

## INK SLINGS.

—The stars and stripes no longer float on the Rhine breezes.

—We are inclined to the belief that the Senate is only irritating Secretary Hughes so that he can't sneak into the League of Nations without public notice.

—Citizens of France and Belgium are not admitted to hotels in Berlin but seem to go anywhere they like in Essen and other points in the Ruhr valley.

—Talking about prestidigitators, Governor Pinchot waived his magic wand over "Capitol Hill," and instantly an army of official snails were transformed into centipedes.

—In cold weather every front door ought to be equipped with a sliding board for the guests who insist on saying good-night all over again after they have exited to that point.

—The outstanding difference between this Mr. Boyden and Col. House as "observers" seems to be that Boyden has eyes, ears and a mouth and Col. House has only eyes and ears.

—There are likely to be lots of aspirants for county office next fall. Already there are so many ears to the ground that the wily political leader has to watch his step mightily well lest he tread on one unawares.

—The Norristown man who was granted a divorce because his wife neglected him to go swimming probably thought she counted him a poorer fish than those she dabbled with in her favorite swimming hole.

—At least the signs indicate that Governor Pinchot is starting off as well as we could have hoped for Mr. McSparran to have done. Let us hope that as an old bloom he will be sweeping just as clean as he is trying to do as a new one.

—Nature is doing her best to stiffen up the weak backs in this community. A short handed shovel and fifty feet of side-walk covered with snow beats Walter Camp's "daily dozen" all to pieces as stimulation for that part of the anatomy.

—Why is it that so many of those who are so fortunate themselves that they don't have to do such things invariably drop in for a call with the woman who does, just about the time she is due to start preparation of the family meal?

—France has just announced the perfection of a big gun that will shoot sixty miles and our army experts have perfected a rifle that has a range of eight miles. Of course both are technical and manufacturing triumphs, but what of the recent spasm for disarmament?

—Philadelphia housewives declare they can't use bituminous coal because some one told them it requires specially constructed stoves in which to burn it. Many a stove in Bellefonte that never saw anything but anthracite until last fall has been getting on very nicely since then on bituminous. In nine cases out of ten it isn't the stove, it's the manipulator that can't burn soft coal.

—The overwhelming victory of George Sprows, Democrat, for Senator, at the special election in the Washington-Greene counties district, looks as though the Democratic swell of last November is still swelling. In the fall elections he and Col. James E. Barnett, Republican, were tied for election so a special election was called and Sprows came through with a majority of over two thousand.

—Just naturally Charles Evans Hughes is irritated because the Senate wants to know what his big idea is with regard to our foreign relations problem. Waiving discussion of the possibility of Secretary Hughes' having a big idea on the question we get to the point where we want to say that his predicament affords us great glee. He is one of the gentlemen who thought the Senate ought to know and do everything while Mr. Wilson was President and now that he finds himself impaled on another horn of the same dilemma he becomes irritated.

—Dr. Ellen Potter may prove to be a very capable and understanding head of the Department of Public Welfare and might dispense the State's aid to hospitals equitably, but would it be wise to put such a club over the charitable institutions in the hands of any one person. Dr. Potter will not occupy her present position always, but the precedent established in her tenure would follow through to the years when others, possibly less fair, might find themselves in the position of compelling every hospital in Pennsylvania to stand and deliver to some political machine.

—To our mind the most interesting and at the same time significant feature of the Governor's budget is the inclusion of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh in the list of the educational institutions the State is obligated to support. The allowance to Pitt is cut only \$115,000 under that granted two years ago, that to Penn is cut \$155,000, while the amount suggested for State, the real ward of the Commonwealth, is \$521,000 less than the Legislature of 1921 granted. It was politics, pure and simple, that drove the entering wedge into State bounty for both Pitt and Penn and it looks mighty like politics that is now attempting to permanently link them up with the one institution that the State is lawfully obligated to support.

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## Confession of Senator Pepper.

