

INK SLINGS.

The wheat harvest is tramping hard on the heels of the hay makers. If everybody is going to strike who is going to pay the strike benefits? The proposed sesqui-centennial exhibition for Philadelphia is starting off with enough fighting to augur great success. There will be no issue of the "Watchman" next week. We're going fishing and you'll have to go without your favorite newspaper. It is also worth while to remember that election day comes just about the time the average voter is ordering his winter supply of coal. Probably Germany will never settle her domestic problems until the Republicans chase all the monarchists out or the reverse is accomplished. Harding enjoys himself yachting and playing golf while the leaders of his party are "sweating blood" in the shadow of defeat. But Nero fiddled while Rome burned. John A. McSparran arranged things yesterday so that he will not have to keep bachelor's hall in the Executive mansion in Harrisburg next winter. He married Mrs. Sadie Holland, Mills, Mass. If there were smaller strike benefits there would be fewer strikes. Many union workers are idle today because they can draw down more or as much money in "strike benefits" as they could earn by working. June is about over and some people remember only its rain and torrid weather. Others, there are, who saw the profusion of flowers and the splendid garden vegetation the heat and the moisture brought. It's really amazing the number of people who claque about what the other fellow should do, when it is not so much what the other fellow should do that counts as what they would do were they in the other fellow's place. An old, old man from State College told us on Tuesday that there are more good looking women up there now taking the summer school work than he thought could be gathered up in Pennsylvania. Twenty years ago we would have been on the way up to State now, but in a way we're like the purveyor of this news—we're getting old. At the meeting of the finance committee of the Republican organization it was decided that assessment of office holders would not be made. It was also decided that the usual letter soliciting contributions would be sent out—that Mr. Pinchot insisted upon. The usual letter is all that ever has been sent out. Isn't Gif. the foxy little fellow. Congressman Fordney, of Michigan, has announced his intention of retiring at the close of his present term. Inasmuch as he has been in the House twenty-four years it is but natural that he would be missed there, but the country will have little reason to regret his voluntary retirement. The only thing of note he has done in his near quarter of a century in Congress was to father the tariff bill that is notorious. Last week our Pleasant Gap contributor used up about a column of space in this very precious sheet dissertating in red-headed girls. Next week he will discuss bald-headed men. And we are in a quandary. Is Levi trying to start something? Of course we can't recall any youthful charges of having been a "Sis" but when we had hair it was red and we don't like this coincidental discussion of red-headed and bald-headed people. The tri-county conference of the League of Women Voters, at Hecla, on Wednesday was wet, though the ladies from Centre, Clinton and Lycoming, who were there are mostly dry. It was purely a woman's gathering, though a few men candidates willing to have the ladies give them the once over were there. Among the latter, however, the Hon. Tom Beaver was not. We have been unable to learn whether he feared or ignored the ladies. However that may be the Hon. Tom's record as a "fusser" in his early days would indicate that he was making other kind of hay that day and forgot all about it. A. M. Holding, president of the Pennsylvania State Bar Association, delivered himself of a lot of good sense on the occasion of the opening of the association's annual meeting at Bedford, on Tuesday. Mr. Holding's forcible discussion of the dangers lurking in frequent and impulsive amendments to the federal constitution was much along lines of theory always presented by this paper in defense of its motto: "State Rights and Federal Union." People get an obsession to have something through an amendment to the constitution. They got what they wanted but in doing so pushed the door just a bit more ajar and made it that much easier for others to get something that may not be so desirable. It is possible to so centralize government by amendments to the constitution that a Republic will become, in effect, a Monarchy. The townships and boroughs of Centre county, the counties of Pennsylvania, the States of the Union are all being insidiously made impotent as initiative or constructive entities by the process of centralization and Mr. Holden is not only right but timely, indeed, in calling public attention to the matter.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 67. BELLEFONTE, PA., JUNE 30, 1922. NO. 26.

McSparran Will Clean House.

