subject and believe as far as possible that only philanthropic motives were considered. But \$150,000 is an attractive figure.

—Governor Sprout is the busiest man in Pennsylvania. He attended a dinner in Pittsburgh on Tuesday evening, was a guest at Secretary Mellon's dinner in Washington on Wednesday evening and has practically lived on wheels for nearly a month. Happily the duties of his office require little time and less attention.

Economy and Suffering.

If the subject were less grave the reports of the activities of the Economy and Efficiency Commission, now in progress in Harrisburg, would be both interesting and amusing. In view of the facts, however, they are simply absurd. It has become a custom of the Republican machine of Pennsylvania, on the eve of an important election, to inaugurate a movement promising economy in government and efficiency in public service. But after the election, the people having again been deceived, those in authority proceed to squander money like "drunken sailors" and nothing more is heard of economy and efficiency until the menace of defeat stares them in the face again.

This is the third time the fraud has been perpetrated on the voters of the State. Some ten or twelve years ago, under the authority of the Legislature, such a commission was organized and under the direction of the present Governor's secretary made a survey of the official life of the State. The commission recommended certain changes in the methods of administration. At the following session of the Legislature the report was submitted and shunted into the legislative graveyard. A few years later another commission was created with the same result. They gave employment at remunerative salaries for a time to a few dependents and accomplished no other results. In fact that was the last heard of them.

No Legislature in the history of the State was as profligate as the last one. No administration in the history of the State was nearly as extravagant as the present one. But now as the time for the election of a Governor is again approaching the false pretense of economy is again being held before the eyes of the voters in the hope that they will be again deceived into renewing the lease of power to the same profligates and giving them another chance to loot the treasury. Possibly the expectations will be fulfilled, but if they are, the voters of Pennsylvania will have a want of judgment that is hardly conceivable, but certainly lamentable.

—De Valera may make trouble in Ireland but in doing so he will sadly disappoint thousands of his Irish friends in America.

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

An incident attending the launching of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation in Washington on Sunday is likely to make a profound impression on the public mind. At a public meeting inaugurating the Foundation a motion was made and unanimously carried that those in attendance go in a body to the home of the ex-President and personally express to him their esteem. Five thousand men and women formed a procession and marched a distance of four miles to carry out the purpose. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, became their spokesman and in the course of a felicitous address said, "this demonstration is proof that the League of Nations is not dead."

The response of President Wilson was characteristic. Standing in the doorway, looking into the eager faces of the vast concourse of admiring men and women, he said: "I need hardly tell you how such a demonstration of friendship and confidence makes me feel. There can be no doubt as to the vitality of the League of Nations. It will take care of itself and those who don't regard it will have to look out for themselves." The significance of this is not in his confidence in the future of his great work for humanity. It lies in the earnestness of the appreciation of a great man who has been traduced almost beyond endurance, by a token that the faith and confidence of the people in him has not been destroyed but endures in radiant form.

Within a week Woodrow Wilson will have other and better evidence of the high esteem in which he is held by the justice loving people of the United States. "Mr. Wilson has been stabbed by hatred, envy and ignorance," said one speaker at a meeting held in New York on Monday, while another declared: "The cause of liberty had its ideal in Washington, it was personified in Lincoln and it had its apotheosis in Woodrow Wilson." This at the opening of the Foundation was in that city and within the week millions of right-minded Americans will express their faith in the man and their sympathy in his work by vastly oversubscribing the amount required for the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.

—Erasmus Wilson, seventy-nine years old, dean of Pittsburgh newspaper men, died last Saturday after several weeks' illness. Mr. Wilson was a native of Ohio and a Civil War veteran. He began his newspaper career in Washington, Pa., shortly after the close of the Civil War, going to Pittsburgh two years later. Thirty-six years ago he started the "Quiet Observer" column in the old Commercial Gazette and continued it in the Pittsburgh Times after the two papers were consolidated. He was the father of the Boy Scout movement in Pittsburgh and president emeritus of the organization at his death. He was well known in the western part of the State as a platform lecturer and was the author of several interesting books on eastern Ohio. Mr. Wilson was an intimate friend of ward John Francies, of the western penitentiary, and less than a year ago spent several days with him at the Rockview institution. In fact he has visited Bellefonte and State College on various occasions and always manifested great interest in this section of the State.

—While Bellefonte is not exactly facing a coal famine coal dealers have only limited stocks of some grades of anthracite on hand and a prolonged severe cold spell might result in a deplorable situation. Fortunately is the man, therefore, who filled his coal bin last summer.

—The latest mysterious disappearance is that of "Hungry Hi" Johnson, of California. Probably he is fixing fences for the next Presidential campaign, but he isn't in the habit of working quietly.

—Good luck does not distribute itself equally. Samuel Untermyer has achieved more good as an investigator than Charles E. Hughes, but has not been rewarded as generously.

—In the vast volume of party gossip there is surprisingly little mention of the name of Joseph R. Grundy, and there was a time when his was a name "to conjure with."