Senator George Wharton Pepper was among the most virulent opponents of the League of Nations. While the question of ratification of the covenant of the League was pending in the Senate he was a private citizen but he availed himself of every opportunity to poison the public mind concerning it. His object was, of course, to ingratiate himself in the favor of that group of party bigots who openly declared war against Woodrow Wilson. Foremost among these in Pennsylvania were the late Senators Penrose and Knox, and William C. Sproul. Senator Pepper probably believed that iterating their venomous expressions on the subject might lead to the fulfillment of his ambition to become Senator.

In a speech delivered before the New York bar association, the other evening, Senator Pepper admitted that if the League of Nations had acquired the full force which its projectors contemplated it would have averted the impending conflict between France and Germany which is more than likely to culminate in another world war more cruel and atrocious than the one recently ended. "Had the League followed the strict provisions of its covenant," he declared, "it would now be engaged in steps preliminary to a concentration of actual force to compel France and Germany to settle their quarrel amicably." He might have added that the failure of the United States to join the League is the reason it has not "followed the strict provisions of the covenant."

The sublime purpose of the League of Nations was to guarantee the world against future wars and compel the amicable adjustment of petty or grave difference among nations. Henry Cabot Lodge didn't want such a condition for the reason that the munition makers and manufacturers of war materials in New England would be deprived of a source of profit in such circumstances. The Pennsylvania marplots opposed the League because they wanted to disappoint and humiliate Woodrow Wilson, and George Wharton Pepper joined them for selfish personal reasons. Now that he has secured the favor he coveted he acknowledges that the League of Nations would have achieved the splendid results expected of it.

A government bulletin recently issued tells folks "how to keep the cellar dry," but the greatest anxiety among the largest number of people is "how to keep the cellar wet."

## One Fond Hope Disappointed.

Governor Pinchot might set up the claim that he has not been a resident of Pennsylvania long enough to become familiar with the fundamental law of the State. But such a statement on the stationery of the Executive Department wouldn't look well, and besides it wouldn't be true. He has been a nominal resident of Pennsylvania since 1914, when he ran for Senator in Congress, and nine years is ample time for an adult of average intelligence to master so plain a code of principles as is expressed in the constitution of Pennsylvania. It must be assumed, therefore, that he understands the provisions of the constitution but doesn't care much whether he obeys them or not.

Soon after the returns revealed his election in November Mr. Pinchot began functioning as the Governor of the State. Even before the election he appointed commissioners to do certain things and assigned them to service. He had no authority to do such things but nobody complained and really no harm was done. But since his inauguration he has been cutting up capers that have caused some alarm. For example, he has been threatening to usurp certain functions of another elective department in order to justify a demand to be made on the Legislature to create an office with which he may pay off a political obligation incurred before he was nominated, but probably essential to his success.

The office of Secretary of Internal Affairs was created by the constitution of the State and under the same high authority certain duties were committed to the Secretary. Governor Pinchot, on assuming the office of Governor, discovered that he had "more pegs than holes" at his disposal and proposed to bore another hole in which to place a particularly insistent peg. To accomplish the purpose he concluded to take from the Secretary of Internal Affairs duties imposed upon him by the constitution and hand them over to the official peg placed in the newly created hole. But the Secretary of Internal Affairs objected to being thus denuded of power and patronage and the scheme has been halted.

How would it be to try the "silent treatment" on the Faculty of the State?

## Good Report from Harrisburg.

The Democratic Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly are running true and compelling attention. We referred last week to a triumph in the House of Representatives ascribable to the unity and courage in preventing snap action in changing the rules. Last Monday evening they forced an adjournment of the session because the resident clerk had treated them unfairly in the seating arrangement. He arbitrarily scattered them all over the chamber thus making it impossible to consult in emergencies. Before the recess the minority members entered a protest which was ignored by the stupid clerk who had perpetrated the trick. On reassembling on Monday night a "roar" brought promise of correction.