There are rumors floating about that the investigation of the State Treasury is to be dropped. The investigation began during the primary campaign. The friends of Gifford Pinchot were largely responsible for it and it is believed that the early developments helped the Forester to the nomination. The later evidence threatened injury to the party, however, and the hearings were promptly adjourned to an indefinite time. That grave irregularities have been the rule in the State Treasury is fully revealed. That other departments of the State government are equally slovenly is generally suspected. And that the Republican machine is responsible is beyond question. The attack on State Treasurer Kephart helped to create sentiment for Pinchot for the reason that Mr. Kephart was supporting Alter. But a searching investigation would be likely to show that the entire machinery of government in Harrisburg is rotten and that Gifford Pinchot was quite as culpable and exactly as responsible for the evils as any other member of the Sprout administration. You can't make fish of one and flesh of another in the circumstances. The whole mess is rotten and if exposed to full view of the public eye will appear alike. J. Pierpont Morgan once said "you can't unscramble an egg." It is just as impossible to discriminate between politicians in the same group. The investigation of the State Treasury has not thus far revealed the extent of the losses of the people of Pennsylvania by Mr. Kephart's manipulation of the funds. It has not even shown who were the beneficiaries of the operations. But it has completely disclosed the fact that the people have suffered and that some favorites have been benefited. It has also made it clear that the only remedy is in a complete change in administration of the State government. No Republican can make substantial and enduring improvements. They are all alike bound to the machine and whether Grundy or Vare is in control the corruption will continue. But John A. McSparran will "clean house."

Clean House Completely.

The Supreme court of Pennsylvania, carefully organized for the purpose of the Republican machine, has affirmed the validity of the tax on anthracite coal and completely reversed its "better self." The constitution declares that "all taxes shall be uniform, upon the same class of subjects." The act in question levies a tax on one kind of coal and exempts all other kinds. A former act in practically the same language was declared by the same court to be invalid upon the ground, briefly stated, that "coal is coal," and a tax on coal must cover all kinds of coal. For some reason the Republican machine wanted to tax anthracite coal and ever since that decision the bench has been fixed that way. The result of this decision is that the people of Pennsylvania, mostly those who can ill afford the expense, will be taxed to the tune of ten to fifteen millions of dollars annually in order to make continued profligacy in the administration of the State government possible. If the service were made reasonably economical there would be no need of this additional burden on the people. The statement of the Governor that the greater part of the tax will be paid by consumers outside of the State is beside the question. That portion which will be levied upon and paid within the State is outrageous because it is burdensome and unnecessary. It will cause great suffering and destruction of life. The remedy for this great evil is the election of John A. McSparran to the office of Governor. He will inaugurate a system of economical government which will reduce the expenditures so that this iniquitous and unconstitutional tax may be repealed at the next session of the Legislature and he will present the matter to the General Assembly with such force as will compel the Legislature to wipe it off the statute books. There are many other reasons for the election of the Democratic candidate for Governor but this one is sufficient in itself. The public has been imposed upon beyond endurance and the only way to stop the criminal operation is to "turn the rascals out." Clean house completely.

Absurd Claims of Saving.

Senator McCormick, of Illinois, in a recent speech, has undertaken to justify the Harding administration by a statement that during the three years since the Republicans acquired a majority in Congress some seven billions of dollars have been saved as compared with the expenditures during the three years of the Wilson administration immediately preceding. He imagines that the average citizen is credulous enough to accept such statements as facts. That puts him unmistakably in the Pinchot class. It indicates that in his opinion the voters of the country neither think nor reason and that therefore any preposterous proposition may be put on them. This is proof of the proverb that "a little learning is dangerous." During the last three years of the Wilson administration the achievements of the government of the United States became the wonder of the world. Within that brief period an army of four million men was organized and equipped and half of it transported to the seat of the greatest war in history three thousand miles away. The greatest results in naval construction and equipment in the history of the world were accomplished. The return of the troops from abroad and the demobilization of the vast army was equally epochal and all these great events were perfected without even a breath of scandal. They cost money but the money was cheerfully given by an appreciative and patriotic people and wisely spent. During the three years that have elapsed since the Republican party acquired a majority in Congress the army has had an average strength of less than a million men and the navy has fallen back to third or fourth place in the rank of nations. The difference in the maintenance account of the army alone is vastly more than the amount Senator McCormick claims has been saved under Republican control. But as a matter of fact there has been no saving at all except to the millionaires who have had to pay less income tax on their vast profits in business. The savings are all the result of "book transfers" of accounts, just as former State Treasurer Kephart balanced his books for monthly statements to the public.