—The Pittsburgh harmony dinner on Tuesday evening was a disappointment because Senator Vare, who is the principal disturber of the peace, was absent.

—Like Davy Crockett's coon President Harding come down before the farm bloc fired. There will be a farmer on the Federal Reserve board.

—As a matter of fact the Senate resolution in the Newberry case is simply another form of the Scotch verdict: "Guilty but not proven."

Why the Farmers Suffer.

From the Atlanta Constitution. The farmers of the United States are suffering, says Secretary Wallace, from the worst conditions in the history of agriculture—from conditions which, he says, "are undermining agriculture, the base of the pyramid which represents our national life"—but why?

And he says very truthfully, that this condition "justifies the use of the most vigorous means to cure it," but he does not suggest the "cure." The truth of the matter is, the condition exists because the party to which Secretary Wallace belongs has committed this country to an unscientific, incongruous, unreasonable and utterly unworkable policy of isolation from the utter disregard for the affairs and welfare of the balance of the world; and the only way under God's heaven to "cure it" is to revoke that policy.

The action of the Republican Senate in repudiating the Versailles treaty has cost the farming interests of the United States untold millions; it administered a blow to agriculture from which it will require years to recover, and it has levied a tax of not less than \$50 on every bale of cotton that the south has produced since the Senate "got even with Wilson" by forcing the defeat of the Versailles treaty.

The country is awakening to a realization of this fact—the truth of which is emphasized by this statement by the Secretary of Agriculture—and to the further fact that, in absolute control of every department of the government from cellar to garret, the Republicans have done nothing thus far to remedy the situation by undoing the mischief they did in the repudiation of the Versailles treaty.

A Melancholy Spectacle.

From the New York Globe. The nine independent Republicans who had the courage to vote against the seating of Newberry will, in contrast, be remembered with honor, they performed a courageous act when they resisted the appeal of the Administration and of the Senate majority leaders. Borah, Capper, Jones, of Washington, Kenyon, Ladd, LaFollette, Norbeck, Norris and Sutherland proved to be true in the ordeal.

But what shall one say of the obtuseness of men who have pretended to be popular leaders, sensitive to the finer aspirations of the republic? Cummings, who once was a Progressive, has gone far enough along the other road to support Newberry. France, the radical Republican, could pocket his repugnance to the debauchery of an election. Kellogg and Lenroot and McCormick, all gentlemen who once sought power because of a protest against the kind of government symbolized by the Detroit spender, are counted among the adherents of Newberry. Medill McCormick has restrained his antipathy to the grossness which he could not condone in a William Lorimer. Then there is the churchman, the new Senator Pepper, of Pennsylvania. At the beginning of his political career he has given himself occasion to recall words which Cardinal Wolsey could postpone to the last. It is a melancholy spectacle.

The Senate's Judgment on Itself.

From the New York World. The United States Senate is the judge of the qualifications of its own members and by the qualifications it sets up for membership must the Senate be judged by the American people. In declaring that Truman H. Newberry, of Michigan, is entitled to hold his seat the Republican majority also declare that the methods by which the seat was gained are "contrary to sound public policy, harmful to the honor and dignity of the Senate and dangerous to the perpetuity of a free government."

Wherefore does it follow that in the judgment of the Republican majority of the Senate of the Sixty-seventh Congress a man can perhaps the better qualify himself for a seat in "contrary to sound public policy, harmful to the honor and dignity of the Senate and dangerous to the perpetuity of a free government." Or should we read into the resolution a mental reservation to the effect that Senate seats can be for sale to the highest bidder without harm to public policy or the honor and dignity of the Senate and the perpetuity of a free government when the Republicans of the Senate need the votes to give them a majority.

Service, Not Salary (?)

From the Philadelphia Record. The statement that Postmaster General Will Hays has been persuaded to leave the Cabinet "by the fascinating opportunities of the new position" rather than the yearly salary of \$150,000, which it is reported he will receive," shows that Mr. Hays has a truly imaginative press agent. Couple with it President Harding's statement "it is too great an opportunity for a helpful public service for him to refuse," and one gets the impression that Mr. Hays is really making a rather painful sacrifice in giving up his \$12,000 Cabinet job for the paltry \$150,000 offered him by the movie managers. It is "service" and "opportunity," not the \$150,000, that counts with the Indiana politician. If he can get that across with the American public he must be accounted a genius in the modern art of publicity.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Carmen Peslo, a miner at the Phoenix Park colliery, operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company, near Pottsville, heard the roof under which he was working give way. He at once started to run for his life, but he lost his race with death.

—The Commissioners of Cambria county last week voted to appropriate \$100,000 to meet half the expense of paving the Prospect Hill road between Johnstown and Ebensburg. This is the most direct route between the two towns, and has been in poor condition for many years.

—Calmly watching workmen who labored for a half hour to release his foot from beneath a pair of locomotive drive wheels, James Powers Jr., 22 years old, of Easton, took a chew of tobacco. When his foot was released he fainted and was rushed to the Easton hospital. His left foot was amputated.