This was fine but not the best thing that occurred in Harrisburg on Monday evening. The Democratic Senators and Representatives held a caucus and openly declared their purpose to stand united in a movement for the repeal of the anthracite coal tax law and abolish the offices of fish and game wardens. Fish and game wardens might do a lot of good if their activities were limited to the service for which the offices were created. But as a matter of fact they have been used as partisan agents to control elections almost exclusively, and have become not only a nuisance but a menace in the communities in which they serve. If the Democratic minority succeeds in abolishing them it will be good work.

The minority Senator and Representatives have set themselves to achievement of other important reforms in the affairs of the State. They will solidly demand legislation authorizing and requiring the Auditor General of the State to audit the accounts of all the departments of the State government. For some years several of the departments have been employing large forces of "traveling" and other auditors to audit their accounts. This process costs a lot of money because big salaries are paid to the party pets thus employed and are a source of fraud besides. The elimination of this horde will go a long way toward the "cleaning up the mess," and the Democratic Legislators are right.

In apologizing for the continued bachelorhood of the Prince of Wales the dean of Windsor says "the day is past when Princes were called upon to marry girls selected for them by statesmen." In other words he is of the opinion that Princes have developed into "regular fellows."

## Taking Joy Out of Official Life.

Governor Pinchot appears to be determined to not only drive all the saaloons out of the State but to take most of the joy out of official life in Harrisburg. A list which he has had compiled shows that the State owns 350 passenger automobiles, 727 trucks and 74 motorcycles. Most of the passenger cars are high-powered and high-priced machines and have been used by public officials for joy riding and other personal purposes at the expense of the State. The Governor has issued an order that all these cars be painted and marked so that everybody will know that they belong to the State, and that unless they are in official use those operating them are looting the treasury.

It has also been revealed by investigations made by Governor Pinchot that some forty-three telephones installed in residences of employees of the State have been operated at the expense of the public treasury. The cost of telephones in Harrisburg run from \$2.50 to \$4.50 each month for local service alone. One of the users of a State-provided phone is said to have run up a bill of \$96.00 within a very short period of time for tolls on long distance service and all of them run long on the toll board. The Governor has ordered the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings to cut out all these phones, so that hereafter the swivel-chair favorites will be deprived of this luxury of official life.

Of course this is precisely the right thing to do. These favors to certain officials are part of "the mess at Harrisburg" which Governor Pinchot promised to "clean up" and it is gratifying to know that he is trying to fulfill that promise. There are other and even bigger abuses in the administration of the State government which will demand attention and no doubt will receive it in good time. The Governor is starting right and we hope he will have the courage and tenacity of purpose to finish the job well. We feel certain that the Democrats in the Legislature and good citizens of all parties in or out of that body will give him hearty support. But it will be hard on the machine.

Nobody knows who put the pinch in Pinchot but Secretary of Internal Affairs J. F. Woodward is the guy who took it out.

## Republican Machine Rebuked.

At the recent general election in the Forty-sixth Senatorial district of this State the Democratic voters supported George E. Sprows and the Republican nominee was Colonel James E. Barnett. Both candidates were popular, Mr. Sprows having served the public in local offices and Colonel Barnett served with some distinction in the Spanish war and a term as State Treasurer. The official count of the vote revealed the fact that Mr. Sprows was elected by one majority. "Jim" Barnett being a pet of the machine a contest was entered in his behalf and by throwing out the vote of one of the precincts the court declared the result a tie and a special election was ordered.

The special election was held last Thursday. Both parties had renominated the candidates supported at the previous election and the contest was intensive. The district had always been strongly Republican. The big vote polled by Sprows in November was a tribute to his personal worth and popularity. But it served also to indicate a drift of public sentiment in favor of the Democratic party in that section of Pennsylvania as well as in other sections. On the vote at the special election last week this trend was greatly accentuated. The official returns show for him a majority of nearly 2500, he having carried both counties in the district by large majorities.

