

INK SLINGS.

—That Sing Sing inmate who says he would rather die in the electric chair than serve his twenty year sentence...

—Talking about drives, we feel just like you do—that we are about driven to death. But don't let us die until the hospital has pulled off the one it has scheduled for next February.

—If Senator David A. Reed was saying what he really thought and comprehended and not merely uttering words at Harrisburg last week...

—The United States Supreme court has decided that Pennsylvania has a right to lay a tax on anthracite coal. In 1913 and again in 1915 our State courts declared such an act as unconstitutional...

—The very unusual demonstration of their loyalty and desire to have Hugo Bezdek with them that was given by the students of The Pennsylvania State College...

—Report has come from Milford, Indiana, to the effect that duck hunters are having wonderful success out there by soaking corn in "moonshine," then scattering it along the lake shores...

—The Standard Oil company is easily the most extensive ship master in this country. Its vast fleet of tankers carries millions of tons annually to the markets of Europe and other foreign ports.

—One of the present Congressmen who was defeated at the recent election warned his colleagues against the passage of the measure in a speech the other day.

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Pennsylvania "Corrupt and Contented."

The official life and political career of Truman H. Newberry ended with his resignation but it did not end the evil of Newberryism. That has become an ulcer on the body politic...

The retirement of Newberry shows some deference to decent public opinion as expressed in Michigan, Indiana and other States in which supporters had asked for a vote of confidence.

Gifford Pinchot, the Governor-elect of Pennsylvania, violated the integrity of the ballot as certainly as Newberry did. He bought the nomination of his party by the expenditure of nearly as great a sum as was spent to nominate Newberry.

—We're ready to admit that there's nothing that can substitute for turkey on an occasion like yesterday, but we're so mighty thankful that we could even have duck that we just can't resist huckin' a bit about it.

Subsidy Bill May Pass.

The Standard Oil company is easily the most extensive ship master in this country. Its vast fleet of tankers carries millions of tons annually to the markets of Europe and other foreign ports.

As a matter of fact what Georges Clemenceau said concerning the action of the government of the United States with respect to the Versailles treaty is substantially true.

—Whether Major Warburton wants Dr. Baldy's job or not his criticism of the department has created a good deal of lively comment.

—Possibly Giff is holding that cabinet place promised to a woman for his wife.

Anthracite Coal Tax is Valid.

The decision of the Supreme court of the United States affirming the validity of the anthracite coal tax, handed down by Justice McKenna on Monday, is mainly a reassertion of the doctrine of State sovereignty.

Another important influence on the court was an obvious purpose to steer away from the trend to public ownership. "If the possibility or certainty that an article produced in one State was destined for market in another determined it to be interstate commerce before the beginning of its movement from the State," the court declared.

In any event the decision is both important and opportune for the State of Pennsylvania for we certainly "need the money" it will bring to the treasury. It will help the movement to further increase the cost of living but that appears to be the principal purpose of the Republican machine.

—Our very honorable friend, Elisha Kent Kane, of Kusehequa, who was also an actor in the recent Congressional race in this district, has sent us the official vote of the counties with the suggestion that possibly our "readers might be interested in knowing how thoroughly he was licked."

Senator Hitchcock a Butter In.

Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, is building up for himself a somewhat unenviable reputation as a "butter in." Some time before the recent election, when he was a candidate with a bright promise of success, he butted into a controversy on a labor question.

—Why do the Philadelphia politicians imagine that parading in soft hats is a concession to Pinchot? He will probably wear a "topper" himself on that auspicious occasion.

—President Harding never had a good opinion of the Federal Reserve system and his effort to inject politics into its organization indicates that he intends to wreck it if possible.

—Governor Sprout "is solid" for Commissioner Baldy, but the indications are that the Governor's influence with the next administration will be limited if not negligible.

Senator Reed's Heretical Language.

