

INK SLINGS.

Sunday's rain was a God-send. It takes one hundred years to grow a stately elm and one day to cut it down.

There are lots of things you would do if you were the other fellow, but being yourself you don't do them.

Oh for the days of 1864 when a ten dollar gold piece bought as much as twenty-eight dollars and fifty cents will buy today.

The new moon is lying far in the southern skies, which means warm weather; we hope, at least until local dealers get some coal in stock.

Mr. Arthur Brisbane, who is heralded as the "world's highest paid editorial writer," exudes more piffle than most of the world's lowest paid men of the pen.

Secretary Herbert Hoover's idea of a "fair price" for coal doesn't seem to have been absorbed by many of the gentlemen who are producing what is on the market today.

Of course Senator Reed is not for a bonus for the soldiers. He was a soldier, 'tis true, but he has all he can use and more so he is opposed to giving anything to the boys who are not as pampered with pelf as he is.

Former State Treasurer Kephart now declares that the late Senator Crow ordered him to pad the State's pay roll. Mr. Kephart gave testimony on this question before the Senator died, but he made no such charge then.

We all make mistakes. The "Watchman" makes a lot of them, but we've got the dead sure dope this time and you're to be let in on it. The next Governor of Pennsylvania will be at the Granger's picnic, at Centre Hall, next Thursday.

The Phillipsburg Journal thinks that because "wise men talk to a purpose others should not talk." Are we to infer from this that some one has been mean enough to say that the "nice Eighth street home" that brother Bair has for sale isn't as nice as he says it is.

Henry W. Haysen, who thinks he is a candidate for President, has been sentenced to thirty days in jail, in Cincinnati, for drunkenness. Henry is running on a "Universal Brotherhood" ticket and it is quite possible the joys of the Brotherhood led to his downfall.

Next week the kids will all be back in school and gloom is falling on them but joy is fluttering around the mothers who have had to look after them ever since June. Isn't it awful, what a trouble kids are, but would you give one of yours up for all the joys that could be conceived?

Bellefonte is away behind the times. Last week there was a garden party in Lock Haven and of the two hundred and fifty women present there was not one short skirt. The days are past, girls, for frizzily bobbed hair and fifteen inch skirts. You've got to get back to the place where your bow-legged sisters can be just as stylish as you are.

Elizabeth Frazer, we'll bet, got them coming and going when she wrote that article on the Pinchots that was published in last week's Saturday Evening Post. It wasn't marked "political advertisement" but that's what it was all the same and the Curtis Publishing Company probably paid Miss Frazer for it and Giff probably paid the Curtis Publishing Company.

Some of the modern methods of doing things are not as modern as some believe. Take the loose-leaf system, for example: While it is generally supposed to have come into use in 1888 we know that it was in use ages and ages before that. In fact Adam and Eve must have known something of the loose leaf system in the Garden of Eden. The fact that there was a Cain to kill Abel proves that.

There is a good bit of discussion in scientific journals, these days, about what should comprise the breakfast of a brain-worker. Since we set up no claim to classification among those whose great producing plants are located above the Adam's apple, we feel that we can eat anything we can get for our matutinal meal. They can prate as much as they please about hot water and prunes or excelsior with cream and sugar, but give us the old-fashioned breakfast we used to have when there was always meat and potatoes and eggs and hot cakes. Certainly there were brain-workers in those days. At least they did enough brain work to provide breakfasts that would look to us now like a Chamber of Commerce banquet.

If Pinchot should take advantage of the chance John McSparran has offered him there would be an interesting afternoon at the Granger's picnic next Thursday. As the program stands Pinchot is scheduled to speak in the morning and McSparran in the afternoon, but we have just learned that our candidate has invited his opponent to meet him on the same platform at the same hour. This is interesting. McSparran has been trying to get Pinchot to meet him for some time but Giff hasn't found it convenient. It is generally known that he hasn't any other important engagements for Thursday afternoon and if he side-steps the invitation that McSparran has extended it will be admission of weakness and if he accepts it he will probably be put so deep in the hole that he'll never get out.

