

INK SLINGS.

—Instead of taking the hides off of those who wear shoes the Senate has decided to have the proposed duty off of hides.

—If the coal strike keeps up a few months more we'll see a lot of people sawing wood whom we've never seen saw before.

—Senator Pepper imagines that returning flippant answers to inquiring letters is the same as "spitting in the eye of the bull dog."

—It may be significant that the corporations once made chairman Cooper, of the Railway Labor Board, Governor of Tennessee.

—Apparently Senator Jim Reed has won his fight for renomination in Missouri. He ought to have been licked and because he wasn't we must admit admiration for the only admirable characteristic he has, his nerve.

—Nothing can bear more convincing witness to the passing of the old Bellefonte than the failure of the Chautauqua. The new picture won't look right in the old frame but it's coming into place, just the same.

—Won't some woman please marry old man McCormick and won't that Ozer fellow please marry Mathilde and have an end of McCormick publicity. Everybody's growing tired of speculating who are to be the next to stick their feet under McCormick mahogany.

—What President Harding needs more than anything else is somebody to accept the offers he is making. Every morning a new proposal to settle the rail or the coal strike emanates from the White House and every night it wanders back because nobody appears to want it.

—If we didn't feel reasonably certain that the editor of the Clinton County Times clipped the fool stuff and is not responsible for it himself we would ask him how he expects to retain the respect of intelligent readers after blaming the Democrats for the money tourists spend abroad.

—"Republican revolt may revise tariff" said a head line in one of the Philadelphia Republican papers on Tuesday. While we love to see our friends in revolt we hope there'll be none of it over the Fordney-McCumber abortion. We want that to pass just as it is, for its passage will remove all doubt of Democratic success in 1924.

—It isn't what it costs to produce things that makes prices high. It is what it costs to buy them after they are produced. New York State dairymen are getting four cents the quart for milk that is sold in the cities for eighteen. Between the cow and the table there must be either a lot of profiteering or needless waste in handling.

—The budget bureau at Washington is reported to be clipping down estimates of the expenses for the fiscal year 1924 and hopes to get them to the point where it won't cost more than three billion to run the government. Isn't it awful how complacently we take things. It seems only a few years ago that we were throwing fits because a Congress appropriated one billion dollars for governmental affairs.

—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese member of the conference of allies now in session in London, must be the Will Hayes of Nippon. When Lloyd George, Premier Poincare and the delegates from Italy and Belgium had all aired their views the foxy Jap arose and said: "I think the single object of the allies should be to get all the money possible." The next thing we know the Baron will be running the movies in Japan.

—A recent straw vote taken in Bielefeld, Germany, showed an overwhelming preponderance of sentiment for prohibition. This is surprising, to say the least for if any country in the world might be expected to be wet it would be Germany. Another surprising and interesting fact revealed is that Germany annually drinks up three billion, five hundred million gold mark's worth of alcoholic beverages. Possibly it is Germany's thrift only that is back of the recent swing towards prohibition. If she saved the money spent on drink her reparations and other post war problems would be more than half solved.

—Sir Auckland Geddes has stirred up quite a bit of excitement—if excitement is the proper word to use in connection with the average stolid Englishman—in London by telling his people to brush up in their knowledge of the United States. He is their Ambassador to the court of Uncle Sam, you know, and laments the fact that they know so little of what our aims and purposes in life really are. English insularity is proverbial. The world's history reveals no period when they were not a self centered people; convinced that they were on a plane just a bit too exalted for any others to attain. John Bull always did know that the sun never sets on his Empire and naturally said to himself: "I should worry." But is John Bull the only one? We opine that Peter Stuyvesant, otherwise New York city, at least feigns as little knowledge of the rest of the United States as England admits through such blunders of her newspapers. Not one New Yorker in ten thinks that there is anything worth while transpiring off Manhattan Island and almost we would think they were English if we didn't know the most of them are not.

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Senator Gooding's Conscience.