Another Political Murder.

The murder of Field Marshal Wilson in London is promptly followed by the murder of Foreign Minister Rathenau in Berlin. This is the second political assassination in Germany since the war, and in Hungary Count Tisza was murdered very soon after hostilities ceased. Political murders are as imbecile as they are criminal. Tisza was killed ostensibly for bringing on the war, whereas he was about the only Hungarian or Austrian statesman who registered Count Berchtold, backed by William II. Erzberger, leader of the Centrist party in Germany, was assassinated by Socialists and now Rathenau, who, if not a Socialist, was at least the principal figure in a Socialist Administration, is killed, probably by patriots of the Junker type. He was hated because he was straining every nerve to maintain living relations with the Allies, to pay the reparations and avoid giving France excuse for a military demonstration. And yet nothing is more important for Germany. These political assassinations, from that of Marat down to that of Rathenau, never serve the purposes of the assassins. They are simply brutal murders without the least political value. Before the war Rathenau, son of the founder of the greatest electrical engineering works in the world, was one of the most accomplished and forceful men of affairs in his country. During much of the war he was Minister of Raw Materials, and did a marvelous work for Germany. The aim of the German Finance Ministry for a couple of years after the peace treaty was to trifle with the Allies, to procrastinate, to evade and to default. The result was an addition of nearly one-third to the pecuniary penalty imposed upon Germany. As Germany was in no position to resist it was folly for it to evade and balk. But in Germany this passed for patriotism. Chancellor Wirth took office pledged to pay the indemnity, and he gathered about him men who would help to do what had to be done. Dr. Rathenau became Minister of Reparations, and about a year ago he met Louis Loucheur, French Minister of Devastated Regions, and agreed with him for payment of a part of the indemnity of materials. This eased the burden of Germany and afforded very great relief to France. It was a fine piece of statesmanship. Later his office was abolished, but after being in private life for a short time he returned to the Wirth Cabinet as Minister of Foreign Affairs. In that office his chief achievement was the treaty of Rapallo, establishing commercial relations between Germany and Russia, and practically combining two-thirds of the population of Europe against the other third. No man was more needed by Germany than Walter Rathenau, man of business and diplomatist. He understood that Germany only injured itself by making faces at the Allies. If it felt strong enough it might defy them, but until then it must obey the terms of the peace treaty. Stinnes and Helfferich denounced him for trying to preserve the nation's honor and prevent another military demonstration by France. Germany could spare Stinnes and Helfferich much better than Rathenau, who, like his chief, Wirth, was willing to recognize facts and do the best he could for his country under the circumstances.

How to Defeat Pinchot.

By I. J. McG. in Philadelphia Record. Let the Democratic workers in every division of our Commonwealth rise and go forth and win the coming election. The time is opportune, as the Republicans are now throwing the harpoon into each other. Pinchot has surely stultified himself when he admits in one breath he will accept contributions from a State officeholder or from an officeholder, no matter the grade. "The officeholder," he says, "is exactly on the same level with every citizen. He can do what he pleases in the way of contributions." If that is not an invitation for officeholders, or an intimation to come forth and hand out your good money to sustain a crooked party in power, then what is it? To what level doth this man Pinchot, reformer, pine forester, descend that he thus degrades himself to the level of a Caliban? Only a few weeks ago Pinchot was lauded as the mighty reformer of the Republican party in this State and as the personage who would purge that aggregation of wrong and expose wrongdoers. Now he takes them unto himself with all their corruption and hugs them to his bosom with the affection a dear mother would press her first-born. Democrats, not dolts or dunderheads, in every valley and village from Philadelphia to Ohio should organize and begin at once a campaign for the election of the candidate of the party. * * * * * Peacemakers in public office in this State should have been sent to the Eastern penitentiary after the burning of the State capitol, but the evil has been continued, until today, when again the lamps of investigation have been turned on. Fellow Democrats, do your duty and elect a Democratic Governor who will abide by the obligation of his office by sending the scoundrels to prison. Don't trust a Pinchot.

Pinchot's Farce Comedy.

