

INK SLINGS.

It sounds to us like Gif Pinchot is promising too much. And we've heard some of Gif's promises before.

How about saving daylight? Are we really going to do it or are we just talking about it to make conversation.

The most convincing way to find out how much building costs have come down is to start a little building.

Costs can never come down until we pay men for the work they do instead of the time they put in doing it.

Well, we spent the opening day of the season along our favorite trout stream and came home with an empty creel and a cold in the noodle.

If there was any lingering doubt as to where he stood in Woodrow Wilson's estimation Senator Jim Reed, of Missouri, is surely harboring it no longer.

Senator Pepper expects strong support from the women voters. His survey of the subject has obviously not been among the wives of the world war veterans.

The Republican Senate caucus has voted to pass a soldier's bonus bill at this session. Senator Pepper ran true to form and voted against reporting the bill out.

Has anybody any real dope on the fight for Republican Congressional honors between Billy Swoope and the Hon. Evan Jones? We are not interested further than a slight desire to know in advance whose scalp Mr. Snyder is to get.

Debt is supposed to make cowards of us all, but we want to tell you right here that we have our fingers crossed and gradually we're being goaded to tell the truth about everybody who owes the "Watchman" even so much as one year's subscription.

Pinchot is leading a lot of Republicans into the woods so far that many of them will never get out again. He knows the woods. He has taken to the tall timber often and found his way out. But those who are taking their first trip into the Pinchot forest are not familiar with the trails.

Miss Meek and Mr. Nagney evidently intend making it an intensive fight for nomination for Assembly. Neither one of them has appeared on the hustings as yet and we are greatly disappointed. We have been looking for some new stuff in politics to come out of this lady and gentleman affair.

The miners picked the wrong date for their strike. There is so much big news breaking in the Republican camps in the State and everybody else is so intent on earning three or four dollars a day that nobody has time to listen to the wail of the miners because they can't have steady work at eight and ten.

The recent death of "Pop" Anson has given opportunity to a lot of sports writers to vent their ideas of the great men in the national game and many of them are linking that of "Babe" Ruth, the home-run king, with that of the late Adrian C. Only ivory prevents these young men from evaluating the soubriquets of "Pop" and "Babe."

Russia and Germany could forgive one another's debts without either making much of a sacrifice. The mark and the ruble are presently valueless. Had there been a worthwhile disparity in their values we fancy Dr. Rathenau and Mr. Chicherin would not have made the pyrotechnical display of wiping off the slates that created the sensation of Genoa.

A bit of news, with curiously local flavor, appeared in some of the city papers Wednesday. It was an announcement that "Thomas H. Harter, editor and owner of the Keystone Gazette and Republican leader of Centre county predicts the election of Gifford Pinchot." Knowing Mr. Harter as we do we have little interest in his predictions. It's his predicaments that pique our curiosity on occasion. And he's in an awful one now for there are a lot of other fellows who have owned up to being "the Republican leader of Centre county."

Anent the commotion over the erection of a garage on Howard street, Bellefonte, Mr. Cunningham asked his fellow councilmen a very pertinent question when he inquired as to the use of an ordinance if it is not to be enforced. And what bunk our friend John Bower Esq. pulled when he revealed the failure of the ordinance drafters to specifically state "fire proof" buildings within the zone. But then John is a lawyer and lawyers thrive on technically proving that white is black. There wouldn't be so many of them if that wasn't possible on occasion.

Attorney General Geo. E. Alter, now candidate for Republican gubernatorial honors, will spend tomorrow in Centre county. As General Alter was a law partner of Judge H. Walton Mitchell, president of the board of trustees of The Pennsylvania State College, and framed and introduced in the Legislature the bill that created the new western penitentiary that is now building in this county and spends much of his recreation leisure hunting and fishing here, we feel that he certainly can't have any fences to fix up in this section so he must be coming just as he has been for years to visit with his friend Warden John Francies and to catch a trout—maybe. We say maybe because we have fished with him.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 67.