Senator Gooding, of Idaho, continues to assert that his conscience is clear notwithstanding his vote for a tariff tax of about fifty cents a pound on wool. The rules of the Senate and an unwritten law of Congress forbid a Senator from voting upon any question in which he is financially interested and Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, and one or two others who are interested in the publishing business refrained from voting on the question of taxing wool pulp. But Gooding is one of those "goody-goody" statesmen of the Pinchot type whose consciences are differently constructed. He can see no harm in voting money into his own pocket even though he votes it out of the pockets of others who owe him nothing.

Senator Gooding admitted on the floor of the Senate the other day that he owns about 8000 sheep. The average "clip" is about five pounds so that his flocks would yield about 40,000 pounds of wool. Fifty cents a pound on this product would amount to \$20,000 a year to Senator Gooding and possibly as much or more to three or four other western Senators. But it will cost the people of the United States well onto a billion dollars to pay this trifling unearned largess to Senators whose consciences are not even seared by such selfishness. It would save money to make an appropriation direct to these Senators of whatever amount the tariff tax on their wool crops would come to at the schedule they have fixed.

However, these selfish Senators are not "pulling the wool over the eyes" of the public as they imagine. They bought their seats in the Senate for the purpose of influencing legislation which would repay them many times over and they may enjoy temporary success in their enterprise. But a tariff tax so obviously destructive of the industrial life of the country as the pending measure will not endure long and the Goodings and Bursons will retire at the expiration of their present terms dishonored and despised. No question is settled permanently in this country until it is settled right, and legislation which robs millions in order to pay unearned bounties to a few will not continue long.

—The Steel trust is coming into its own. It hasn't had a real live representative in the United States Senate since the death of Senator Knox, nearly a year ago, but the appointment of David A. Reed, chief of the legal staff, will supply the want.

Centralization the Gravest Danger.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, in addressing the Judiciary committee of the Senate, the other day, declared that pending legislation plainly indicated the purpose of "taking from courts, from local self-government, from the States, from constitutional authority in every shape and form, the conduct of the people's affairs and the control of those things that local communities have controlled during the whole history of this government and sticking it somewhere in a hidden bureau here in Washington." A precisely similar condition exists in Pennsylvania. Rural communities have been deprived of every semblance of local self-government. Bureaus in Harrisburg are in absolute control.

The government of the United States is based upon the principle of home rule. The Federal constitution declares that "The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited to it by the States, are reserved to the States respectively or to the people." The government of the State is predicated upon the same principle. In so far as possible the determination of local affairs were left to local authorities. During recent years, however, there has been a constant and increasing trend toward centralization of power at the National and State capitals. It gave greater opportunities for graft and multiplied facilities for strengthening political machines.

The result is that the people of a community who know better than any one else what the neighborhood needs have no voice in the matter. They are not allowed to build an addition to the local school house until the bureau at Harrisburg gives consent. A farmer is not permitted to move an outhouse without the sanction of a bureau at Harrisburg and a break in the road cannot be repaired until a bureau at Harrisburg gives permission. As Senator Borah says, this is a greater danger to the country than any that has preceded it. It converts a popular form of government into a bureaucracy and subverts every principle of democracy to the base uses of corrupt politicians.

—A figure man estimates that the pending tariff bill will increase the cost of meat to the consumers of this country \$231,000,000. No wonder the cow jumped over the moon."

Senator Reed's Nomination.

The renomination of Senator James A. Reed for another term by the Democrats of Missouri has disappointed the hopes of a vast number of Democrats throughout the country. Elected as a Democrat six years ago Senator Reed has been a most helpful supporter of the Republican machine in its nefarious schemes. In opposing the ratification of the covenant of the League of Nations he did more than the spiteful and malicious Lodge to defeat the sublime purposes for which the world war was fought and the supreme sacrifices were made. What influenced his mind to the course he pursued has never been revealed. But in any event his actions disqualified him as a representative of the party he pretended to serve.