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Pinchot's Platform Disappointing.

Mr. Pinchot opened his campaign for Governor of Pennsylvania at Allentown on Saturday by pledging himself to several propositions against which there is no opposition. He says he will drive the saloons out of the State and prevent bootlegging. Only the Legislature can do one of these things and the courts the other. Mr. Pinchot's promise is therefore only foolish and futile gesture. He promises to maintain and secure good laws for the protection of working children, women and men. The only opposition to such a policy in recent years has come from Joe Grundy, who spent \$80,000 to secure Pinchot's nomination and is not a professional philanthropist. Maybe he will accept Grundy's interpretation of such laws.

There is probably not a thinking man or woman in Pennsylvania opposed to any of the other propositions set forth by Mr. Pinchot as his personal platform. Even Senators Vare, Eyre and Leslie, the conspirators who met with Governor Sproul in somebody's back room and brought out a candidate against Pinchot, are willing to "safeguard the industries and promote the prosperity of Pennsylvania," and "advance the interests of the farmers who feed us all." Most men and women will also favor giving "our children the best schools in America," and "keep the expenses of the State within its income," as well as "get a dollar's worth of service for every dollar spent." Moreover it may be said that opposition to woman suffrage is as "dead as a door nail."

But these are not the causes of complaint against the Republican machine which has adopted Mr. Pinchot and is now striving to make him Governor. It is such offenses against common honesty as violating an oath of office and the constitution of the State in order to grab an increase of salary without giving increased service for the additional dollars spent. Pinchot made neither promise nor explanation of that trifling but contemptible trick to loot the treasury and he never said a word about spending fifty thousand dollars more than an office is worth to get a nomination, or how he expects to "split even" on the proposition. And a man who stultifies himself to get a small amount is not ready to lose a much larger sum.

Penrose saved the party from defeat in 1902 by settling the coal strike in the anthracite region, and Senator Pepper imagines he will be able to achieve the same result by the same process this year.

Senator Reed Opposed to Bonus.

In his maiden speech in the United States Senate, the other day, Senator Reed, representative of the Steel trust in the upper branch of Congress, declared himself against the soldiers' bonus. "I am not willing," he said, "to pass the buck to the President." That was not only cute and courageous, but a trifle tough. It is almost as good as "spitting in the eye of a bull dog," and shows that there is nothing "stuck up" about Reed. He could easily affiliate with "Buck" Devlin or any of the "underworld" statesmen in Philadelphia or Pittsburgh. It reveals in plain terms the reasons why Mr. Reed was favored by the Republican machine so highly.

Mr. Reed, enjoying a salary of at least five figures from the Steel trust, which is taxed for income more than the average bonus would come to, and a lesser but fairly substantial wage from the government as a Senator in Congress, doesn't need any bonus. He would much rather see the national debt paid and the income tax decreased. Incidentally he would vastly prefer to pay subsidies to ship owners and bounties to service corporations. Most of the agents of very big and exceedingly predatory corporations view such subjects from the same angle. Senator Pepper, who represents the Pennsylvania railroad, is fully convinced that there is no other side to the question.

Mr. Reed and Mr. Pepper are candidates for election to the Senate at the coming election. Strangely enough neither the Steel trust nor the Pennsylvania railroad can make permanent appointment to seats in the Senate. If they could the problem would be easily solved. But the people of the State and the veterans of the world war have a voice at the polls and thus equipped an opportunity to oppose the election of the two gentlemen who have so frankly expressed opposition to the bonus. Judge Shull, of Stroudsburg, and Colonel Kerr, of Clearfield, favor full and complete justice to the war heroes and if elected will serve the public instead of the corporations in the Senate.

Pinchot is also "spitting in the eye of a bull dog." He inferentially accuses Governor Sproul of making a mess of affairs in Harrisburg.

Pinchot's Absurd Pretenses.

