

INK SLINGS.

—Pinchot will keep pickin' Col. Miner for his state chairman until the Colonel gets sore and that's all he will get.

—The ship owners who contributed seem to be growing impatient. Harding has ordered a "speed up" on the ship subsidy bill.

—The kids are through with school and many a mother is through with the hours of relief she enjoyed while they were at their books.

—The confirmation of the report that Lenine is critically ill is all right in its way but what the world wants is a certificate that he is dead.

—The controversy over Attorney General Daugherty's connection with the Morse pardon is subsiding. When Daugherty admitted that he had lied about the matter public opinion became unanimous.

—The first war swindler caught is the chairman of the Republican State committee of Georgia. If the investigation is thorough a good many other Republican leaders will head for the Federal penitentiary.

—Well, since President Harding has announced that The Pennsylvania State College should be a great university we suppose it's up to us to raise that two million dollar endowment fund and make it one.

—The announcement of an eminent physician that feeble minded persons often make a success in life is about the most consoling thing we've heard for several weeks. In the light of our present plight we are comforted with the thought that maybe we're not feeble minded.

—Of course it was to be expected that Senator Pepper would endorse Baker for chairman. Pepper has grown very regular since he has come into the position of being a regular fellow—one of the kind, you know, who is looking for a cuspidor in the eye of a bull dog.

—We are evidently going to get what we might reasonably be expected from Washington efforts to settle the coal strike and the coal problem. An advance of a dollar seventy-five on the price of bituminous is about the only concrete thing that has come out of it.

—The announcement that Bruce F. Sterling will not be a candidate for re-election as chairman of the Democratic state committee sets us to hoping that whoever his successor might be will be a man who will promote rather than undo the good work of harmonizing begun by the committee of seventy-two.

—Mr. Pinchot barely squeezed through in his expensive pursuit of a gubernatorial nomination, but he's up to the point now where money won't count. He can't buy control of the Republican state committee and before he will be able to get it to working for him he'll have to come to terms. When he comes to terms the voters of Pennsylvania will know that if they hope for reform they can only have that hope fulfilled through Mr. McSparran.

—Lillian Russell is dead. We call her Lillian Russell for hundreds of thousands who knew her as the comic opera queen don't know her as Mrs. Alexander P. Moore, wife of the Pittsburgh publisher. Hers was a career of sunshine and seriousness. Noted as a stage beauty, with a singing voice of appealing quality and real ability as an actress she possessed a trio of charms that made her almost irresistible to those before the footlights. But she had another side. She was a serious, sensible woman who saw life as it was away from the bright lights and gaudy scenery of the stage and much of her time was devoted to work that many another woman trained as she was would never have thought there could be to do.

—Mr. McSparran drew the milk in the coconut with his very first campaign shot. When he declared that local communities have some rights in the matter of the conduct of their home affairs he stated a truth that every one will agree with. He was striking at the growing and pernicious tendency of modern political machines to enact laws effecting a centralization of government. Centralization means more jobs for the faithful, but more jobs for the faithful mean less money to the roads and schools and hospitals that they direct, inspect, audit and really control. A case in point is the Bellefonte hospital. Who knows best what service this institution should render this community? Who knows best what this community can afford to expend in maintaining the hospital? Would you say that Harrisburg or Philadelphia know more as to conditions in Bellefonte than the physicians and surgeons and the men and women of Bellefonte who have the hospital on their minds and hearts always? Of course you wouldn't. But let us tell you right now that the staff and the board of trustees of the Bellefonte hospital and every other similar semi-State institution in Pennsylvania are so enmeshed by regulations, specifications and damnations that they can't take a step unless Harrisburg or Philadelphia approves. We're for a halting of such conditions no matter who the next Governor, the next Senator or the next Member shall be. Mr. McSparran has declared himself. It's up to Mr. Scott and Mr. Betts, Mr. Beaver and Miss Meek.

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Pinchot Thinks All are Fools.

