

INK SLINGS.

Hunters who were longing for a tracking snow had their wishes granted for the last two days of the season, at least.

It's a sad day for the house-wife who doesn't know how to run her kitchen stove with soft coal—and there are a lot of them.

About all the real information that Governor-elect Pinchot has exuded up to this time is the announcement that he doesn't intend to raise a crop of peach Colonels while he is in office.

Let us hope that the snow that started falling early yesterday morning takes the frost out of the ground and soaks in rather than remain as the foundation for more that may follow before we have rains sufficient to replenish our springs and streams.

President Harding wants the constitution amended so that so many tax-exempt securities cannot be issued. Inasmuch as the States are the originators of tax-exempt securities we have an idea that they won't be very keen for ratifying an amendment that would take that advantage away from them.

Of course we know very little about the operation of the proposed ship subsidy bill, but unless its sponsors can show something better than an annual government outlay of forty-million dollars to stop a present annual loss of fifty-million few people will be able to get the big idea. It looks like too much good money to be sent after the bad.

Our Santa Claus letter is in the chimney and our stocking is already hanging on the counter where the mail man can get to it easily. All we have asked Santa for is to put it in the hearts of every one of our subscribers who are not paid up to 1923 to send us a check or something that will buy paper and ink and hands and brains to make this old sheet better than it has ever been before.

At Allentown, one day last week, former Vice President Marshall delivered himself of another of those epigrammatic bon-mots for which he is noted. He said: "If I had my way I would burn up the law books and go back to the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule and if everybody practiced them we'd have no need for other laws." Mr. Marshall hopes for Utopia, but so long as selfishness, avarice and deception remain to human nature there will be those who will forget the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule whenever it is convenient.

On April 26th, 1921, the officials of Philadelphia, conferred the unusual honor of the freedom of the city on John Wanamaker. On December 12th, 1922, the spirit of the great merchant, philanthropist and Christian knocked at the gates of the Eternal City and we think the angelic hosts there conferred the freedom of that city on him too. The memory of Mr. Wanamaker will be indissolubly associated with his great mercantile establishments but his marvelous humanitarian work through his Bethany Sunday school was what will leave the impress of his character on the generations that are to follow.

The advance notices of this Mr. Emile Coue fellow, who is coming over from France to give us a new suggestion as to health, interested us a lot at first. We don't know much about psychoastric reactions, but there's no patent medicine or hair restorer that has been advertised since the days of Jayne's expectorant and the Seven Sutherland Sisters—that we haven't tried—and still we need a remedy. For a week we'd been rhyming over Coue's "Every day, in every way, I'm getting better, and better!" and then Thanksgiving came and we cracked. Cracked worse than we've ever cracked before. Personally we're off the Coue stuff. We ought never to have fallen for it, because it is one of those "mind over matter" panaceas and with us that's a case of the tail trying to wag the dog.

It is so rarely that we hear a clever story with local color that we want to tell you one that a gentleman recounted to us Sunday afternoon. When Ralph Spigelmyer came to Bellefonte to open his Racket store almost the first thing he did was to hang a pair of screen doors at its main entrance. Incidentally, they were the first screen doors on any mercantile establishment in town, and naturally were the cause of considerable comment. One business neighbor who dropped in to rag Mr. Spigelmyer about his innovation discovered a hole in the netting on one of the doors and asked what it was for. He was told that it had been put there at considerable expense so that the flies already in the room could get out. This facetious explanation of the new merchant was taken seriously and some who heard it prejudged him a "nut," and told him so. The screen doors and the fly hole went the rounds of the town and Mr. Spigelmyer followed through on his little joke by hanging a sign above the hole in the wire that read "Exit for flies only." One day the late Miss Emily Natt visited the store and, as she was leaving, her attention was arrested by the notice on the door. After reading it she turned and, with a bit of a twinkle in her eyes, remarked to the proprietor: "I presume that Natts are not permitted to go out at this exit."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 67. BELLEFONTE, PA., DECEMBER 15, 1922. NO. 49.