BELLEFONTE, PA., APRIL 21, 1922.

NO. 16.

The Way Clearly Marked.

In commenting on the withdrawal of Mr. Fisher from the contest for the Republican nomination for Governor the Philadelphia Inquirer says: "The nomination of Alter would be a disaster. The batteries which the Democrats could concentrate upon him would be exceedingly dangerous to Republican success in the November election. Indeed it is not unlikely that the Democrats with McSparran could demolish the Vare-Leslie-Magee combination of contractor bosses with their machine standard bearer, Alter." The Philadelphia Inquirer is the only real, blown-in-the-bottle, stalwart, Penrose Republican organ in Philadelphia. No party boss cares what the other Republican papers in that city say or think.

On the other hand the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, the equally orthodox though not quite as decidedly Penrose Republican organ of western Pennsylvania, regards the nomination of Alter as an essential to Republican success in Pennsylvania this year. The Gazette-Times is the property as well as the mouth-piece of the Oliver family and the organ of protectionists everywhere. It was Mr. Oliver and his friends, including the Mellons and Grundy, that enticed Mr. Fisher into the fight. The subsequent withdrawal of their support by Oliver and the Mellons was probably the real reason for the withdrawal of Fisher from the contest. That was influenced by pressure from Washington. The Harding administration is panic stricken.

But these conflicting and confusing statements of the accredited party organs of the east and west of Pennsylvania clearly point the way to Democratic success in the State and the restoration of the government to the people. The nomination of John A. McSparran is the first essential to that result but not a full guarantee. Every Democratic voter in the State, male and female, must do a part and an organization that has something besides trading in party spoils in mind must be secured at the May primaries to make the result certain. The enemy is hopelessly divided and completely demoralized. But our own forces must be perfectly mobilized as well as militant, courageous and intelligent.

Upon the question of obeying the President or forfeiting spoils the House of Representatives made quick decision on the navy personnel.

Pepper's Strange Indifference.

Senator Pepper refuses to express a preference between the two candidates for the nomination of his party for Governor, which proves that he is a "wise guy" as well as "hot stuff." He says he is not interested in the election of a Governor. He is running for Senator and is anxious to win. But the questions of economy and efficiency in the State is a matter of no consequence to him. In public speeches delivered at various places since he entered upon the duties of his present office he has professed a good deal of concern for the interests of the people and a whole lot for party success and prosperity. But he probably reasons that if he is elected the country will be safe regardless of the Governor.

It seems to us that an aspirant for so important an office as Senator in Congress ought to be concerned for the good name of the State he aspires to represent in the national Legislature. A Senator's influence in the body is measured, to a considerable extent, by the character and standing of his constituents. Pennsylvania has recently been represented in the upper branch of Congress by very able men in the persons of Boies Penrose and Philander C. Knox. But they have not been able to exert much influence in the shaping of legislation. Is it because they were indifferent as to who was Governor or how the affairs of the State are conducted? If that be the reason the election of Pepper promises no improvement.

But at that Senator Pepper has nothing on the candidates for Governor. Mr. Pinchot has declared that he has no interest in the contest for Senator and Mr. Alter declares that he is quite unconcerned on the subject. The inference is that the Republican organization in the State has degenerated into a mob in which the rule is "everybody for himself and the devil take the hindmost." The only man who has expressed any feeling on the subject is Senator Vare, and his concern is not for the government at Harrisburg, but the government at Washington. To guarantee the safety of the government at Washington he is for Alter. As an aspirant for Senator in Congress Senator Pepper ought to share in this concern.

Lenine and Trotsky are too modest. They only ask twenty-five billion dollars as damages for what has been done to them.

Obligations of His Four Power Pact.

The four power pact recently adopted by the Washington conference and ratified by the Senate promises to be a perennial source of misunderstanding and confusion. While the question of ratification was pending in the Senate President Harding declared with much positiveness that the pact was not an alliance and committed the government to nothing on earth or sea. Secretary Hughes confirmed this statement and Senator Lodge turned his eyes upward and "crossed his breast" every time the assertion was uttered by anybody. Naturally everybody who gave the subject any thought concluded that it was an utterly harmless instrument and most of the Senators voted for it.