Some philosopher at some ancient period of time expressed an opinion that "all men are liars." Mr. Gifford Pinchot appears to be operating his campaign for Governor on the theory that all men and women of Pennsylvania are fools. The ancient philosopher probably based his world wide obprobrium upon an experience with a few men who prevaricated in an emergency. Mr. Pinchot obviously predicated his assumption upon his own recent experience in conducting a reform campaign on a most vulnerable record of false pretense. The most flagrant salary-grabber of the Sproul administration, he appealed to the public for support as a protest against salary-grabbing. His grab of \$3000 a year is a case in point.

Mr. Pinchot admitted during his primary campaign that the financial affairs of the Commonwealth are in a state of confusion, if not worse than that. During the three years of his association with the Sproul administration he either knew the condition or else he was asleep or indifferent to the interests of the public which was being robbed and remained silent so that the operation might go on without interruption. Now he asks the public to entrust him with the correction of the abuses under the promise that he will appoint an unofficial committee to recommend a remedy to the Legislature. If he knows anything he understands that the Legislature to which the committee's recommendation will be made will be under the control of the machine recently defeated and will pay no attention to any recommendation from his friends.

If the voters of Pennsylvania are deceived by this palpable false pretense of improvement in methods of government they will deserve any punishment which the Vire-Leslie-Eyre machine put upon them. Pinchot bought a nomination at a criminally exorbitant price and in view of his salary grab as Commissioner of Forestry he is more likely to use the office as a medium of reimbursement than as a benefice to the people. His profligacy in the primary campaign can hardly be used as a measure of his altruism in the light of his conspiracy to extort \$3000 a year from the public treasury by an increase of salary in violation of the constitution he had sworn to "support, obey and defend."

—Pinchot can please one element by opposing Baker for chairman and the other by acquiescing in the choice of Baker by his colleagues on the ticket. That's what Davy Crockett called "catchin' 'em comin' and goin'."

Pinchot is Up Against It.

The Republican State committee is scheduled to meet in Philadelphia tomorrow for reorganization, and unless the signs are misleading the result of the meeting will have a large influence upon the character of the campaign to follow. There are two candidates for the office of chairman and Mr. Pinchot is expected to express a preference between them. The "Old Guard," which since the death of Senator Penrose comprises the corporate element in the party, is supporting W. Harry Baker, at present and for many years the secretary of the committee, and the other element is said to favor Representative Aaron B. Hess, of Lancaster. This faction is composed of Mr. Grundy, Mr. Fisher and their followers.

During the primary campaign Mr. Pinchot denounced the "Old Guard" with much virulence. But a great many of his supporters in that contest now believe that the conciliation of that element of the party is necessary to the success of the party at the polls in November. They realize that if the candidate assents to the election of Baker he will lose a considerable number of the idealists who are opposed to a compromise with vice even to secure success but reason that it is safer to accept that prospect rather than take the chance of losing the support of the machine. The "Buck" Devlin incident in the primary vote reveals the vast possibilities of a quarrel with the Philadelphia gang.

The curious feature of this situation is that neither of the faction leaders cares a rap for Pinchot. The fight is for control of the organization. For some reason Mr. Grundy is anxious to be restored to his former position as first lieutenant of the boss. It will be remembered that in the national convention of 1920 Senator Penrose gave all his orders to the national leaders through Grundy and since infirmity robbed Penrose of his power Grundy has been in eclipse. The other faction is equally indifferent to the interests of Pinchot. He bought the nomination and if Grundy controls the organization it will be out of business for life. Pinchot is "between the devil and the deep sea."

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Pinchot's Crime Paramount.

Mr. Gifford Pinchot's brazen boast that under like conditions he would again spend \$125,000.00 of his own and his wife's money to secure the nomination for Governor reveals that he has no conception of the iniquity of the transaction or the evil it involves. It is not a question of the tax upon his resources. Out of his inherited millions he will probably not miss the amount and has plenty left to buy votes in November. He appears to imagine his ability to pay is the only matter of public interest. But he is gravely mistaken. The evil is that he has established a precedent which if not checked will make it absolutely impossible for any one not a millionaire to run for an important office in Pennsylvania.