President Harding's Message.

Congress assembled in the last session of the Sixty-seventh Congress on Monday of last week, but President Harding was too busy at playing golf and other diversions or duties to deliver his annual message until Friday. No other President has ever been so tardy. The second day of the session has usually been the time for the communication of the President's views or advice, and previous to President Wilson's term the form had been in writing. President Wilson adopted the oral form and President Harding has followed his example. In pursuance of this custom and manner a joint session of the chambers was held on Friday and President Harding delivered a rather discursive but somewhat interesting address to the Senators and Members.

On most subjects referred to in his message President Harding is inclined to depend upon inferences. He doesn't say so directly but infers that the policy of co-operation among railroad lines running in the same direction, introduced by Mr. McAdoo during the period of government operation, is wiser than competition for business. It is not unlikely that railroad managers will agree with him in that view. It is certain that they will all coincide with his opinions on the relation between railroad employers and employees. "No man can be denied his right to labor when and how he chooses or cease to labor when he so elects," the President declares, but "the security of society itself demands his retirement from the service shall not be so timed and related as to effect the destruction of that service."

In other words strikes shall be penalized. On the question of the enforcement of the prohibition amendment and the Volstead act President Harding is as unyielding as the Anti-Saloon League could desire. He admits the officials have been making a mess of the matter and has "caused the humiliation of our people before the world." But the President promises to call a conference of the Governors of all the States to devise a plan which will achieve a rigid enforcement. It is the usual "passing of the buck," which experience in the past has proved a poor expedient. He also recommends the enactment of legislation to prohibit the issue of tax-free securities which are absorbing the capital of our millionaires.

The French Tiger may not get all he came to this country for but he has certainly set a number of people to thinking seriously about what might have been.

Immense Cost of Victory.

While Governor-elect Pinchot contributed only \$1,500.00 to the campaign fund for the general election his victory cost a large sum of money. The reports of expenditures filed at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth show that the State committee spent \$156,501.60, the George Wharton Pepper committee spent about \$90,000.00, making a total of \$246,501.60. Other committees collected and disbursed large sums increasing the aggregate cost of the Republican campaign, according to conservative estimates, to upward of half a million dollars. This sum, added to the expenditures during the primary campaign for the two candidates for the gubernatorial nomination, makes Newberry look like a "piker."

The Democratic State committee expended \$36,786.72 in all. The local committees financed their own campaigns, the Congressional and other local candidates of that party had to depend upon their own resources for "sineews of war," and as few of them had hopes of election, their disbursements were meager. Notwithstanding this discrepancy the Democratic candidates carried nearly half the counties in the State and polled a considerable majority of the votes outside of Philadelphia and Allegheny county, including Pittsburgh. The vast majority in Philadelphia was purchased in a job lot a few days before the election at an expense in principle that can only be measured in the future.

We sincerely hope that Governor-elect Pinchot will fulfill his pledges of reform and betray the promises made in fact or by implication to those machine politicians whom he denounced during his primary campaign. In that event the people of Pennsylvania will not suffer the full measure of evil consequences of a machine victory. He is now talking boldly of a purpose to carry out his primary campaign pledges but it is to be feared that he is not accurately appraising the power of the machine in shaping the policies of his administration. It is certain that he will have a formidable fight on his hands and not sure that he will be able to win the battle, though Democrats will give him help.

Good News from Washington.

Attorney General Daugherty expresses full confidence in the utility of the impeachment proceedings which Representative Keller, of Minnesota, has been pressing against him, but if the promise conveyed by rumors from Washington is fulfilled the enterprise may be worth while. It is rumored that immediately after his trial and acquittal Mr. Daugherty will resign. That would be a splendid result of a rather hopeless effort to improve the public life of Washington. Daugherty is a misfit in the position he occupies and his voluntary retirement would be acceptable to a vast majority of the people. Even ardent Republicans have freely expressed disgust with his administration of the office.