The other day the question of fixing the naval force of the country came up in the House of Representatives. Some of the Republican Congressmen, influenced probably by the campaign promise of economizing in expenses of government, endeavored to reduce the personnel of the navy to 76,000 men while others, including the leaders, insisted that 86,000 is a small enough number. It appears that both the President and Secretary Hughes are of this opinion and in conveying the fact to the members of Congress Secretary Hughes declared that the four power pact which fixed the ratio of the navies of Great Britain, Japan and the United States on a 5-5-3 basis bound the United States to a naval personnel of not less than 86,000 enlisted men and a corresponding number of officers.

There has been a tradition current in Congress and out from the beginning of the government that one Congress could not bind another, to follow, to anything and during the consideration of the covenant of the League of Nations a couple of years ago this fact was uttered, reiterated and emphasized a thousand times. But now that emergency requires it Secretary Hughes contradicts his own former statement on the subject and boldly alleges that the four power pact is not only binding but that it has Congress completely tied up to a naval force of 86,000 men and the necessary number of officers to direct them. Maybe that is true and in the future we may discover that we are bound to a lot of other things.

It oughtn't to cost as much to run the government now as when we had four million soldiers to pay and half a million men in the navy, but the administration claims credit for the difference.

Equal Taxes the Policy.

In his address at the Jefferson Day dinner in Philadelphia, on Monday evening, Mr. John A. McSparran, who will be the next Governor of Pennsylvania, made a suggestion that is likely to meet with popular favor. It had in view an equalization of taxes which would afford much relief to the tax payers. The equalization of taxes has always been the policy of the Democratic party. It has been prevented by the preponderance of Republicans in the Legislature. But if McSparran is elected Governor this year Democratic gains in the next and the subsequent Legislature may compass the result.

Mr. McSparran's suggestion was that a tax be laid on property of manufacturing corporations and concerns. Lieutenant Governor Beidleman, during the brief period in which he imagined he was a candidate for Governor, adopted the idea suggested by Mr. McSparran and declared that under the unfair provisions of the revenue laws of Pennsylvania, five billion dollars' worth of property, owned and used by people amply able to pay a just share of the taxes, was entirely exempt from levy and tax. Mr. Beidleman intimated that in the event of his election this injustice would be remedied.

As a matter of fact most of this property is taxed but the proceeds of the operation doesn't get to the public treasuries. It is paid to the Republican campaign committees and used to buy votes and in other ways debase the electorate. The proposition of Mr. McSparran will correct the evil. The taxes will be paid as other taxes are paid and the addition to the revenues thus secured will greatly reduce the millage on all the people. It is not a new doctrine. It has been the expressed policy of the Democratic party from the beginning. It is an expression of the principle of equalization of public burdens.

Without authority to speak officially for the ladies we take the liberty to suggest that skirts will be lengthened when leaders of fashion have spindly ankles.

Manifestly the present Congress is not in favor of investigations. There is safety in silence and danger in publicity.

Effect of Fisher's Withdrawal.

The withdrawal of Banking Commissioner Fisher from the contest for the Republican nomination for Governor has opened up a wide range of conjecture as to the effect upon the prospects of the candidates remaining in the field. Mr. Fisher expressed no preference openly as between Alter and Pinchot though his reference to "the danger of dictation of intriguing politicians" implies a slant toward Pinchot. But he is lacking in candor, to say the least. "I must not add to that menace," he said, "by making the situation complex and confusing." Yet that is precisely what he has done. Both the other candidates were at the time associated with him in the Sproul administration.