Of course Mr. Pinchot tries to convey to the public the idea that his money was squandered, not for his personal aggrandizement but in order to destroy an infamous political machine. But this purpose is defeated by the fact that he tried to enlist this machine in his service. Senator Vire has publicly stated that he was asked to support Pinchot by an authorized agent of that gentleman and assured that if nominated the candidate would pay all the expenses of his election out of his own resources. Senator Vire declined to come into line on the terms proposed though it might have saved him a good deal of money. But Pinchot was willing to make the deal. He was ready to join the gang.

In the face of this record the pretense that he was influenced by benevolent purposes is not only false but is criminally fraudulent. He is obsessed with ambition to hold office and exercise power and having inherited millions he is willing to buy the Governorship of Pennsylvania. If charges frequently made and never refuted are true Senator Vire has indulged in some political immoralities and the gang which supported Mr. Alter has been culpable in many instances. But we submit that none of them has ever been guilty of so grave a crime against the interests of the public or the cause of civic righteousness as Gifford Pinchot perpetrated when he bought his nomination with \$125,000.

—Senator Norris estimates that at the present rate of progress it will take several years to pass the pending tariff bill. But unless it is greatly improved that will be too soon.

McSparran Sounds the True Note.

Mr. John A. McSparran, in an address before the Democratic county committee of Lancaster, his home county, on Monday, sounded the true note. The profligacy of the Sproul administration and its immediate predecessors and the corrupt use of money in the purchase of the nomination by the Republican candidate for Governor afford substantial reasons for the defeat of that party at the coming election. But the fundamental issue to be determined by the electorate is the question of home rule. The right of each community to regulate its own affairs is a matter of such grave importance that all others give way to it.

In the construction and maintenance of highways, in the distribution of charity and in the regulation of educational facilities and processes local opinion has been silenced, local activities stopped and local control stifled by legislation enacted within the past few years centralizing all power over these purely local matters in Harrisburg. As Mr. McSparran says, it is all right for the State to exercise control over the ten per cent. of road construction paid for by the State. But the ninety per cent. of this service which is paid for by the local communities ought to be conducted under the direction of local authorities. The same is true with respect to schools and charitable institutions.

The centralization of power over these important elements in the life of the Commonwealth is not intended for the improvement of the service. The purpose of it is to create and conduct a vast machine under the immediate control of the Republican party organization to be used for political service and manipulation. No man in the Democratic party desires to impair the efficiency of educational facilities or curtail the appropriations for public schools. No Democrat wants deterioration in road construction or diminution in charity service. But every Democrat and every right thinking citizen of every party wants honesty in the administration of these services and local management is the means.

—Possibly the next Legislature will pass a law limiting campaign expenditures. That would be a neat way for Vire to rebuke Pinchot.

—Somebody got the money, that's certain, but what became of the post cards?

Regarding a Platform.

Senator George Wharton Pepper, whose nomination for a full term in the office cost something like \$100,000.00, gave out an interview, from his Washington office, the other day in which he said: "We talked over the question of a platform and came to the conclusion that there was no necessity for adopting one at the committee meeting Saturday. A platform can be adopted later, if necessary." In this the Senator is absolutely and everlastingly right. A ticket which cost more than a million dollars to nominate can find its platform in the left over literature of the last Presidential campaign. "Get the Money, Boys," "Step on the Gas," "Shake Down the Millionaires," are admirable slogans for its campaign.

Senator Pepper's first vote in the Senate after General Atterbury had chosen him to succeed Boies Penrose was a ratification and approval of the corrupt bargain by which Truman H. Newberry had purchased a seat in the Senate. But in the same vote he endorsed a resolution declaring that such vast expenditures in the purchase of nominations were fundamentally wrong, grossly immoral and destructive of just government. Yet the expenditures in the primary campaign for the nomination of himself and his associates on the Republican ticket make Newberry "look like a piker." Of course such a ticket doesn't need a platform. In fact it can not afford to have a platform. The \$ completely identifies and defines it.