Mr. Gifford Pinchot's hypocrisy is converting his campaign into a farce comedy. The other day he met with chairman Baker and his associates on the Republican ticket and after a good deal of boasting about political morality issued a declaration that there shall be no assessment of office holders for campaign purposes this year. It was agreed that office holders may make voluntary contributions to the campaign fund and chairman Baker was authorized to appoint a finance committee to receive any contributions that may be offered by office holders or any one else. But no assessments are to be levied and it was solemnly announced that the minute an assessment is levied Pinchot will revolt. Nothing could be more satisfactory to such a past master political machinist as Mr. W. Harry Baker. It gives him full license to draw on the Pinchot family millions to the limit of his inclinations and as much right to collect from the office holders as the machine has enjoyed at any time since the law prohibiting campaign assessments of office holders was enacted several years ago. Since the passage of that law there have been no campaign assessments on office holders. The office holders have simply been invited to contribute "voluntarily" with an implied understanding that if they don't pay they lose their jobs. That is precisely what will happen this year and while checks come Pinchot will "wink the other eye." Obviously Mr. Pinchot has lived so much of his life outside of Pennsylvania that he is unable to accurately measure the intelligence of the voters of the State. He imagines that he is fooling a considerable number of people by this camouflaged political morality. But he is only deceiving himself. Possibly he is willing to draw from his inherited millions a sufficient sum to buy an election to the office of Governor of Pennsylvania if such an honor were for sale. There is no such auction scheduled this year, however. The people of Pennsylvania have determined to choose from their own number an honest, earnest and capable man who will administer the office for their benefit, Mr. McSparran.

Tariff Tax a Trouble Burden.

If the pending tariff bill passes in the Senate, which now seems certain, it will be the first piece of legislation to go through with eighty per cent. of those supporting it opposed to its provisions. The beneficiaries of tariff taxation contributed millions of dollars to elect President Harding on the promise of legislation which would reimburse them. Upon the fulfillment of this promise will depend future contributions, and a vast sum of money is needed to conduct the Congressional campaigns this year. The Fordney bill has been framed with the view of compelling every Republican Senator and Representative in Congress whose election is in doubt to vote for it. For example, Senator Johnson, of California, will vote for the bill in order to secure tax protection on lemons and walnuts. He is bitterly opposed to nearly all other provisions of the measure. But his campaign for reelection is on and he imagines that a tariff tax on lemons and walnuts will help him in an uncertain contest. Senator Leroy, of Nebraska, abhors most of the features of the bill but the tax on beet sugar forces him to support the bill or at least makes it dangerous for him to vote against it. Other Senators are held in line by selfish interests. They would gladly vote to delay the passage until after the election and have been trying to accomplish that result by recommitting it. But the pressure from the White House is too strong for them. Of course all the Democrats in the Senate except the two from Louisiana are opposed to the bill and willing to join in any movement to defeat it. With this idea in view it is likely they will vote for recommitment. But they are not influenced to this course by politics. If they were looking only to political results they would let the measure go through at once. It will increase the tax burdens of the people at least one hundred per cent. and the cost of living quite as much, and that will be certain to cause a revolution in political sentiment before the next election. It affords the strongest argument for a Democratic Congress.

June has been a sad disappointment in various ways but what's the use of complaining. The Republican administration has been no more satisfactory and it makes one weary to just think of Congress.

