

INK SLINGS.

Everything seems to indicate that "Normalcy" has fled the front porch at Marion and has landed somewhere near Versailles.

If you don't have a mess of trout for breakfast next Tuesday morning don't lay your disappointment at our door. The fish are in the streams. All you have to do is catch 'em.

To make a long story short Senator Pepper is admitting now that he didn't know what he was talking about when he was condemning the League of Nations and urging us to stay out of it.

It is mighty fitting that George Harvey is to be brought home from England to lead the Republican attempt to kidnap Wilson's League of Nations. Harvey double-crossed Wilson once before and will have no compunctions in doing it again.

This is one newspaper that will carry, free of charge, any advertising necessary for that proposed amendment to bond the State for enough money to complete the necessary building program for The Pennsylvania State College. Are there others?

The suggestion that Governor Pinchot be the running mate of Warren Gamaliel on the next Presidential ticket is the unkindest cut of all. There is only one sure way to shove budding political ambition and that is to run it for the office of Vice President.

The Altoona Mirror thinks Governor Pinchot too good a bet to waste on a vice-presidential nomination next year. It wants him for head of the ticket in 1928, all of which is a very present sop to the Gov. and a long chance for the Mirror to change its mind.

Senator Betts' bill authorizing a constitutional amendment that would provide for the issuance of bonds to the amount of eight million dollars, the proceeds to be used for new buildings at State College, passed the Senate finally Monday night. To many friends of State this news might read better than it really is. Unfortunately the Senate passes lots of bills just for the purpose of passing the buck to the House. Let us hope, however, that the House will act on this one as it should.

Always we have looked on Millheim with admiration; ya, almost reverence, as the Mecca toward which any discouraged Democrat might journey with hope of revival of his flagging faith, but Millheim is moving on to greater fame than she has gained as the Gibraltar of Centre county Democracy. She has given the world a pianist whose performances are already attracting state-wide attention in musical circles. Today Miss Kessler is probably the most favorably and widely known resident of the capital of Penn township.

Sure, Governor Pinchot is the boss little money saver. Long before he even thought of being our chief executive work was begun on additions to the capitol building. They were for the purpose of furnishing office room for departments that had had to seek quarters in privately owned buildings in the city of Harrisburg. The additions began years ago and are about ready for occupancy and the Governor's press bureau announces to a gullible public that the wizard of Pike county is about to save the State twenty thousand dollars a year in office rentals. What can't Gif do?

There are a lot of government garden seeds at this office for free distribution. Congressman Jones sent them with his compliments. We've tried our damndest to get rid of them but not more than half of the lot are gone. Daily importuning of the public having failed we have decided on a new scheme to get the embryo garden makers moving. During next week only we'll give three packages of seed to every fisherman who brings a fourteen inch trout to this office. Remember; this offer is good for next week only and bear in mind, also, that this will be the last year of free government seeds.

If Governor Pinchot's new code is passed in its present form the trustees of the Bellefonte hospital will be able to select a superintendent only on approval of the choice by the head of the Department of Public Welfare at Harrisburg. How lovely for the Republican machine when it gathers its routed forces and comes back into power—as it surely will—to kick Dr. Ellen Potter out and put some "regular" fellow in her job! Paternalism of this sort is bad enough when a good mater is wearing pater's pants but the Lord have mercy on the state aid institutions when a real machine pap shakes her out of them and pulls them on himself.

The recent decision of the Supreme court to the effect that wages cannot be fixed by law looks to us as if reason and common sense are beginning to come out of the fog. A minimum or maximum wage cannot be equitably fixed for any worker. A man or woman is worth exactly what he or she produces for the employer. The individual has the inalienable right to sell his service in the highest market or give it in the lowest. No law is sound, either economically or in justice, that would compel an employer to pay one employee more than he appraises his services to be worth or restrain him from paying another more than any maximum wage that law might fix.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Opposition to "Pinchot's Pet."

The "Old Guard," which is the popular name for the late Republican machine, is now pretending to organize an opposition to the so-called "Pinchot Code." The purpose of the "code" is to reorganize the State government upon a basis of business principles which promise material improvement and some saving in expense. The complaint of the "Old Guard" is that the "code" would vest in the Governor dangerous powers. "It contains," the old machine managers declare, "provisions that would have a tendency to set up a sort of oligarchy within the State, with the Governor as supreme dictator and lesser officials appointed by the executive clothed with authority never before dreamed of in Pennsylvania."

In the arraignment of the "code" the "Old Guard" alleges that it "places the State constabulary under the absolute control of the Attorney General; that it vests in the same official complete power over the legislative reference bureau; that it robs the Auditor General and Secretary of Internal Affairs of functions reposed in them by the constitution and lodges them in the Secretary of State, an appointee of the Governor; that it transfers from the Department of Mines to the Department of Public Instruction duties properly belonging to the Department of Mines; that it creates an unnecessary Department of Commerce and delegates sweeping and excessive authority to the Department of Public Welfare."