The reasons which will influence Mr. Daugherty to resign, according to current rumors, is that he has come to realize that he is too heavy a load for the Harding administration to carry. None too well fixed in popular confidence the administration has been hampered and the party annoyed by the antics of this obscure lawyer in a service which requires the highest standard of legal learning and mental attainments. His appointment was the result of personal obligation for political service. If he had had the good sense of some of his predecessors to act as a figure-head and employ capable assistants to perform the duties, it wouldn't have been so bad. But he forced himself to the front and every time he opened his mouth he "put his foot in it."

But he is justified in his confidence of acquittal by the court of impeachment if it is ever organized to try him. The chief dispenser of spoils for the administration, he has already fixed a mortgage upon more than half the Republican Senators, and in courts of impeachment partisan exigencies are vastly more potent than evidence, direct or circumstantial. For that reason Daugherty will be acquitted no matter how strong a case is made against him. But if he will resign the public will be reconciled and the proceedings justified. For he could have been got out in no other way, and the Department of Justice falling from bad to worse would soon have become a laughing stock.

As we have already remarked Harding may be able to force the ship subsidy bill through this Congress but if he fails it never will be passed, and in any event it will be of no use for the reason that the next Congress will not make the necessary appropriation.

Setting a Trap for Giff.

When Martin Brumbaugh was elected Governor of Pennsylvania a way back in 1914 "Bill" Vare, then as now, Representative in Congress for the First Philadelphia district, tendered him a complimentary dinner. All the other Pennsylvanians in Congress were invited and a number of prominent machine politicians participated in the feast. The contracting business was at high tide of prosperity and the late Mr. Balshazzar had nothing on Brother Bill in the matter of sumptuousness. There were "hot birds" and "cold bottles" galore and "hot air" in abundance. It was a memorable event and the talk of the political rialto for many weeks but made little history.

Martin Brumbaugh was a widely known educator but a novice in politics. He could solve problems in Euclid but didn't know a thing about organizing a ward or getting out the vote. He was like a fallow field for such political mechanics as Vare to operate upon, and they made the most of their opportunities at the complimentary dinner given by Brother Bill in his honor. Bill is an orator and he invested all his ornate periods in praise of the young Lochinvar from the west whom they had discovered. Brother Bill made him see things which had never before come to him even in dreams. He brought out a beautifully executed and artistic commission for President and laid it at the feet of Martin.

Brother Bill has arranged for another "feast of reason and flow of soul" in Washington, but this time it is not in honor of Martin. Martin is a "dead duck" in the pond and though "lame ducks" sometimes get consideration dead ducks are neglected. The coming event is to be complimentary to another Governor-elect, the Honorable Gifford Pinchot. It will be pulled off in the near future, the principal purpose being to start the Presidential bee to buzzing in the Pinchot bonnet. The expectations for this event are laid on an altitudinous level and the result will depend largely upon the gullibility of Giff. If he yields to the delicate touch of the Vare finger his finish is in sight.

If there were no other reason the early shopper gets first pick of the stock and that's worth while.

Japan Fulfills an Obligation.

While the question of ratifying the covenant of the League of Nations was pending in the Senate several years ago, Senator Lodge and one or two other "bitter enders," amused the country by throwing fits at frequent intervals over the injustice done to China by giving to Japan temporary title to Tsingtao. China had some years previous to the world war leased the province of Shantung, of which Tsingtao was part, to Germany for a period of ninety-nine years. Germany had spent some millions of dollars building railroads and docks in pursuance of the lease. During the war Japan drove Germany out of the territory and acquired title to the lease and improvements by conquest.