—The Masonic temple, one of the most pretentious buildings in Sunbury, was swept by fire early last Wednesday morning, causing a loss of about \$30,000. The fire broke out around a switch box on the first floor and had eaten its way to the third floor before it was discovered. The walls remain standing but the interior was ruined.

—The board of trustees of the Lewis-town hospital met last week and dismissed four registered nurses and nine of the pupil nurses for insubordination and lack of compliance with discipline. Miss Page, who was the superintendent in charge, immediately resigned, and her resignation was accepted by the board. The hospital has twenty-one patients, with ample force of surgeons, physicians and nurses to take care of them, it is said.

—After six hours of deliberation, a jury at Lewis-town returned a verdict of guilty in the case of Russell Hoffman, of Milifin county, charged with involuntary manslaughter, growing out of the shooting to death of Irma Rhoades, 14 years old, in 27th. The Hoffman family home, April 27th. President Judge Thomas F. Bailey, of the Milifin-Huntingdon-Bedford district, sentenced him to pay the costs, \$250 fine and six months in the county jail.

—When he held up four Allepoten women on their way home from a Sunday school class meeting late Thursday night, Winton Crafty, a negro highwayman, of California, Pa., tackled a job that was entirely too big for one man. The four women hit the bandit and with fists working like flails and their screams rending the air soon put the highwayman to flight. A large crowd, well armed, took up the pursuit, and captured Crafty after a revolver duel.

—"Soused," ejaculated Dr. M. D. Renschler, a Punksatuney veterinarian, after investigating into the peculiar "illness" of a cow that he was called to attend on the farm of a suburban resident of that town. The cow had eaten generously of a pile of discarded raisin mash and then went off on a joyous spree that resulted in the complete loss of its locomotive power. The bovine was lying upon the ground and breathing heavily when the veterinary arrived to render assistance.

—Judge Witmer in federal court at Sunbury last week issued an order that all whiskey seized in raids in the Middle district court since the Volstead act went into effect be destroyed. Federal agents have stored a large quantity of seized liquors in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton it was said. The work will be in charge of Federal Marshall John H. Glass, of Shamokin. More than \$20,000 worth of booze is held in the dungeon of the Sunbury jail, and a few thousand dollars' worth is in the Centre county jail.

—As a result of aid made on a mountain settlement near Barnitz, four alleged ringleaders of a band of mountain bandits are being held in the Cumberland county jail without bail. They are said to have terrorized farmers of Dickinson township for the last year. A large quantity of blankets, harness, parts of wagons, corn, chickens and other valuable products were recovered. The men who are being held for a hearing are Clayton Jameson, Geo. Jameson, Warren Jameson and John Sanno. All the captives are white.

—Forty thousand post cards are being sent by State Fish Commissioner Nathan R. Buller to fishermen who held licenses for outlines, nets and other special fish devices in 1921, reminding them to make a report of their catching. Unless the fishermen report the fishery department can make no record of the amount of fish taken from the streams. The laxity of fishermen and hunters in reporting to the State may result in the enactment of a law by the next Legislature imposing a fine on the license holder who fails to report.

—The Milifin county jury in Mrs. S. H. Bratton's suit against the Pennsylvania Railroad for \$10,000 damages for the death of her husband, William C. Bratton, 76 years old, who was killed by an express train on the evening of April 1st, 1920, rendered a verdict in favor of the defendant. Bratton was struck at a crossing two miles west of Lewis-town while returning from a public sale of stock and implements. He was driving a horse in a spring wagon, held a calf with one hand and had a cow, the mother of the calf, tied to the rear of the wagon. There was nothing to prevent him seeing the approach of the train, according to the witnesses.

—Mrs. Amelia Whann, charged with alleged implication in an attempt to kill her husband, Dr. John Whann, of Chickasaw, Pa., last December, was remanded to jail at Kittanning on Monday, following failure to provide bond of \$2,500 for her appearance in court, after a hearing before justice of the peace. The State's principal witness was M. Eugene Sanz, a Cuban medical student, who testified that he had made an attack on Dr. Whann's life at the suggestion and insistence of Mrs. Whann. Specific charges preferred against the woman following the hearing were conspiracy and arson. An attempt it was said, was made to burn the house to cover up the attack on Dr. Whann. Dr. Whann sat by his wife's side during the hearing.

—John Borden, of Lithia Springs, accompanied his bride-to-be, Miss Clara M. Inch, to the court house at Sunbury on Saturday, stayed with her until they obtained a marriage license, and did not let her out of his sight until Justice W. H. Engle had safely tied the knot. Four years ago John had another sweetheart, he said, and sent her ahead with his brother Jim, to get a marriage license, while John finished attending the stock and doing some chores about the farm. He planned to meet the girl and his brother at the office of Squire Tierney at Northumberland and there be wedded. But John was delayed, so Jim proposed, was accepted and the knot tied when the almost bridegroom arrived on the scene.