Senator David A. Reed, of Pittsburgh, speaks surprisingly like a Democrat. Even before the election he expressed an aversion to the meddling of government in the affairs of men and since, in an address at Trenton the other day, he ascribed most of the railroad troubles to the restraints put upon the managements by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

In a speech delivered in Philadelphia last Saturday night, at a complimentary dinner in his honor, he sounded another discordant note. Referring to the enforcement of the prohibition laws he said: "Enforcement is deplorably bad because you and I do not back up the law. As a matter of fact it is not enforced against you and me. It is only enforced against a few unfortunates who cannot escape it."

But Senator Reed's speeches are not always to be taken at their face value, and while fair competition has always been the Democratic idea of business policy, the unrestrained right to regulate rates and wages is not a certain guarantee of fair competition.

—The army football team did fairly well in the contest with the Navy eleven, on Saturday, but the real victory of the occasion went to the bootleggers, if current reports are true.

—If Attorney General Daugherty would follow the example of Senator Newberry the Harding administration would have easier sledding for a time.

—Whether Major Warburton wants Dr. Baldy's job or not his criticism of the department has created a good deal of lively comment.

—Pinchot's first set back will come on inauguration day. He can't prevent Bill Vare from heading the parade.

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

Root of the Mexican Evil.

For more than ten years our relations with the Republic of Mexico have been in a state of intermittent turmoil. The basic cause of friction has been the insecurity of American capitalistic interests in Mexican natural resources. This underlying difficulty has been augmented by the inability of the Mexicans during a large part of the time to maintain stable and orderly government.

Now there are two points of view regarding the fundamental questions at issue, and there are plenty of people who would like to have our own point of view enforced and established by war and conquest. These people are principally the ones who would not have to do the fighting. But pinpricks from Mexico, such as the high language she holds concerning our interference in her internal affairs, are likely to augment the numbers of the American fire-eaters.

We are aware that the League is regarded in some quarters as a dead issue. We are not trying to revive it. It will revive itself—it must revive itself eventually, when the world has grown old enough to discriminate between wisdom and folly, and to detect spurious patriotism, inspired by dollars, from the genuine, inspired by love of humanity as well as of country.

Let Lenine Come.

Lenine and his wife, according to an American interviewer, have a consuming secret ambition to visit the United States and study America at first hand.

Of course, Lenine is bitterly opposed to America as the world's strongest "capitalist" nation. But we are assured that he has a secret admiration for us, and he would like to know more about the sources of our strength and our methods and ways of doing things.

It is not likely that Lenine will get an opportunity to visit our shores in the near future, but if he is so extremely eager to study America, perhaps our State Department could be induced to waive immigration restrictions. His desire to see the United States must be largely prompted by curiosity to find out how this country contrived to grow and flourish and attain its present position in the world under what looks to Lenine as a most obsolete and archaic form of government.

Confronted with American conditions, Lenine's Communist theories might get a severe shock. If he could stay long enough, he might conclude that America is a better country to live in than Russia and might refuse to return to the Communist paradise.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Police officials at Harrisburg are investigating the charge made by Cornelia Green that her armless husband, John Green, had beaten her. She is in the hospital with a possible fracture of the skull and lacerations. Green says she fell down stairs, but Mrs. Green claims her husband kicked her down.

—Director Horner, of the Workmen's Compensation Bureau, announced on Saturday that 27 widows and 80 dependent children of the victims of the Spangler disaster would receive approximately \$100,000 compensation. Claims have been settled by the bureau, compensation for dependent children depending largely upon their ages.

—Several hundred property owners in Hazleton are well stocked with anthracite coal for the winter, but can't start to burn it because heating plants ordered during the summer and early fall have not yet been received, owing to the embargoes in effect on some of the railroads against all shipments except fuel, foodstuffs and perishable goods.

—When John Robbins, a state policeman, fell through a hole in the hay mow he broke a leg, but he fell in the midst of a gallon still, fifty gallons of mash and a large quantity of automobile accessories, supposed to have been stolen. The accident occurred in the barn of Edward Hayes, of near Pottstown, Montgomery county, who is in jail charged with the theft of chickens.