At the peace conference Japan asserted its right to hold what it had won under long established international rules of war and an agreement between the allies and Japan. England, France and Italy, bound by the treaty obligation, acceded to the claim. President Wilson held that the territory rightfully belonged to China, but in order to secure a treaty of peace, consented to the claim of Japan after having obtained from the representatives of Japan in the conference, a pledge that within a reasonable time and upon just and fair conditions, the lease would be cancelled and title to the property restored to China. For this President Wilson was viciously assailed by the bitter-enders, who declared he had been deceived and perfidiously betrayed his country.

Within the past week the government of Japan has fulfilled the obligation entered into between its representatives in the peace conference and Woodrow Wilson by legally conveying all its right, title and claim to the municipality of Tsingtao, to the government of China. President Wilson was moved to demand this obligation in fulfillment of his proposition that every people concerned in the peace treaty was entitled to self determination in government. The recent act of Japan has achieved that result so far as China and Japan are concerned and it has also made a monkey of Senator Lodge, who spent his energy and idiosyncrasy in lamenting the wrong done to China.

A young ladie walked into the "Watchman" office on Tuesday and exclaimed, "Oh, isn't that a pippin!" referring to the big golden apple on exhibition in the window. It is a "pippin," all right but its real name is Golden Graham and it was sent in by Capt. W. H. Fry just as a sample of the kind of apples grown on the farm of his neighbor. And we might add that the Captain stated that he had lots of others just as large and some larger, and that they are very delicious for eating purposes.

Governor Sproul advises house-holders and everybody, in fact, to use bituminous coal in order to save anthracite, which leads us to wonder if the Governor is using bituminous in his Front street mansion to the same end.

So successful was the Jackson day banquet held last year by the Democrats of Centre county that arrangements are now being made to hold one this year on or about January 8th. More definite announcement will be made after the Holidays.

Nobody knows who will be Speaker of the House during the coming session of the Legislature, but it is a safe bet he will be entirely satisfactory to the Old Guard and solid for prohibition.

Larry Eyre may be elected President pro tem of the Senate at the organization of the Legislature but he needn't expect Governor-elect Pinchot to recommend him.

If Senator LaFollette imagines that President Harding wants to help the farmers he has another guess coming. Harding knows he can get the farmers any time.

Mrs. Gifford Pinchot declares that women have no separate interest in politics. Probably she is hedging on Giff's promise to appoint a woman to his cabinet.

Anyway Dr. Coue will put the acid test on public credulity by his "conscious autosuggestion" campaign in this country.

Max Leslie protested that he wouldn't do anything for Pinchot but he contributed \$1000.00 to the campaign fund.

If LaFollette leads the filibuster long speeches will be the method of attack.

Subscribe for the "Watchman."

The President's Message.

From the Philadelphia Record. The President's message is more of an address on current topics than a program of legislation. The important topics described rather than discussed by him are quite familiar in Congress and to the public. The practical question is what can be done about them. In some cases the President suggests action; in others he does not even go so far as that.

What he says about transportation indicates a complete revolution in opinion in the last few years. When the original Cullom law was passed, and thereafter down to a very recent period, reliance was almost wholly on competition. Every effort was made to keep the companies separate, to prevent even agreements and understandings; a railway rate war was assumed to be the ideal condition. Earlier than two years ago the Interstate Commerce Commission had put out some tentative suggestions of combination instead of competition, but Congress did not reach that stage until it enacted the Transportation law in 1920. Now the President offers as the means of securing lower freight rates the linking up of the several lines, co-operation in the use of cars, and the use of motor vehicles as feeders to the railways rather than as rivals, which is the part they are now playing.

The President is more explicit in regard to the labor than almost anything else. He is satisfied that the employees have no right to paralyze the nation's business by a strike. If strikes can be prevented on the railways they can be prevented on other public utilities such as coal mining. The notorious fact is that the employees on public utilities calculate on the suffering of the community as the means of carrying their point.

The Railroad Labor Board he abolished and its functions exercised by a division of the Interstate Commerce Commission is good. If any authority is to fix wages it should be the one that already fixes rates. But it is going to be no easier for a division of the Interstate Commerce Commission than for the present Board to satisfy both sides.