Presumably the manner of projecting Alter into the contest influenced Fisher to withdraw and his simultaneous resignation from the cabinet indicated the trend of his sympathies between those remaining in the contest. Mr. Pinchot's subsequent resignation could have had nothing to do with the matter unless Fisher had been informed in advance of Pinchot's purpose which has not been revealed. Up to that time the two candidates stood on a common level. They were alike responsible for the evils of the administration. And naturally the friends of both think or profess to think that the withdrawal of Fisher will inure to the benefit of their favorite.

In justice to both of the remaining candidates it must be said that they are clean and honest men. Neither, however, will be able to purge the government at Harrisburg of the iniquities which have been produced by a long period of uninterrupted misrule, profligacy and corruption. It is not invidious to say that Alter is the more capable of the two and might strive for the result with the greater degree of intelligence. But both are completely tied up in the thongs of political expediency and would be as helpless as Governor as they have been as members of the cabinet. Nothing but the election of a Democrat as Governor and the complete extinction of the corrupt machine will do the work.

One of Bellefonte's policemen has been granted a three month's vacation by borough council at his own request. When a reporter of the "Watchman" asked the policeman why he wanted a vacation he said that the work was becoming so monotonous that he wanted to get out and do something else to keep from becoming stagnant. Back in the old days when Capt. Henry Montgomery and Joshua Folk were the police officers in Bellefonte there was plenty to do to keep them occupied. Fights were of frequent occurrence and drunks only an episode of their daily life. Now conditions in Bellefonte are so changed that it is a rare thing to see even a dog fight, and the policemen have to take a vacation to break the monotony of their existence.

The arms limitation conference held in Washington is just beginning to let loose the snakes that were concealed behind the smoke screens of praise and glorification of its accomplishments. President Harding has told Congress that it has to increase the army and navy because we are bound to do it by the Conference. Diogenes, get the lamp. We want to search for an honest man.

The County Commissioners have decided not to appoint at present a second clerk to take the place of the late H. C. Valentine. The routine business will be done by chief clerk H. W. Irwin and his assistant, Mrs. Harriet Ray Smith, and extra clerical help will be employed only when needed.

Evidently the purpose of the Republicans in Congress is not to enact tariff legislation until after the election. The passage of the Fordney bill will cause the defeat of the party and delay may hold the tariff mongers as well as the others by hopes for the future.

Almost we have revised our opinion of the Irish in Ireland. When we survey the Republican turmoil in Pennsylvania we have more patience with the Collins-de Valera episode on the other side.

If the Genoa conference accomplishes any good results the administration at Washington will have a fit. The administration at Washington wants no achievement outside of itself.

The recent agreement between the government and the Standard Oil in relation to the Wyoming oil reserves proves that a Republican administration is not ungrateful.

The Great Sproul Theory.

From the Philadelphia Record. Governor Sproul's recent appeal to Republican women, and through them to all Republicans, not to allow themselves to be influenced by personal animosities, "for if Pennsylvania gives aid and comfort to the enemy it will be a blow to the great Administration," etc., receives the warm commendation of The Harrisburg Telegraph, which adds this bright thought of its own:

Republicans should not forget in the primary campaign that any comfort given the natural political enemy through criticism of Republican candidates is bound to complicate the main campaign when the primary maneuvering is over.

Here we see a fundamental weakness of Pennsylvania Republicanism, which goes far to explain its record for political knavery and moral flabbiness. If some crook, absolutely destitute of all principle, and who calls himself a Republican only because he expects the more readily to accomplish his corrupt aims by joining the party dominant in the State, becomes a candidate for office, he is to be treated with great consideration. If he is a thief, or a drunkard, or a wife-beater, that unpleasant fact is to be glossed over because, if publicity is given to it, that will be, in the soft-soap language of Governor Sproul, affording "aid and comfort to the enemy" and striking a terrible blow at the Harding Administration.

That is a pusillanimous way of looking at public candidacies, from our viewpoint. Here in Philadelphia everybody knows that the Republican organization is dominated by men many of whom would be behind the bars if absolute justice prevailed, and who call themselves Republicans, not because of any adherence to the principles of that party, but because they want a share in the spoils that go to the majority. In New York they would be affiliated with Tammany Hall for the same reason.