In a speech delivered just before the final vote on the Fordney tariff bill in the Senate, Senator Smoot, first apostle of the Mormon church and one of the leaders in the Republican majority on the floor, said "this is an embargo a thousand times over and worse than an embargo." No human being can defend these rates before the American people." Senator Smoot is a man of great force, an intellectual giant. But the power of the party machine compelled him to subdue his conscience, betray his public obligation and stultify himself by voting for the measure he had thus condemned. Strong as he is mentally and physically, he was unable to stand against the coercive power of politics.

In the face of this example of helplessness Gifford Pinchot is trying to deceive the public into the belief that if elected Governor of Pennsylvania he will set up policies and adopt methods of his own in spite of the machine of this State. An intellectual freak and a physical "sissy" he declares he will resist the power of such virile politicians and trained party bosses as W. Harry Baker, Joseph R. Grundy and Max Leslie. He may be deceiving himself in this manner and possibly he will fool a few feeble-minded partisans who want to be deceived. But no intelligent voter will be deceived after analyzing the proposition. No man is greater than his party and the alacrity with which the machine managers have come to the support of Pinchot shows that they understand.

If Gifford Pinchot is elected Governor the old Penrose machine "will resume business at the old stand." Boies Penrose will be absent at the roll call but that is an unimportant detail. W. Harry Baker, who has been the real Penrose manager for half a dozen years, and Joseph R. Grundy, who has financed all his political enterprises within the last ten years, will be there to represent him and they will run the machine just as they did before. Mr. Pinchot undertook to steer a different course by selecting his own chairman. But the bosses promptly rebuked his absurd pretenses and pointed out to him his proper place. Since that he has been doing enough to satisfy the most exacting master.

It was hardly necessary for "Giff" to say that the measure of his ambition will be filled with his election as Governor of Pennsylvania. Any further ambitions on his part, in view of recent events, are likely to be disappointed.

The Source of Our Trouble.

In a speech delivered in the Senate, the other day, one of the most capable and conservative members of that body said "this is going to be the worst year for business in our history. More concerns will fail than ever before." And this in the face of and immediately following the official report of a crop upwards of a billion dollars in excess of that of last year and touching closely the bumper high mark of the most prolific yield of the soil. What is the matter? There is no great army to absorb the fruits of industry. The navy has been cut down to a peace basis. This ought to be a year of exceptional prosperity.

The fact is that the administration of the government is profligate and inefficient. Instead of mitigating the evils necessarily attending national reconstruction after a great war the aim of those in authority has seemed to be to increase them. We refused to join the rest of the civilized world in adjusting industrial and commercial conditions by the processes offered in the League of Nations, and we failed to reorganize domestic affairs by boosting up instead of pressing down the cost of living. We are paying the penalty of putting inferior men in control of affairs that require the guidance of the greatest minds.

President Harding has neither the ability nor the disposition to administer the affairs of a great government. A free junket in a government ship is of more importance to him than the sufferings of millions of people. A half day on the golf links is worth more in his shallow mind than an act of beneficence which would relieve distress in a million homes. And what is wrong in Washington is wrong also in Harrisburg. We have in power in both places vain, feeble and pleasure-loving men who neither understand nor care. Because of these facts the future is ominous and it is the fault of the people.

One of the principal objections to commissions is that they provide ten thousand dollar a year jobs for one thousand dollar a year politicians.

A careful investigation would probably develop the fact that the Republican machine is behind the movement for a third party this year.

Law Making in Washington.

Debates in the United States Senate are mostly stupid but occasionally interesting. For example, during a discussion on the bonus bill the other day Senator Wadsworth, of New York, declared that "there will come a time when the American people cannot bear any more taxation burdens." He voted for the Fordney tariff bill which will add more than two billion dollars a year to the burden. "We lost \$450,000,000 in revenues," said Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, "by repealing the excess profits tax." "Excess profit taxes were not paid by the rich corporations," Wadsworth replied. "The tax was shifted all down the line until the very poor paid it." "There never was a time," Senator Borah, of Idaho, remarked, "when the corporations did not pass their taxes on to the consumer."