—Representatives from twenty counties in Pennsylvania met at Lancaster last Saturday and organized the Pennsylvania State Farm Bureau federation, and elected John C. Brubaker, of Litzitz, president. The representatives were guests of the Lancaster county farm bureau, which has taken the lead in fostering the federation. Mr. Brubaker was also elected to represent the State body at the national meeting in Chicago.

—The Standard American hosiery mill at Mohnton, near Reading, was robbed of \$15,000 worth of silk hosiery early Friday morning. The booty was taken away in a truck which was seen making for Reading and then speeding down the Philadelphia turnpike, but the officers have no clue. During the last few months Berks hosiery mills have been robbed of \$35,000 worth of finished goods—all taken away in trucks to an unknown destination.

—In a verdict rendered under the federal law in the Schuylkill county court, Mrs. Rose Buehler, of Tamaqua, was awarded \$8000 damages from the Philadelphia and Reading Railway for the killing of her husband while engaged in his duties as a freight conductor two years ago. The woman was refused State compensation because the railroad company alleged the husband was handling cars which contained goods of interstate commerce.

—John Magner, possessor of \$80,000 to \$100,000, died last Friday in the McKean county home in Smethport. He was nearly 70 years of age, and a fall several weeks ago disabled him. Last Sunday he applied for care at the home, saying he "would pay his way until his health improved." Magner had lived alone for years on a farm, denying himself the simplest comforts. The authorities are making inquiries in central Pennsylvania for kin.

—Graydon Platt, of Ridgway, had a thrilling encounter with an airplane while motoring toward Pottstown when the airship swooped down out of the sky and settled in a field so close by that part of the top of his automobile was ripped off by the tail of the flying machine. Telling of his experience, he declared he saw the airship flying low, but paid little attention to it until it settled almost upon him and came to a stop in a field nearby. Neither aviator nor chauffeur was injured.

—Losing his balance while painting on the ledge of a three-story house in Shamokin, last Tuesday, George Long, of Bear Gap, tumbled into space, and was making a descent of 45 feet to a concrete pavement when he fell into a network of telephone and light wires. He was able to hold the wires a sufficient period of time to right himself and jump feet first to the ground, where he landed without an injury of any kind. Women who were watching the man at work and saw him fall faint.

—The American Refractories company, of Pittsburgh, closed a deal on Saturday for the J. F. Stover farm of fifty-three acres, and the John Bower tracts adjoining, comprising fifteen acres, located along the Pennsylvania railroad east of Lewisport. It is generally said to be for the erection of a large ganister brick factory, with the possibility of red shale brick on the side. The new plant will be located on the south side of the main line track of the Pennsylvania railroad, two miles east of Lewisport.

—Curtis R. Smock, of Meadville, went to Erie on Saturday and purchased an overcoat, and went home without it. After he bought the coat, he entered a refreshment stand at Twentieth and Peach streets, where a number of men expressed admiration for the garment and engaged him in conversation. "That's some overcoat you have, stranger," one remarked. Then after a pause, he said: "I'd like to try it on." Smock consenting, the man tried it on. He walked to the back of the place, paused for a moment, then disappeared through a doorway—and didn't come back.

—Frank Hooper, of Charleroi, wants a wife—one of those long, slender sylphs. Frank doesn't care for them built along liberal lines. He wrote to Mayor Frank Gilbert, of Sharon, asking aid in his quest. Women, he says, are the only things he's afraid of. "I am 25 years old, he writes, "and would like very much to get married, but I never had the nerve to ask any girl. Was with the army in France and am afraid of nothing except women. I can make a good home for a good girl, but she must be a slender, tall girl. I am 25 years old, good looking and don't drink."

—Resignation of Dr. W. A. Granville, president of Gettysburg College, to take effect March 1, next, was announced Sunday night. He has been president of the institution known formerly as Pennsylvania College, since 1910. He went there from Yale University, where he was professor of mathematics. Doctor Granville will become president of the Insurance Economics Society of America, and on March first he plans to take up the work of organizing a bureau of insurance education in Chicago. He is known as the author of a number of college mathematical textbooks and more recently of a book on the fourth dimension of the Bible.