This fact is familiar to all; but under the Sproul theory of politics nothing must be whispered against these rascals for fear that the Democrats might hear it and use it to the disadvantage of the G. O. P. Fortunately for Pennsylvania, all its voters are not such spineless creatures as the Governor would have them. Let us have the truth about all candidates, Republican, Democratic or Socialist, no matter who may be hurt. That is the only safe course in a democracy.

The Embarrassing Borah.

From the New York Globe (Rep). That was a sad scene in the Senate on Tuesday, when Mr. McCormick's carefully prepared reply to ex-Governor Cox was interrupted at its perihelion by the candid and irreverent Borah. "Can the Senator," asked Borah, "tell me how many Senators on this, the Republican, side of the chamber would vote for the League of Nations if it was sent to the Senate at this time?" Mr. McCormick couldn't, or at least didn't. A little later Senator Borah renewed his attack, and the leading Administration Senators had to listen while he declared that "the most powerful influences in the Administration, outside of the President himself, are for entering the League of Nations, and, if they are correctly reported to their pro-League friends, they are doing all they can to take the country into the League of Nations." Senator Borah furthermore declared it to be his humble judgment that the "fundamental principle upon which the fight was made" against the League has already been surrendered.

Of course, Senator Borah is against all this. He has not changed his mind since his first startled glance into the voluminous pages of the Versailles treaty. His attitude becomes absurd only when his logic is confronted by the actual facts. The actual facts are that the League is the most harmless political organization now existing in the world. Membership in it no more constitutes an alliance than does membership in a postal union. The disarmament agreement which Senator Borah suggested and voted for is quite as great an "infringement of sovereignty" as anything in the League constitution. Neither the one nor the other has any present danger except that of futility.

The great question now is not whether the nations will get together to suppress liberty and destroy independence, but whether they can be prevailed upon to act in common for the common good. And the chief interest in Senator Borah's forensic efforts is not that they have anything to do with the world's situation at present, but that they show how inconsistent the Administration forces are in halting half way between isolation and a whole-hearted participation in an international movement to preserve the peace.

A Gambler's Offer.

From the Altoona Times. It is reported by the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times that a professional gambler has offered to pay the salaries of the police force of the city of Youngstown, Ohio, if the mayor of that flourishing city will permit him to open and conduct four gambling resorts there. It is a rather novel proposition, as the usual method is to bribe the officials. This proposition ought to lead to some straight thinking by the victims of gambling operations.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Although living but thirty-one miles from each other, Miss Mary Bixler, of Hanover, Pa., and her brother, John Bixler, of Columbia, had not seen each other for forty years. The sister is now visiting her brother.

Lester Anderson, of Altoona, stepped on a nail while helping to tear down the old First Lutheran church, erected nearly three-quarters of a century ago. A few days later he became ill with lock jaw. He is now able to eat and talk and has recovered sufficiently to leave the Mercy hospital.

D. S. Mitchell, aged 67 years, a watchman employed at the export mine of the Westmoreland Coal and Coke company, was shot through the breast while on patrol duty near the mine early on Saturday. Ferdinand Ciceroilo was arrested. Mitchell fired three shots at his assailants after he had fallen.

Harry Markowitz, a merchant of Fredericktown, Fayette county, was found unconscious in a road near that place late Friday night, his pockets turned inside out and \$1400 missing. He told police that he had been attacked by four men who beat him with heavy clubs and robbed him. He recently bought the store of Harry Swartz, who was murdered for his money.

Thieves took a complete camping outfit from the cabin of W. E. Ritter, of Williamsport, along Lycoming creek, and stole an auto and accessories from a nearby garage to haul away the loot. They left lights burning at the cottage, but when passersby went to investigate the thieves had gone. They were trailed as far as Lock Haven but had made good their escape.