But the people of Pennsylvania will have the right to construct a platform for this expensive combination of corporation lobbyists and each voter can frame it in his mind according to his fancy. The "Get the Money" monkey of Mr. DeMar, of the Philadelphia Record, forms a splendid nucleus upon and around which to build. A caricature of Mr. Pepper in the act of "spitting in the eye of a bull dog" would be an appropriate side picture and a few sentences on the art of increasing salaries by Mr. Pinchot and a paragraph on how corporations may defy the laws by Major David Reed, of the legal staff of the Steel trust, skillfully arranged would be certain to amuse the people even if it failed to entrance.

—In another column of this paper will be found a news item stating that over eighty thousand young forest trees were planted in Centre county this spring by fifty-one landowners. The trees were furnished free by the State and the only cost to the owners was the labor of planting them. This is purely a work of planting for the future, as no one can expect to reap any direct benefit from the trees now planted during an ordinary man's lifetime. But it is work that should be encouraged, nevertheless. It not only means the foundation of a future lumber supply but also the conserving of our mountain springs and streams. Every land owner who has the ground to spare ought to plant it in forest trees, and he will be surprised at the results in a few years.

Forest Fires in Logan District.

District forester T. Roy Morton, of Petersburg, reports that thirty-eight forest fires occurred in the Logan forest district this spring. Eighteen of them were in Huntingdon county, seven in Centre, and thirteen in Blair county. The fires in Huntingdon county averaged six acres per fire, those in Centre county averaged only two acres per fire, while those in Blair county averaged 169 acres per fire. Forester Morton is of the opinion that this spring's fire season was a real test for the new forest fire fighting organization, and he is well pleased with the way the forest fire wardens took hold of their work. They detected the fires promptly and extinguished them before they did much damage. He believes that each year the forests will become safer from fire.

—Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, known as the "Father of Forestry" in Pennsylvania, died at his home at West Chester last Friday, aged 84 years. He was the original forestry commissioner of Pennsylvania and was connected with the department up until his resignation several months ago. He is survived by one daughter and two sons.

—The total official vote in the Twenty-third Congressional district shows that the Hon. W. I. Swoope defeated Evan J. Jones by a majority of 1988, the total vote being Swoope, 10727; Jones, 8739. Harry B. Scott had a majority of 2081 over Dr. Pollum in the Senatorial district, Scott's total vote being 7410 and Pollum's 5329.

—The Susquehanna trapshooters will hold their first shoot of the season at Williamsport on June 23rd.

The Galled Jade Wincees.

From the Philadelphia Record.

But the jade whose withers are unwrung cares nothing. It would be more dignified to suppress evidence of one's own pain if one is entirely indifferent to the pain of others. It is hardly in good taste to throw mud in the political arena and then protest angrily when mud is sticking to one's own good clothes.

The President is indignant that so much criticism of himself and his Cabinet officers is printed in the newspapers. The publications are by no means confined to Democratic newspapers; the Republican papers are printing plenty of things about the President and the Attorney General and Congress that do not improve the President's appetite for his breakfast. Probably his outbreak is due to the unpleasant things the papers of his own party are printing, and rather more to the efforts of Republican politicians to get the Attorney General out of office to save the party than to anything in the newspapers.

But when the entire Republican press was alternately vilifying and ridiculing President Wilson, Secretary Daniels and Secretary Baker and Postmaster General Burleson, did Senator Harding, of Ohio, utter a word of protest? Was the Marion Star in the habit of speaking respectfully and justly of a Democratic President and his Cabinet?

Since the Republicans, even more out of the press than in it, lied about Grover Cleveland, for which many of the more respectable of them have since expressed their penitence, no President has been so maligned and ridiculed and misrepresented and fought in a shameless spirit of partisanship as Woodrow Wilson. During those eight years of Republican scurrility and falsehood and innuendo we do not recall any effort by Senator Harding to keep his own party within the lines of decency?