We are not moved to expressions of regret that he is nominated entirely by his attitude of opposition to former President Wilson. A Senator in Congress is entitled to his own views on public questions and when they happen to run in a direction opposite to those of the President, though they be of the same party, he is within his right to express and pursue them. But he has no right to set himself up against a vast majority of those in whose name he holds his commission. If he is in such an attitude he ought to resign. He is no longer a representative of his constituents. Senator Reed's renomination is not a vindication of his course in the Senate. It was brought about by other reasons and vastly different influences.

On a direct issue upon the question of Senator Reed's attitude on the League of Nations, he would have been defeated. There were a good many German sympathizers in Missouri during the war and there are a good many cross currents on various questions in that State now, and all of these were brought into action during the very intense primary campaign in his interests. The Republicans contributed largely toward his success, moreover, because they imagine he will be easier to defeat at the general election than his opponent. In this expectation they may be disappointed and his re-election will continue in the Senate a stormy petrel who will give them as much trouble in the future as he gave comfort in the past.

—Congress may force the Fordney tariff bill through before the election but the smell of the scandals which have been developed during its consideration will not be entirely abated within that period.

Pennypacker and Pinchot.

In the public life of Pennsylvania there has never been a figure freer from vice and corruption than the late Samuel W. Pennypacker. A philosopher and scholar his simple life was spent in the fulfillment of his obligations as a citizen and public servant. As a judge on the bench he was kindly but careful, lenient but just. When he entered upon the duties of the office of Governor he was without a selfish or dishonest impulse. Yet during his administration the greatest crimes against the people were perpetrated and the biggest scandals of his generation were developed. Nobody believed then that he was implicated and nobody imagines now that he was culpable.

But when Samuel W. Pennypacker entered upon the duties of the office of Governor of Pennsylvania he affiliated himself with the Republican machine. He meant well and thought he was strong enough mentally and morally to guide his official actions and those of his subordinates in office safely in the interests of the people whom he loved as a father loves his children. He was exceptionally strong mentally and morally but before his administration was a year old the sinister influences of a corrupt party machine had so completely overcome him that he was as helpless as a babe in its toils and the corruptionists proceeded to loot the treasury and rob the people in every conceivable way.

If the Republican machine candidate for State Treasurer had been elected in 1905 these iniquities might never have been revealed, and the looting operations would have continued indefinitely. We are in a practically similar situation now. Mr. Gifford Pinchot may be as honest as he and his friends claim, though his method of getting his salary as Commissioner of Forestry increased suggests a doubt. But if elected he will be as completely under the control of the political machine as Pennypacker was and quite as helpless. The election of John A. McSparran is the only guarantee of an honest administration of the office. He will have no political or personal friends to shield or favor.

—There may be a difference between a machine bossed by Grundy and one bossed by Vare but it isn't perceptible to the naked eye.

Another Tariff Scandal Revealed.

Tariff scandals multiply in Washington. Last week the Gooding exposure "raised a storm in the Senate" when Senator Caraway, of Arkansas, proposed an investigation. This week Senator Harrison, of Mississippi, brought to the attention of the country a conspiracy in which Senator Smoot, of Utah, largely concerned in the sugar beet industry, proposed to tax the consumers a few hundred million dollars a year in order that he might put a few thousand dollars into his own pocket by means of a tariff on sugar. His plan was to limit the crop in Cuba so that prices might be increased in the United States, the tariff tax being high enough to keep the product of other countries out.

Senator Smoot, who is the head Apostle of the Mormon church in Utah, and the head master of the Republican machine in the United States Senate, presented his plan to General Crowder, who occupies a position of influence in Cuba as representative of the government of the United States by appointment of President Harding. "I am sure," Mr. Smoot wrote to General Crowder, "the limitation of the Cuban crop of sugar for the present year to 2,500,000 tons, will be a solution of the problem, not only for Cuba, but for the United States as well. So sure am I of this that I think it would be wise to have incorporated in the pending tariff bill a rate of duty of 13 cents per pound. I am sure that Hon. Eugene Meyer, of the War Finance Corporation, is ready to assist in financing the sugar refiners on their exportation of sugar to foreign countries."