John Klocek, aged 11 years, riding on the running board of a truck of the Pennsylvania Central Brewing company, at Hazleton, without the knowledge of the driver, was instantly killed on Saturday when he fell off the machine as it struck a rut in the road, one of the rear wheels passing over his head. The driver, Bert Russell, did not know of the accident until passersby told him of it.

Ed. L. Shirey and son, Clearfield lumbermen, have just closed a deal for a very valuable tract of timber land in Clinton county, near Renovo. The timber was purchased from Renovo business men. The tract is estimated to contain 2,500,000 feet of the finest kind of saw timber and 50,000 railroad ties. Shirey & Son will locate a mill on the tract at once but will have eight years in which to take the timber off.

Persons having surplus gladioli, canna or dahlia roots and other flowering plants have been asked by Department of Health officials to give them to the patients at the State's sanitarium so that outdoor work for the patients may be extended. The request has been made especially in regard to perennials. State appropriations do not permit of expenditures for such things at the sanitarium and the request for the plants is the first of the kind to be made.

Rufus Costner and Harry D. Brooks, found guilty of complicity in the holdup and killing of a department store bank messenger, a former resident of Bellefonte, at Pittsburgh on June 10th last, were sentenced at Pittsburgh last Thursday to serve not less than nineteen years and eleven months and not more than twenty years in the penitentiary. Margaret Brooks, wife of Harry Brooks, was sentenced to not less than five years and not more than six years.

State troopers investigating the attack made upon Mr. and Mrs. Peter Zerlinsky, of Beaver Brook, near Hazleton, were given a jolt when they found \$870 in bank notes in a lard can which the thieves had overlooked after torturing Zerlinsky to learn where he kept his money. The lard can had failed to attract the attention of the bandits, who stabbed Zerlinsky so severely in a fight that two of the fingers of his left hand had to be amputated. The money was taken to a bank for safe keeping.

Renovo's youthful bandits, Arthur, Anson and Alvin Brookes and Leslie Parker, received heavy sentences when they pleaded guilty before Judge Quigley at Emporium last week. Arthur Brookes, aged about 21, and Leslie Parker, aged about 18, were sentenced to the western penitentiary to serve terms of not less than fifteen and not more than sixteen years. The two younger Brookes boys were committed to the reformatory for indefinite terms. The boys plead guilty to committing a series of daring robberies in Clinton, Clearfield and Cameron counties, covering a period of six months.

Doylestown has a "farming bishop." He is the Rev. Abram O. Hinstead, who was recently elected bishop of the eastern district of the Francocon Conference of Mennonite churches of Pennsylvania. Bishop Hinstead operates a small farm near Doylestown. He has a family of twelve children. Besides taking care of his farm Bishop Hinstead will have charge of a conference of 4000 members. He will have direct charge of the district of 1200 members, with churches in Doylestown, Blooming Glen, Deep Run, Parkside and Groveland. Bishop Hinstead has been ordained minister of the church for twenty-six years.

The Board of county commissioners of Millin county, H. Laub, Jr., J. T. McCartney and R. E. Goss, turned down petitions at their meeting on Saturday for a donation to the erection of Victory park, at Lewistown, a memorial to the soldiers and sailors of the world war, and the erection of a bridge across the Juniata river near Granville on the grounds that they had already exceeded the 1922 budget and borrowed \$55,500 to meet current expenses. The demands of the poor board for outdoor relief alone, will aggregate \$25,000 for the year if present conditions continue, the average thus far expended for this work has been \$2,500 per month.

Ninety-four years old Andrew Keck, of Allentown, after a thirty-four year "vacation" is back in the lumber business. On Saturday at an executor's sale he bought the lumber yard which he established in 1851 and conducted for thirty-seven years before retiring. His sons, William G. and S. Henry Keck, then became the owners. The latter died in 1903 and William then became the sole owner. He died within the past year and in settling up the estate the lumber yard was sold to his father, who plans to resume his business career. Although but six years removed from the century mark, Mr. Keck is one of the most active and well known figures in that city. Hardly a day of the year finds him missing from the principal business section of the town.