The success of our army and navy shamed the Republicans in some measure out of ridiculing Secretaries Baker and Daniels. Postmaster General Burleson was abused to the last, chiefly by papers that he was trying to compel to pay a reasonable part of their own postage, but is there any Republican so hardened that he will dare to say that the postal service is any better now than it was?

No member of the party that traduced and vilified, maligned and ridiculed Grover Cleveland for eight years, and tried to force out members of their Cabinets ought to render criticism of Warren Gamaliel Harding and efforts to get Harry M. Daugherty, attorney for C. W. Morse, out of the Cabinet.

Under these circumstances the President would command more respect if he would keep silent when the newspapers and Republican members of Congress criticize this Administration, both in the White House and in the Department of Justice.

Sharing the Blame.

From the New York World.

Given a Congress of his own party, a President who knows what he wants done can usually manage to get it done. The country may not be satisfied with the achievement, but it will know what it is voting about when it goes to the polls, and the party in power will have something on which it can ask for a vote of confidence.

The failure of the Sixty-seventh Congress has been almost wholly a failure in leadership, and the full responsibility goes further back than Mr. Harding's nomination. In order to manufacture a fictitious issue against Mr. Wilson the Senators who controlled the Republican National convention in 1920 set up the fiction that Mr. Wilson was a tyrant and a despot who had tried to overthrow the legislative branch of the Government. In order to carry out this myth Mr. Harding abdicated all claim to leadership long in advance of his election. The President was to go his way and Congress was to go its way, but the communion of the "best minds" would make it certain that both would be going in the same direction at the same time.

The usurpation argument against Mr. Wilson was thoroughly dishonest, but the Republican Senators maintained it so vigorously that Mr. Harding has never dared assert himself as leader of the party, and as a result Congress is in the worst muddle that the country has seen for a generation. The muddle will continue until Mr. Harding becomes the leader of his party in fact as well as in name or there is a new Administration.

A Congress that is left to drift is bound to drift. There have been times when the leadership within Congress was strong enough to hold it to a consistent program even when the Executive was weak, but there has been no instance in which Congress was able to function with any degree of intelligence when both the Executive and Congressional leadership was flabby.

Governor Miller, of New York, has made a convincing demonstration of the capacity of a strong, capable leader to obtain extraordinary results from a mediocre Legislature. If Mr. Harding had been a Nathan L. Miller the record of the Sixty-seventh Congress would have been radically different. That is the whole story, and Mr. Harding cannot get rid of his own responsibilities merely by getting rid of Congress. Whatever blame there is for the record, he must share it.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—An agreement was filed in court at Ebensburg on Monday for the sale of the Navy Smokeless Coal company, operating in East and West Carroll townships, Cambria county, to Charles D. Ames and others of Philadelphia. The price agreed upon is \$850,000 for the 3,200 acres involved.

—Fire, which is believed to have been started by a spark from a saw mill boiler, Friday afternoon, destroyed the mill of the Rees Sheriff Lumber company, near Mill Creek, Huntingdon county, along with 100,000 feet of lumber, some mine props, mine ties and other lumber. The loss is estimated at \$5000 to \$7000.

—An order for a whole carload of special motors manufactured by the Brookville Truck and Tractor company, has just been received by that concern from Mexico City. The motors are to be inserted in tractors in the Mexican city, to replace mules that have for many years been used to draw the vehicles over its streets.

—Mrs. Edna Miller, of Catawissa, widow of Lloyd Miller, of that place, was awarded \$8000, and Mrs. Ida S. Schedly, of Tamara, widow of Alvin Schedly, \$20,000, in jury verdicts following trial of their cases against the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad company. The husbands of both the women were killed in the explosion of an engine at Moersburg, last October.

—False whiskers worn while impersonating Santa Claus in a Scranton store caused the death of George Howe, his widow, Mrs. Lucy Howe, claimed last Friday in seeking compensation. Mrs. Howe maintained that the erysipelas, from which her husband died early this year was contracted in December, 1921, from the whiskers. The referee reserved decision.