At this stage of the proceeding the discussion took on a serious turn. Mr. Wadsworth reverted to the evil of excessive taxation. "There is nothing more heinous," he said, "than for a government to impose unbearable taxation on the people. It is here revolution begins. This question of dollars has become the greatest question that confronts the men and women of America." This was sublime but the Senator being versatile glides easily to the ridiculous. "What can be done with a capital of \$100?" he asks, and answering himself adds: "It will make a last payment on a flivver." "It will make a last payment on a cook stove or something else necessary for the veteran's wife and family," said the Missouri "butter-in," Senator Reed.

"Payments have been postponed for three years," said Wadsworth, "in order that methods of taxation may be evolved," and within that period he has voted millions of dollars to guarantee profits to railroads, hundreds of millions to pay subsidies to ship owners who contributed to the Republican slush fund two years ago, and billions to reimburse the tariff-mongers of the country, through the medium of the Fordney bill. In view of these facts Senator Reed was not impressed by the sob stuff. "Payments were deferred three years to wait until the Democrats came in to raise the money," he said. The dialogue ended and the page boys retired to the cloak rooms to ponder upon the wisdom of "most grave Senators" who thus frame the policies and destinies of a nation.

Centre county voters who care to hear Gifford Pinchot, the Republican candidate for Governor, open his campaign so far as Centre county is concerned, next Thursday, will have to go to Grange park to do it. The only available hour open that day for his talk is 10:30 o'clock in the morning, and that is the time the Republican meeting will be held. Mr. Pinchot's original itinerary included a visit to both State College and Bellefonte but these trips will probably be abandoned because of the fact that so many people will be at the Granger's picnic that few would be at home to greet the candidate in either State College or Bellefonte.

Bellefonte coal dealers are entirely out of hard coal and inasmuch as the strike of the anthracite mines is apparently no nearer settlement now than it was two months ago many families in Bellefonte will have to use bituminous coal, as very few have a supply of hard coal on hand. While the bituminous strike has been settled and the miners are gradually returning to work it will be some time before the supply gets up to normal, so that the shortage will be serious for a month or six weeks to come.

Well, if the President doesn't veto it, the soldiers will likely get their bonus bill in a short time. The Senate, which had been the stumbling block has finally decided to pass it.

The increase of wages by the Steel trust may be a tribute to improved industrial conditions and it may be a gesture to bolster the Fordney tariff bill.

Chairman Baker has given Pinchot full license to say what he likes, but Joe Grundy has been ominously silent on the subject.

The discovery of a billion dollar loss in revenues has been made, singularly enough, precisely at the psychological moment to influence votes against the soldiers' bonus.

President Harding might accomplish more by his various activities if he would "stay put," for at least a week or so at a time.

It is actually dangerous to suggest a new idea these days. Somebody is likely to ask for a government commission to put it into operation.

Government Operation.

From the Philadelphia Record. Of course it is incredible that a nation of 110,000,000 persons should have its industries stopped and be threatened with hunger and cold because of wage disputes on the railways and at the mines. Therefore it is quite certain that if the employers and the employees do not agree very soon the President, probably with a mandate from Congress, will operate a part at least of the railways and the anthracite mines.

But the government cannot dig coal or repair engines in its own person; it has got to hire men to do the work. Presumably they will be the strikers. The companies have not succeeded in getting enough men to do the work, and the government is not likely to find it easier than the companies to get men. Probably there are not enough competent men among the government's employees, say in the military and naval services, to do the work. The government, therefore, will have to procure men to dig the coal and carry on the repair shops.

But it has no authority to make men work in the mines and the shops against their will, and it is quite certain that Congress will not give it such authority, and if it did grant the authority it would be futile because it could only put men in the mines and the shops; it couldn't make them do a thing, except by punishing them for not doing anything, and that is unthinkable.