The enforcement of the Volstead law is a matter for the President and his subordinates. Congress might impose capital punishment on violators, or it might modify the law sufficiently to make it workable, but the President advises neither. Nor does he advise anything else. He has \$9,000,000 a year and unlimited force, and it is for him to make the law effective, or to confess to Congress that it cannot be done. He is going to call a conference of Governors to see what can be done, but the Governors are doing all they can, except to hang offenders.

Several months ago the President appeared before a Bible class in Washington and deplored the fact that the leading men in the various communities, "respectable and respected men," were habitually violating the law. Of course nothing can be more demoralizing than this widespread disregard of law and, beginning with the Volstead law, it extends to other laws. But this is the inevitable result of enacting a law which lacked the support of a large share of the most reputable elements in the community. Warning was given of what would happen if such a law were enacted, and the warning has been verified. We presume the President's appointees with the \$9,000,000, supplemented by State legislation and the police forces of the country, are doing all that they can—and their utility is set forth by the President. It is a question whether the people shall be made to fit the law or the law changed to fit the people; whether every one who takes a drink of anything stronger than 3 per cent. shall be shot, or rational legislation shall be substituted.

The moral and economic results of the world war call for no action by Congress because there is nothing that Congress can do to alter these effects. It is not certain that joint action by all the legislative bodies in the world could do very much. Most of these results have got to be lived down, and the world is making fairly good progress; but the destruction of property and the disruption of political and commercial relationships were on an unprecedented scale, and seed time and harvest, the collection of raw material and the production of finished goods, the slow and painful extinction of liabilities, must go on for a long time before the conditions of a decade ago can be reproduced. In the meanwhile the President suggests more financial advances to the farmers and a diligent search for more efficient and less expensive means of getting farm products to market.

The President thinks the Constitution could be advantageously amended to prohibit child labor and to prevent the issue of tax-free securities and possibly a few other purposes. In regard to foreign policies he assures the country that the United States will discharge all its responsibilities to the world, but he indicates no action in the Near East or elsewhere, and he is very certain that the country will not use force in any quarter. But the country has used force in the past, and it may yet heed the injunction of Theodore Roosevelt to join with other nations in preserving the world's peace by restraining, with force if need be, any predatory nation that would precipitate war.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Charged with conspiracy and false pretense, nine men who said they represented the Altona Glass Casket corporation have been indicted in the Blair county court. Six are also charged with fraudulent conversion.

Twenty-five dollars each for thirty-one ferrets he possessed without a license was the sentence imposed on P. A. Wolfert, of Pittsburgh, owner of a pet shop, by a justice of the peace. State game warden Liphart made the complaint.

Pickpockets are taking advantage of the holiday throngs in various cities throughout the State. More than a dozen cases have been reported to the Scranton police within the last day or so, the most serious being the theft of \$4500 from the pocket of Thomas Shea, of Wilkes-Barre.

The Philadelphia and Reading Railway company was made defendant in a damage suit for \$10,000 brought by George Tattles, of East Lebanon. Last October 15, Harry, the two year old son of Tattles, was on the railway tracks near his home and was ground to pieces beneath the wheels of a freight train.

Vincenzo Montillo is in a critical condition in the Easton hospital, following a jump out of a rear window at a South Side house in that city. He was tied and locked in a room after a fight while the occupants of the house went for the police, who found him lying on the ground. Part of one of his ears was bitten off in the fight.

Frank R. N. Cunningham, former cashier of the Broadtop National bank, at Hopewell, Bedford county, on Thursday pleaded guilty to misappropriating \$40,000 and was sentenced in federal court at Pittsburgh to serve eight months in the county jail. A statement was made to the court that much of the money had been returned to the bank.