Senator Smoot hoped to enlist the President of Cuba in his enterprise to mulct the consumers of sugar in the United States. In his letter to General Crowder he says: "I hope you will lay before the President of Cuba my attitude toward the sugar industry both of Cuba and of the United States." He no doubt felt that he had a "cinch" on the authorities of the United States through General Crowder and the Mr. Meyer, of the Finance Corporation, but he needed the co-operation of the authorities in Cuba to guarantee success in his scheme to increase the cost of living in the United States. With such men in control of the legislation in Washington we have a gloomy future before us.

—Probably Secretary of State Hughes will spend his vacation looking for something of real value that has come out of the Washington conference.

—The appointment of Toner E. Hugg as deputy revenue collector in the Twelfth district of Pennsylvania is naturally a reward for his subservience to the organization at all times and under all circumstances. In his case, at least, it has paid to "stick with the gang." A number of years ago he was made an inspector of streams under the State Health Department. Then he was appointed an investigator of deaths in Centre county, for inheritance tax purposes in the Auditor General's department, but as the emoluments of this office are only \$1200 a year and necessary expenses he was not loath to resign and accept the position of deputy revenue collector, which pays \$2500 a year and expenses. The headquarters of the Twelfth district are in Scranton but Mr. Hugg will work in the division with headquarters in Williamsport where Harry B. Speaker is in charge.

—W. E. Tobias has resigned his position as postmaster at Clearfield after serving about two years and six months. The office pays a salary of \$3300 a year, but Mr. Tobias claims he is compelled to work thirteen hours a day seven days a week to earn it, owing to the fact that the Postoffice Department will not allow him sufficient clerical help to do the work. The business of the Clearfield office last year exceeded \$63,000 but postmaster Tobias was compelled to get along with a force of nine clerks, whereas other offices with much less business have from twelve to fifteen clerks. Mr. Tobias' resignation was effective July 31st but he will continue to serve until his successor is appointed.

—The Harding smile is a potent force but it is not entirely satisfying as a medium for paying dividends on funds contributed to the slush fund in 1920.

—Premier Lloyd George and former Premier Asquith threaten to write books and if they carry out the purpose heaven help the public.

—Rich men running for office may think they are expressing a form of philanthropy but they don't fool half the people half the time.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Need of Political Change.

From the Philadelphia Record.
There are several reasons why Mr. McSparran ought to be elected Governor, but the one comprehensive and compelling reason is that set forth when Mr. McSparran said that the cause of the political scandals in the State was the fact that one party had held uninterrupted control of it.

It is inevitable that the character of a party's administration of a city or a State should deteriorate. The men who can use politics for their personal benefit in one way or another can devote more time and energy and money to politics than men who have simply disinterested desire for good government. The men who are in politics for what they can get out of it in wealth or power or the satisfaction of their ambitions will be no more scrupulous than is necessary. There is always the temptation to yield, and if there is no danger to offset it the yielding is a foregone conclusion.

The Republican party in this city and State is not afraid. The opposition to it has not for a long time been potent enough to scare it into assuming a virtue when it did not possess it. It made little difference how obnoxious the candidates were; the managing politicians felt sure of the party vote. They felt no necessity of "pandering to the better element" because the "better element" would vote the regular ticket and ask no questions, and content itself with sighing after the election that politics was corrupt and politicians were a bad lot.

Law is evaded here as it would not be if the party in power were in the least fear of the opposition. Take the salary of Mr. Pinchot, for example. The object of the law against increasing it is perfectly plain and perfectly proper. But it was evaded by Mr. Pinchot's resignation of his \$5000 office and his reappointment to it the next day at the enhanced salary of \$8000. Take the position of Mr. Kephart. The law requires a State Treasurer to make way for a new man. It is a perfectly proper law based upon an obviously good reason. The safety of the State's funds requires that a man should not be able to cover up his management—or mismanagement—of the public funds beyond his own term of office. There should be an opportunity for a new man to get at the books and find out things. The law was circumvented by creating the office of Assistant Treasurer for Mr. Kephart.