So if the President shall seize the mines and the railways and undertake to supply the community with fuel and transportation it will have to induce several thousand men to work for it. Will they work for any less than the sums they struck for? Probably not. Furthermore, there is no reason why they should be content with the wages for which they struck. They knew there were limits to the amount they could get from the companies even by threatening the suspension of business. But there are no limits to the amount they might conceivably get from the government which has ample facilities for levying taxes and issuing bonds.

The immediate result of taking over the railways by the government in the war was a very great increase of wages. Wages were very high in the shippings. The government is now disbursing \$1,500,000 among the men employed by the Bethlehem Steel works on account of extra wages given to them at the instance of the government. The men are quite likely, then, to demand from the government higher wages than they demanded from the companies. The government will pay whatever is demanded in order to keep the wheels turning and if the government shall make a move to restore the mines and the roads to their owners the latter will have to agree to pay the same wages that the government paid, or there will be another strike.

Government operation of mines and railways involves a good deal besides an act of Congress authorizing Mr. Harding to seize the properties.

A Right Memorial.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. The memorial to American soldiers who rescued Cantigny from the Germans in May, 1918, is to take the form of a perennial water supply for the village. The fund is the contribution of Americans. This is a memorial of a proper kind. The first thing the village needs, in the slow process of re-establishing its homes and its industries, is an ample supply of water. The fields may be cleared and the crops replanted by individual effort; the reversion of the public utilities is a corporate task too large and too costly for those who were driven out by the German shells and lost their all in the ruins.

Statues, bas-reliefs and monuments commemorative of heroism everywhere abound, and the sculptor has his admirable function in creating the emblems and inspire posterity to emulation. But this work of daily service to the whole settled region means even more than a statue or a bas-relief. It should not exclude the principles of graceful architectural design; fitly it may invite the sculptor's contributory art to tell the story of the gift. As the people daily share the benefits of the water of life that freely flows, where the blood of warriors ebbed in death but yesterday, they will give thanks and they will not forget.

Reed Opposed to Bonus Bill.

From the Altoona Tribune. The attitude of Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, on the bonus issue was awaited with considerable interest. He has answered the question without hesitation or evasion. A soldier in the world war, an officer in the American army, he has just joined his colleague, Senator George Wharton Pepper in the resolution not to do anything to embarrass President Harding at this stage of the country's progress. So he will vote against the proposed bonus bill at this time, believing that the President is entirely correct when he declares that the condition of the country at the present time makes it impossible to appropriate such large sums as the bonus would require. Senator Reed has a proper appreciation of the deserts of his former comrades. But he has a notion that national well-being requires economy in every branch of government activity at this particular time.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Pittsburgh specialists have leased 500 acres of land in Clinton county to prospect for oil and gas.

Notices of an increase in wages, to take place on September 14th, have been posted in the Milton plant of the American Car and Foundry company. Large orders for tank cars which are manufactured there was given as the reason, and it was also said by the management that 200 men will be added to the force as soon as materials are assembled.

George Gunn, whose home was at Glenside, in Montgomery county, was taken to the Chester county prison early last Thursday from Charlotte, N. C., and is held for a hearing on the charge of planning and assisting in executing a robbery at the National Bank at Elverson nearly two years ago, when \$25,000 in cash and a large amount in securities and bonds were taken.

Five houses at Hazleton were struck by lightning, hundreds of cellars were flooded, some streets washed out and the fire alarm system was disabled in a severe electrical storm early on Saturday. A bolt of lightning hit the home of Anthony Skales and set fire to the beds he and his wife and children occupied, but the flames were extinguished before much damage occurred.

A bruise caused when his wife struck his thumb with a hammer instead of the head of a tack at which she aimed, resulted in the death of C. F. Rafter, mine superintendent of Cheat Haven, in the Uniontown hospital. The finger became infected several days after the accident and septic poisoning caused his death, although his arm was amputated in an effort to save his life.