The reason given for declaring the November vote a tie was that one of the precincts in the borough of McDonald is in Allegheny county instead of Washington. For years the vote of that precinct has been counted in the Washington county returns and if Barnett had been elected it would have continued to be so counted, in all probability, for years to come. But the covetous political machine of the Republican party couldn't consent to a Democratic Senator for that district. In the gerrymander which served the purpose of apportioning the State into Senatorial districts two years ago the Forty-sixth was considered safe for the Republicans. But "there is only a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip."

How many people who read of the death in London, last week, of Lady Francis Cook, formerly "Tenny" Claffin, the pioneer suffragette, know that she was born at Beech Creek, Clinton county? Her father "Buck" Claffin, came to central Pennsylvania from the New England States with the influx of Yankee woodsmen and log floaters before the Civil war and located at Beech Creek. For a number of years he kept a store there on the site now occupied by the store of W. F. Hess & Son. It was while living there that "Tenny" and Mrs. Bidolph Martin were born. "Tenny" as a girl wore her hair bobbed, being the first and only girl in this part of the State to wear abbreviated tresses. It was probably this same independence of spirit that induced her in later life to take up suffragette and become a pronounced Suffragette.

From our Pleasant Gap correspondent we learn that members of the sportsmen's association at that place are feeding the wild turkeys and other birds on Nittany mountain and intend keeping up the good work as long as the ground is so thickly covered with snow. The sport-loving fraternity in that place are to be commended on their thoughtfulness and if hunters everywhere would only do likewise more birds would live for nesting next spring.

Ambassador Harvey has gone back to his post in London after leaving a train of trouble in Washington. President Harding had to be put to bed and Secretary Hughes threatened to resign as the result of his visit.

We take no stock in the claim of the Oneida Indians to property in Philadelphia. Political pirates have controlled everything in that city for so long a period that "the memory of man runneth not to the contrary."

Senator Borah, of Idaho, is real indignant over the French invasion of the Ruhr region but Marshal Foch is more than likely to go on with his plans just as if Borah were in complete agreement with him.

If France has fooled Washington she needn't feel overly cocky about it. The present administration is likely to gulp any kind of flapdoodle in order to dope itself into "normalcy."

The official joy rider will look rather cheap when the accusing finger is pointed at him as he passes the crowd in a high-priced car.

If you want all the news read the "Watchman."

## A CHANCE!

"Day by day in every way,"  
My cold seems nothing better,  
I think I might in such a plight  
Write Come now a letter.  
He might—further, inspect my "roof,"  
To tell me what I Auto:  
My breathing apparatus;  
Or else, perchance, to throw in trance  
My sneezing obligate:  
There seems a ban on every plan  
I've tried for my digestion—  
I pray that he will give me soon  
A merciful—"Suggestion."

## Last Stand of Job-Mongers.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.  
Secretary of Internal Affairs, James F. Woodward is one of the first, perhaps the only one, of the politicians at the State Capitol who has openly arrayed himself against the Governor's program to introduce order and a business system in the government of Pennsylvania. He has announced his intention to oppose—in the courts if necessary—the transfer of any of the duties of his office to the Department of Commerce when created.

The explanation is not far to seek. The office of Secretary of Internal Affairs is a totally unnecessary encumbrance on the State's system of administration. A strong movement some years ago for its abolition, in the interest of economy and greater efficiency, was blocked by the politicians, who saw in the office jobs and opportunities for patronage more important to them than the welfare of the people.

Governor Pinchot's program has commended itself to the judgment of the business men of the State. The office of Secretary of Internal Affairs is an anachronism, and the resistance of the incumbent to any change will not deceive any one as to his motives. If he should carry out his present threat, it will be not because he is defending a needed agency of administration, but as the representative of a vicious system, the spokesman for that type of job-holding, job-manipulation, and job-stealing which has worked the State for all it is worth solely for selfish ends and who see in the new regime dawning at Harrisburg the end of sinecures, the elimination of extravagance and waste and a new spirit of loyal service to the public offices of the State.