—Prosecutions for violation of the pure food and milk acts during May numbered 108, according to the report of Director James Foust. Forty-eight arrests were made for sale of milk that had been watered and in each case the defendant pleaded guilty, the report states, while forty-three arrests were made for treating fluids with chemicals and foods with coal tar dyes.

—A loss of \$50,000 was received by H. H. Smith & Co., when the main building of their big tannery at West Hickory, Elk county, was destroyed by fire. An extensive fire protection system failed to save the structure. P. R. Smith, of Ridgway, one of the owners, has announced that the loss is covered by insurance and that the destroyed building will be immediately replaced by a new and modern building.

—A strange disease which physicians are unable to diagnose, has attacked residents of Conestoga. Over forty cases so far having been reported to the board of health. Ten physicians have been unable to diagnose the disease, which starts with the appearance of a rash on the soles of the feet or palms of the hands. This is followed by vomiting and soreness of the joints. No fatalities have thus far been reported.

—Preparations are being made to ask for bids on the Milton-West Milton bridge construction across the Susquehanna river. The bridge there has become positively dangerous, according to the Northumberland county commissioners, and it is hoped to rebuild it before the snow flies. Under the law Northumberland county must pay half of the cost of renewal of this bridge, which will cost nearly \$100,000 to build according to estimates.

—The Keystone confectionery store, in the business district of Fayette City was dynamited on Saturday. Two heavy explosions blew in the front of the structure and shattered windows in nearby buildings. John Capa, who resides in the confectionery building, reported that he believed "black-handers" had dynamited the place after he had refused to meet demands for \$5000. State police and county detectives are investigating.

—Students en route to State College from Lewisston rescued Mr. and Mrs. James Goss and infant daughter, Claudine, from the bed of the old Pennsylvania canal in the Lewisston Narrows late last Thursday night after their automobile had been forced over the embankment in a collision. Neither of the other two automobiles who were a party to the mishap stopped to render aid and the party would have drowned only for the action of the students.

—Although he tumbled eleven stories from the roof of the new Penn Albert hotel in Greensburg, last Wednesday, where he is employed as a plasterer, Graham C. Rehl, 36 years old, and married was fished out of a pile of sand, where he alighted, apparently uninjured. The man was rushed to the Westmoreland hospital, but chattered with ambulance attendants all the way. Although he was tucked in bed and will remain in the hospital for several days, Rehl apparently has no internal injuries and no broken bones.

—The Consolidated Coal company, which operates a number of mines in Somerset county, has secured a rule from the Somerset county court on 62 men and 20 women to show cause why attachments should not be issued against them for alleged violation of the temporary injunction granted some time ago. It is alleged by the coal company that these 82 defendants interfered with miners on their way to work between 6:30 and 7 o'clock in the morning. The coal company claims that the women blocked the way to the pit mouth at the Bell operation.

—His "sixth sense" caused Robert Getz, of Sunbury, a passenger locomotive driver, to decide that something was broken under his locomotive as it raced along with one hundred passengers on his train on the Pennsylvania railroad near Sunbury, last Thursday. Getz stopped and found a brake rigging hanging by a small shred of a broken chain under the tank of the locomotive. Had it dropped, railroad men said, nothing could have prevented a bad wreck. Getz said "something" just told him all was not right under him. He has been a Pennsylvania locomotive driver for more than thirty years.

—Kicked by a horse, Avon Bauman, aged 8 years, son of C. C. Bauman, of Northumberland county, was critically hurt. His upper and lower jaws were broken and four teeth were driven so far up into the jaw that they had to be cut out. He is also badly cut and his collar bone and one rib broken. In spite of it all, the doctors say he will recover. Mr. Bauman took two children with him while he was fixing a fence. They got out of his sight for a few minutes and the little girl, Evelyn, came back crying that her brother had been killed. Bauman found the boy lying apparently dead alongside the wall. The little girl had dragged the boy from further harm before calling her father.