Men hunting groundhogs in the vicinity of Hazleton last week chased one of the animals into a hole and in digging for it came across six gallons of whiskey, cached there. The beverage was more attractive than the meat in prospect and the hunt was abandoned by the hunters, who divided up the prize, and now there is likely to be a pronounced increase in groundhog hunters in that section of the State.

A hook in the chamber wall of the locks at Catfish dam, Port Kennedy, saved Mrs. John Alderfer, a member of a party of Philadelphia campers, from drowning on Sunday night. In the darkness of the night she failed to notice her nearness to the locks and slipped in. As she fell her duck skirt caught on a protruding spike or hook and while she was in the water almost to her chin she was able to cry for help.

Five years ago, little Andy Bednar, of Sandy Creek, Allegheny county, lost two fingers of his right hand while working around a gasoline engine on the farm of the Thorn Hill detention school. Recently released from the school, he immediately brought suit against Allegheny county for damages, but discovered that the statute of limitations for bringing the suit had expired, and that he was in danger of losing the claim in its entirety. The matter dragged on for some time until a meeting of the Allegheny county commissioners was arranged, and it was decided to award the boy \$1500 for his injuries.

Persons who use the mails for transmission of checks in payment for public utility service must bear the consequences of any resultant penalties for default, according to a ruling of the Public Service Commission in dismissing a complaint of A. L. Hepler, of Blair county, against the People's Telephone company. It was contended that a check was mailed on the fifteenth of the month, which happened to be Saturday, and the day when payment was due, but the company maintained the letter came in Monday morning, postmarked 5 a. m. the same day. A 10 cent penalty was imposed, which the ruling upheld as justified.

Manuel Davis, of Chester, wasn't such a bad fellow in the judgment of Paul Rasher, a man he intended to kill, for the reason that he consented to give Rasher time to pray before sending him into another world. But Rasher was not thinking of praying, his thoughts were of making a getaway from the man who held an ax over his head, ready to execute him. "Get down on your knees and pray," Davis told Rasher, but the latter jumped through a second-story window and made to a place of safety. He was badly hurt in the fall to the sidewalk, but he told the police that he saved his life by the leap. Davis was arrested and fined five dollars.

"It was not a home I was living in—it was a menagerie," declared Mrs. Margaret Chamberlain, who, after living two months on a farm in Sinking valley, h.s. moved back to town with her three small children. She explained: "Barns drank from the same spring we did. Our woodpile was infested with rattlesnakes. Milk snakes came into the house, and the children, not knowing that they were, toyed with them. Wild cats growled near the house and made night hideous with their shrieks. Weasels ran over my feet when I sat on the porch, and vipers hissed when I picked berries. When the wind blew, it rained devil's darling needles. Outside of that, life in the country was quiet."

A casual acquaintance of less than an hour on a Pennsylvania Railroad train between Chambersburg and Carlisle last October has resulted in Mrs. Harry Myers, of Carlisle, falling heir to \$15,000, according to word she received last Saturday. A letter from Jersey City contained the information that Dr. Harry Wollinger, of New Jersey, died last month and left Mrs. Myers the legacy. Mrs. Myers met Dr. Wollinger on a train and engaged in a conversation with him, in which he asked her to accept the position of housekeeper for him. She told the physician she was married and had a family. Mrs. Myers, after leaving the train, mentioned the incident, and forgot about the doctor. She is the mother of fifteen children.

The greatest conflagration that ever occurred at Johnstown, Elk county, took place late Saturday night at the Rolfe tannery of the Kistler Leather company. The loss approaches \$200,000, but is mostly covered by insurance. A smouldering fire was discovered by the watchman on his regular trip. He gave the alarm, but in a few moments the entire pile of bark and the warehouse was an inferno of flames. The Johnstown fire companies responded and summoned the Ridgway fire department, and both battled with the flames all night before they were under control. The fire destroyed 1000 cords of seasoned bark, several carloads of hides and a large stock of other supplies in the large warehouse. The plant employed about 200 men.