## Sabotage on a Grand Scale.

From the New York World.  
On Wednesday 2500 iron miners in Newfoundland were thrown out of work because of the seizure of the Ruhr. Soon, no doubt, Swedish iron miners will be thrown out of work for the same reason. It will not be long before Italian factories will have to curtail production because they are not getting German coal. With the mark at 24,000 to the dollar, Germany's ability to buy American cotton, copper and wheat is much worse than Austria's ability a year ago.

The blow which Poincare has struck to the Ruhr will be felt throughout the world. It is an example of economic sabotage more deliberately violent and destructive than any ever undertaken by a civilized nation in time of peace. To be sure, the French have not destroyed any physical property, but they are destroying in the most reckless fashion the industrial skill and organization which alone gives property an economic value. They are tearing apart the industrial organization of the Ruhr. They are tearing the Ruhr away from its natural market in Germany. They are tearing Germany out of the world market by smashing credit.

The notion that this can produce reparations is moonshine. It can produce political convulsions, starvation, death, hatred and disgrace. But it will not rebuild a shattered French village, or pay a war veteran's pension, or save the credit of France, or make France secure. France indeed will be lucky if she escapes from the middle into which Poincare has led her without a catastrophe.

## Governing in the Open.

From the New York Tribune.  
Governor Pinchot has started governing at Harrisburg with the lack of privacy which a humorist has noted in the environment of a goldfish. A big sign on the door of his workroom reads: "Governor's Office—Walk Right In." There are no formalities. Visitors have simply to wait their turn while the Governor, in full view, receives all comers, answers the telephone and dispatches business as it piles up at his desk.

No hardened prevaricator is employed to ward off citizens at the outer portal with the formula, "The Governor is in conference." The caller can see for himself what occupies the Governor. There has never been, we judge, a freer opportunity to watch a pilot steering his ship of State. Mr. Pinchot is getting as close to the people as he can. He is not an isolationist.

It is profitable for a Governor to cut as much red tape as he can in his daily contacts, especially if he has a personality so pleasing as Mr. Pinchot's. We have had, though not recently icebergs at Albany, and they froze affection. Governor Smith's nickname and his wonderful gift as a mixer are his invaluable assets. Who can doubt that Mr. Pinchot is as sincerely democratic as our Al, though they do not call him "Gitt"—yet?

## SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Wayne Miller, convicted of second-degree murder, at Lancaster, was sentenced to twenty years in the eastern penitentiary for killing his wife.

—Alfred H. Coon, of Wilkes-Barre, has been appointed a captain of artillery and assigned as adjutant of the First Battalion of the 100th Artillery.

—Mrs. Clifton A. Verner, president of the Pittsburgh Women's Voters' League, sustained a fractured leg when knocked down by an automobile.

—Twenty-seven cases of typhoid fever at Cherry Tree have caused the state health officials to dispatch two state nurses to that town to take charge of the situation.

—Edmund Murphy, Earl Moyer and Joseph Flynn, of Mahanoy Plane, were seriously injured at Lawrence colliery, when a rope broke, allowing heavy iron plates to fall on them.

—Burglars Thursday night broke into the First Presbyterian church of New Castle and blew open the safe in the secretary's office, but got nothing. The burglars overlooked \$22 which the pastor had placed in his Bible the night before, intending to put it in the safe later.

—Measles are epidemic in many sections of Lancaster county. In Columbia hundreds of houses are under quarantine, while just as many are not quarantined, as the victims are being treated with old-time remedies by mothers. The epidemic has made great inroads on the attendance of pupils in the lowest grades of the schools.

—Falling asleep at a table at his boarding house in Northampton, Sunday night, Sebastian Mesha had a dream. In his wild gesticulations he swung his arms so freely that he upset an oil lamp and set the house on fire. In fighting the flames, Mesha's clothing caught fire, and he was seriously burned before help came. The house was badly damaged.