There was no defalcation. But money was advanced to politicians. The State lost interest on tax collections that were kept out of the Treasury for considerable periods. Funds much in excess of the limits fixed by law—here was a direct violation of the law—were deposited in certain banks. What service did they render to Mr. Kephart or the Republican party that they should be favored with large deposits of State funds in violation of law?

It is the simplest common sense, it is the exercise of the prudence without which a man could not avoid bankruptcy, that the State of Pennsylvania should not leave the correction—covering up of the scandals to a man under obligations to the Republican party, but should elect the Democratic candidate for Governor.

Equally Guilty.

From The Philadelphia Public Ledger.

John L. Lewis, speaking for the anthracite miners of Pennsylvania, says he will be "glad" to confer immediately with the anthracite operators.

S. D. Warriner, the operators' chief spokesman, says that the anthracite operators will be "glad" to confer immediately with the anthracite miners.

Mr. Lewis adds that he "will not be the one to call a hard coal conference. Mr. Warriner does not seem minded to extend an invitation setting a time and place for a meeting that must inevitably come.

Both assert a willingness to settle, but neither group will invite the other. There is evasion, jockeying, playing for time.

Meanwhile there is no hard coal above ground and winter is coming. There is a coal shortage now. There will be a dangerous shortage before the first freezes harden the ground. It is so late in the year now that a shortage will exist if the strike should be settled tomorrow and the mines were working at top pressure the next day.

When the coal starts coming up the railways will be swamped and smothered by it. Coal cannot be moved fast enough to avert coal famines showing all over the map. Soft coal and coke and fuel oil cannot take the place of the hard coal that a vast area, crowded with homes, is dependent upon.

Today both sides are seeking to place the blame upon the other. They wait and evade while the forces of winter are gathering up there in the north. The operators want to throw the responsibility on the miners. The miners seek to throw the blame on the operators.

The public is about ready to throw the blame on both sides and equally. Every day that passes with the strike unsettled is bringing days of privation and suffering next winter.

It is high time for stiff-neckedness to come to an end. It is time for both sides to move for peace.

—The "Watchman" gives all the news while it is news.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Clyde Creveling, one of Bloomsburg's best known men, was shot through the breast and perhaps fatally wounded on Monday by Thomas Samuels, who was arrested and held to await the outcome of Creveling's injuries.

—John F. Short, of Clearfield, formerly United States marshal for western Pennsylvania, and now in charge of the publicity department of the Democratic State committee, announces that the "History of the First Bathub in Clearfield" is ready for publication in his paper, The Clearfield Republican.

—Socrates Santis, aged 22 years, a baker, was drawn into the bread-mixing machine at the Dan and Henton bakery, Ellwood City, early last Friday and smothered to death in the dough. His hand caught in the machine and he was pulled in head foremost. No one was in the room at the time and he was dead when found.

—Harry Kephley, of Womelsdorf, a plumber employed by Harry G. Schaeffer, of that place, knows what it is like to be buried alive. A trench in which he was working caved in and three feet of earth covered the man. Other workmen began digging frantically, expecting to find him dead. The debris, however, formed a sort of air pocket which kept Kephley alive until he was uncovered.

—Harvey Sellers, aged 10 years, of Hollidaysburg, and a number of companions on Friday found a can containing blasting powder, some of which Sellers placed in a trouser pocket. The boys then applied a match to the remainder and the flames set fire to Sellers' clothes, igniting the powder in his pocket. Terribly burned, Sellers jumped into a stream to extinguish the flames and was nearly drowned.