June has been a sad disappointment in various ways but what's the use of complaining. The Republican administration has been no more satisfactory and it makes one weary to just think of Congress.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Two months ago Michael Lepski, 112 years old, of Pittsburgh, was hale and hearty. Then he injured his foot when he stumbled over an obstacle in his yard. The injury became infected. He died on Sunday. At an expense of \$60,000, the Manor township school board will erect at Millersville the biggest vocational high school building in Lancaster county. An enrollment of more than 100 pupils for next year is certain. Lightning played queer pranks in New Kensington last week when a bolt struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin McLaughlin, going through the roof, through the center of the bed in which they were sleeping and setting the bed on fire in three places. Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin were uninjured, not even suffering from shock. Lives of 150 passengers were imperiled at Chillisquaque, on Saturday, when a Pittsburgh-Easton express sidetracked a box car and switching engine that were leaving the main track to go on a siding. Engineer Ammerman, of the flyer, was quick to see his peril and materially slackened the speed of his train before it struck and demolished the car. The number of vacant farms in Pennsylvania is decreasing steadily and there are approximately one-half less untenanted farms this year than there were in 1920, the State Department of Agriculture reports. In 1920 there were 6500 farms vacant in Pennsylvania and last year there were 4100, but this year the number of farms not worked has dropped to 3820. A negro burglar Saturday night broke into the front door of Daniel Connors, of Pottsville, at midnight. Mrs. Connors saw him coming, ran upstairs, the negro following in pursuit with a revolver. Mr. Connors, just arriving, the man jumped through the second-story window, taking with him the frame and glass. He was arrested and proved to be William Sparley, recently paroled from the western penitentiary. City officials of Carry, Pa., have been informed by Attorney General Alter that fines assessed on motorists for speeding may be retained by the city and need not be turned over to the State. The Attorney General declared in the opinion that in permitting cities to retain fines assessed for speeding interest in the prosecution of traffic violations is stimulated, but fines for other infractions of the motor laws must be turned over to the State. State police are trying to learn the identity of a party of men, believed to be striking coal miners, who opened fire on the crew of a Pennsylvania freight train, as the crew were taking a string of cars from the Carr mine siding, near Export, Westmoreland county, Friday evening. Twenty shots were fired, and while there were no casualties, two of the crew had narrow escapes, a bullet grazing the neck of brakeman William Messler. Another bullet struck the heel of brakeman John McAllister. Tending a superannuated cat, doing all the house work and shoveling snow, were part of the duties of Miss Carrie Smith, of Reading, at a \$6 monthly salary as companion to the late Mrs. Mary E. Rhein, who died recently, leaving a \$80,000 estate, according to testimony in Orphan's court, in that city last week. Miss Smith is suing the estate for \$275 for services as nurse. The cat survived Mrs. Rhein, whose will bequeathed the animal to Miss Smith to care for. The will also gave Miss Smith \$500, with further compensation for caring for the cat. Lying face downward in a stall of his stable, with a bullet wound in his head, Zachariah W. Keller, of Mount Joy, was discovered early Saturday morning. His wallet was found some distance from the body, opened and rifled, the combination of circumstances tending to prove that he was murdered for his money. A coroner's jury later returned a verdict of murder by person or persons unknown. Keller had been in Lancaster early Friday night, and when he did not return shortly after midnight his wife and daughter made a search of the premises and the body was found. Two large stove mills will be put in operation on the Mont Alto state forest early this summer. It is estimated that during the next three years they will cut from 12,000 to 15,000 cords of chestnut wood killed by the blight. One mill will be located near the old Mont Alto Park and the other will be set up opposite Glen Furney along the East Branch of the Antietam creek, above Waynesboro. Apple and cement barrel staves will be among the chief products of the mill. Each mill will employ about 18 men on the mill and 7 in the woods. Two mills will give employment to at least 50 men. The Union church at Amityville, Berks county, which was wrecked by a storm on Sunday, June 11, has brought the congregation more income since its destruction than it did during any similar period before. Thousands of motorists have stopped to inspect the ruins of the historic edifice, and \$3000 has been contributed since it was wrecked. Women of the congregation have stationed themselves at the entrance to the church property and with contribution boxes appealed to the sightseers. On Sunday \$1000 was received in this manner. Frankfurter stands alone netted \$800. The church will be rebuilt. The Agricultural Trust and Savings company of Lancaster, resumed business last Thursday morning after being closed almost a year. Many of the small depositors withdrew their accounts, while the larger depositors added additional deposits. All of the depositors with \$200 or less in the bank are receiving dollar for dollar. Those with larger accounts are given their choice of buying stock to one-fifth the amount of their deposit and receiving the remainder dollar for dollar or allowing the receivers to settle their accounts. Of 2500 such depositors only 190 refused to take stock. The first day the deposits exceeded the withdrawals ten thousand dollars. The installation of a pipe organ in the Williamsport high school, for which the citizens subscribed \$10,000, will interfere with the plans of the annual state convention of the Knights of Pythias which will be held in Williamsport in August. Prior to letting the contract for the organ the school board rented the High school auditorium to the state lodge for its business sessions. It now develops that the work on the organ must be rushed during the month of August and the organ company stipulates in its contract that its workmen shall have quiet in the building while they are engaged. The circumstance forces the local lodge to find some other place for the sessions of the convention.