—For marching with the Robert Patton club in Harrisburg during the inaugural of Governor Pinchot, Louis Hansbury, of Philadelphia, was dismissed on Saturday by Sheriff Lambertson. The sheriff had warned employees a few weeks ago not to take any part in the exercises at Harrisburg, and said that disobedience of his order would result in dismissal. Another employee who was absent on inaugural day was excused by the sheriff when it was learned he was ill on that day.

—At the annual meeting of the Columbia County Fair Association, held at Bloomsburg last week, the officers were directed to proceed with plans for the erection of a modern grandstand that will seat at least 2000 persons, but so that the space under the stand can be used for exhibition purposes to relieve crowded conditions in the building. All of the officers of the association were re-elected, and reports showed that a profit of nearly \$20,000 was realized through the 1922 fair.

—Weighing thirty pounds less than his 170 pound wife, Edward Stickel, of Dunlap, Fayette county, obtained a divorce when he proved to the master in the divorce suit that he was cruelly and barbarously treated by Myrtle Stickel. He testified that she threw a skillet at him, got a butcher knife and threatened to kill him, and many times said she would poison him. On account of the difference in their sizes he was unable to protect himself in a manner that insured his safety. The Stickels were married July 17, 1919, in Pittsburgh.

—The Clinton Natural Gas and Oil company, in which a number of capitalists are financially interested, has struck enough gas already to supply Lock Haven. Several months ago a well was brought in with 2,000,000 cubic feet flow and recently one with 1,500,000 feet flow was tapped. Previously to this a number of paying wells were capped, waiting until a sufficient volume could be found to warrant piping. The company has two rigs drilling continually, and it is probable that the gas will be piped to Lock Haven the coming summer or next fall.

—Fayette county's jail population increased about 30 per cent. last year, according to the official report of warden Hugh A. Gorley, just made public. During 1922 exactly 3524 persons were committed to the county jail, as compared with 2296 the previous year. The report shows that 1309 persons were unable to read or write, having never attended school. The presence of the state police in Fayette and the crusade conducted against violators of the Woner act and the automobile law are responsible for a large percentage of the persons committed to the county jail.

—Locked in an interior room in the house by their mother who had gone to visit a neighbor, two children, aged two and one-half and five and one-half years, daughters of Mrs. Chester Holmes, near Judith Mine, Bedford county, were burned to death late Sunday night. An hour after Mrs. Holmes, the wife of the miner, who was at work at the time, had left the house, the story and a half tenement was seen to be enveloped in flames. Despite the heroic efforts of neighbors, attempts to rescue the imprisoned little children were unavailing. The origin of the fire is unknown.

—Charles Brown, yard boss at the new Luzerne plant of the Hellman Coal and Coke company at Maxwell, Fayette county, was shot dead last Saturday morning by a negro laborer who had been discharged by Brown on Tuesday. Brown, who lived in Masontown, took charge of the coal yard on Friday, and discharged a negro for failure to obey orders. As he sat at the breakfast table on Saturday morning in the company boarding house the man entered and ordered Brown to throw up his hands. Brown refused and was shot twice with a pistol. He was one of the best known men in the region and formerly conducted a business of his own in Masontown, where he was prominent in amateur athletics.

—Four correctional institutions to be known as the Pennsylvania state farms are authorized in a bill presented in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, on Monday night, by Mr. Edmonds, of Philadelphia. These would eventually take the place of county prisons and if possible accommodate also the inmates of the penitentiaries and of the Huntingdon reformatory. The bill, according to its sponsor, was introduced at the request of the president judges of the Common Pleas court of Philadelphia. It has the approval of the Pennsylvania State Bar association and was offered as the first step in prison reform. Institutions are to be provided which afford an opportunity for outside work. Of course the bill may never become a law.