—Thieves using auto trucks, in one night last week tore down the bleachers, fences, grandstands and clubhouse of the baseball park, at Drifton, Luzerne county, and carried away the lumber. The sport field was given to the people of Drifton in 1910, by Eckley B. Cox Jr., who at his death a few years ago bequeathed to the University of Pennsylvania \$500,000 for the carrying on of archeological research in Egypt.

—The Schuylkill county commissioners on Saturday paid \$821,000 as the county's share of the construction of the new highway between Vulcan and Hometown. The State has paid the same sum, making a total of \$1,642,000 for sixteen miles of concrete roadway. The new highway will not be opened at once for traffic, although all the road building is completed, as the construction of a bridge at Kohlnoor colliery will occupy several weeks.

—Treasure hunters in search of a pot of gold said to be buried at Jumoenville, Fayette county, during the French war have dug large trenches in that section of the mountains, according to M. J. Phillips, a resident of that place. It is a tradition that the gold was buried by a French paymaster when the defeat of the French was certain. Recently property owners at Jumoenville have been asked to issue permits to dig up adjacent acres in further search for the pot of gold.

—First blanks for information as to the number of hogs on Pennsylvania farms and the possibilities for the swine industry were distributed last week by agents of the State Department of Agriculture in the western and central counties, following a meeting at Lancaster. It is estimated there are 1,000,000 hogs on Pennsylvania farms, but there is an opportunity for profitable raising of many more, as the State does not supply 75 per cent. of the pork and products it consumes.

—Mrs. Ethel G. Felcher, a policeman's wife at Reading, is on duty from 4 p. m. to midnight. Her work is among women and children. She gets around to the playgrounds, dance halls and other places where young people gather. She was the park officer until appointed to the regular police force. Her salary is \$1350 a year, which is \$200 less than a male policeman receives, but her day is four hours shorter and there are no deductions from her pay for summer and winter uniforms.

—What is declared to be the biggest strike of natural gas in the east for years, and the largest east of the Tidewater district, was made Wednesday on Kettle creek, forty-three miles from Lock Haven. Officials of the Clinton Natural Gas and Oil company estimate the flow at 3,000,000 cubic feet. This company has five other wells in that region, and already enough natural gas has been tapped to supply the Lock Haven and other adjacent towns. The members of the company are so elated over the big strike that they will proceed at once to put down additional wells.

—Peter Sarako, employed in a tannery plant at Ludlow, nine miles from Kane, was struck by lightning on the main street of that town on Sunday afternoon, and was dead when picked up. Sarako had just left his work in the tannery and was walking along the street with two boys. He was in the act of handing an umbrella to one of the boys when the bolt struck. The man and boy were hurled to the ground, but the lad escaped uninjured. There were no marks on Sarako except a slight discoloration near the left eye. He was 34 years of age and leaves a wife and two children.

—The largest check for inheritance tax ever received by the register of wills of Chester county was paid into the office at West Chester last Thursday from the estate of the late Sharpless Worth, millionaire steel magnate, of Coatesville. The amount paid was \$468,750, and Register of Wills John S. Craft will receive about \$5000 of the amount. The amount paid is supposed to be one-tenth of the appraisement of the estate, reputed to be in all about \$10,000,000. Investigators for the register will make a thorough investigation into the estate to determine if the amount paid is correct.

—The Workmen's Compensation Board has awarded Mrs. Muriel M. Ush, widow of constable Thomas M. Ush, of Liverpool, Perry county, compensation for the death of her husband, who was slain in the Daniel Benner home, in Juniata county, September 1st, 1921, while serving a warrant on Daniel Benner. The board found that Ush, as a policeman of the borough of Liverpool, was acting in his line of duty when executing a warrant issued by a justice of the peace of the borough, although the defendant was found in another county. The case was reargued before the board by district attorney John J. Patterson, of Juniata county, for the widow, February 1st last. The board awarded the widow and her two children the sum of \$3287.91. For the killing of the constable one member of the Benner family was convicted of murder in the first degree and another is now serving time in the penitentiary.