Police are looking for a man who sold Benjamin Matello, of Hazleton, a bag of onions for \$125 on the claim that they were bulbs of a wonderful fern that would bring high prices. The salesman traveled in an automobile with a New York license number. Matello is a dairyman and didn't discover the deception until he showed some neighbors the "bulbs."

The big plate glass window in the front of the Milfin county jewelry store in Lewisport was broken last Thursday night and \$350 worth of watches, rings and pearls were stolen. The glass was evidently broken by some one with a padded brick, but the hole was too small to reach far back into the window, which is probably the reason they obtained goods of such small value.

Thirty-two agreements for payment of compensation growing out of the mine fatalities at Spangler, Cambria county, have been approved by the State Compensation Board, representing \$148,680, or an average of more than \$4600 in each case. In the list were twenty-nine widows, two fathers, three mothers and eighty-one children under sixteen years of age who lost fathers or persons upon whom they were dependent in the disaster.

Coal mined seventy-five years ago is said to be put on the market. W. H. Keith, of Minesville, has leased a cullm bank, near Pine Grove, in Schuylkill county, containing 100,000 tons of fuel, from the Lehigh Valley Coal company and is erecting a breaker to handle 500 tons a day. The bank was piled up when coal was plentiful and recklessly wasted, and is said to contain fuel superior to most of that being marketed now, being of the finest Lykens valley free-burning ash.

Twenty thousand large-sized maps of Pennsylvania are being prepared for distribution by the State Forestry Department. Twelve thousand of the maps will be distributed among the public schools of the State and the balance will be placed in railroad stations, court houses and other public places. These maps show public highways, railroads, canals, state forests, recreation centers, forest headquarters and fire observation towers. Regions containing coal or other minerals are marked. An innovation is the marking of ancient frontier forts, such as were located at Shippensburg, Fort Loudon and Chambersburg.

Charged with embezzling more than \$8000 of postal money order funds and failing and refusing to account for the money, Mrs. Irene McDowell Henderson, postmaster at New Derry, Westmoreland county, was held for court by United States Commissioner Ray Patton Smith, of Johnstown. She furnished bail in the sum of \$3000 for her appearance at the May term of federal court in Pittsburgh. Mrs. Henderson, before her marriage a short time ago, was Miss Irene McDowell and was postmistress at the New Derry office for almost four years. The shortages in her accounts cover a period of two years, it is said. Mrs. Henderson declares that she cannot account for the shortage.

Word comes from Sugar Valley, Clinton county, that bituminous coal has been discovered in that locality. This is in addition to the five foot vein of anthracite coal opened up and being developed on the farm of Perry McCaleb near Tyersville. In digging deeper an old spring which had gone dry, near his home, two miles north of Loganston and one-quarter of a mile east of the Knarr school house, Andrew G. Snook, a leading farmer of that section, dug into an outcropping vein of bituminous coal. Some of the pieces taken out are larger than a man's fist. The coal burns readily and is pronounced of excellent quality. Farmer Snook proposes to dig deeper in order to more fully determine the extent of the find, but the indications all point to a vein of substantial size.

An appeal from the probate of the will of Mrs. Abigail A. Geisinger, late resident of Danville, who made possible the Danville hospital and its endowments, has been filed in the Orphan's court of Montour county by H. Mont Smith, attorney, on behalf of William Panoost, of Liberty, Ohio, and James Hendershot, of Bloomsburg, first cousins of Mrs. Geisinger. Two other Ohio heirs, Henry Clay Sharpless and Celinda Runyon, also first cousins, have died since the death of Mrs. Geisinger. Their executors are interested in the proceedings and it is expected they will also join in the contest. The appellants claim the estate is worth about \$3,000,000 and the appeal will be followed by the filing of the petition outlining the contention of the heirs that Mrs. Geisinger was mentally incompetent at the time she made her will and that undue influence was exerted to procure it. The will gave most of the estate to the Geisinger hospital and to a home for friendless women that she directed to be established.