These are the grave objections to the measure. The State police has been comparatively free from politics and reasonably efficient in the fulfillment of the purpose for which it was created. The Attorney General, being the political manager of the administration, might easily impair its usefulness by employing it in party contests. The Secretary of the Commonwealth has never had any fiscal authority and might easily abuse such power if given to him. Both these officials are appointed by the Governor and are responsible to him exclusively, so that the authority bestowed upon them is really given into the hands of the Governor. An executive "with a single track mind" thus endowed might do great harm.

Clearly, therefore, the "Old Guard" has good reason for its objection to the "Pinchot code." But we have reasons to doubt the sincerity of the opposition. It looks too much like an offer to "deal" for spoils. The "Old Guard" is as destitute of principles as it is deficient in morals, and Pinchot is an expert huckster in patronage. The day before the vote on the enforcement bill the Governor was beaten by a dozen votes. On the roll call he won by two. The change was effected over night. It was the result of skillful and liberal use of promises. A similar victory will be achieved if the "code" comes to a vote. The only chance on earth to defeat the measure is in preventing it from reaching a vote on final passage.

The ruling of the Public Service Commission in the appeal of the Emerick Motor Bus Co. vs. taxi drivers of State College, published in detail elsewhere in this issue, should interest every resident of Bellefonte as well as those of every other incorporated community in Pennsylvania. It should be interesting because it shows how far commission forms of government are going in centralizing control over local affairs. We know nothing of the merits of the case decided, but it is our thought that when it comes to the point of saying whether taxis from State College or any other place may, or may not, park on the streets of Bellefonte and solicit patronage our town council should be the court of last resort.

What's in a name? Do you think for a minute that Jennie Hinkenlooper, of Huston, Texas, could ever have attained such eminence in the musical world as bas Madame Olga Zamaroff? They are one and the same person, of course, but Jennie took her step-father's family name and at once "the prophet not without honor save in her own country" became famous.

President Harding could easily get over his perturbation lest the public thinks he is trying to sneak into the League of Nations through the back door. He could stand right up and walk in at the front without making apology to any one, if he had the courage to do it and everybody would acclaim the entry except Lodge and La Follette.

Liam Lynch is dead and De Valera and the Countess Marciewicz are about all who survive to interfere with Ireland's progress toward peace. We never could understand how a name like that of the Countess could command a following in Ireland.

Wise Course of Democrats.

It is gratifying to learn, as we do through the medium of current gossip in Harrisburg, that the Democratic Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly are not likely to mix up in the Republican mess over revenue legislation. At a dinner given by State chairman McCullough on Monday evening, all the Democratic Legislators present, it was agreed "that the best course for the Democrats to pursue would be to sit tight and watch the Republicans hang themselves," according to the correspondent of the Philadelphia Record, who adds, "with the exception of one or two members of the delegation is united in the conviction that they should vote solidly against increasing tax rates or imposing new levies."

As Governor Pinchot has sharply reminded the Republican majority in the Legislature "additional taxation is made necessary only because of deficiencies handed down from previous administrations." The previous administrations which have left such a burdensome legacy were Republican administrations and the greatest offender was the Sproul administration, of which Gifford Pinchot was not only a conspicuous but an influential part. That being the case there is no reason why the Democrats in the present Legislature should help either of the Republican factions in what seems like an "irrepressible conflict" for supremacy and spoils, and incidentally strew flowers on the pathway to Pinchot's hopes.

The mess in Harrisburg has increased in proportions and confusion since the inauguration of Governor Pinchot but it is a matter for which no responsibility rests on the Democratic party. If the factional quarrel, increasing in bitterness every day, results in a complete failure of the governing agencies to function, Democratic citizens will suffer from the evil effects quite as much as Republicans. But they will be free from blame and that is something to be proud of. A Democratic administration at any time within the past twelve years would have prevented the mess and the election of John A. McSparran last fall would have cleaned it up by the simplest and safest process.

The Texas girl who danced fifty consecutive hours "broke the record" unquestionably, but established no real claim on humanity.

New Source of Trouble.

A new source of trouble seems to be looming up in connection with the enforcement of the Volstead law. Ever since the approval of that act of Congress ship loads of booze of one kind and another have been coming from various countries, more frequently from Central and South American ports. The ships containing the contraband cargoes hover around the three mile line and when opportunity is found discharge whole or parts of their cargoes to "rum running" boats sent out from shore to receive the goods. The legal authorities at Washington as well as international lawyers everywhere have hitherto recognized the principle of "freedom of the seas" outside the three mile line and pursuit of rum ships ended there.

Recently this interpretation of "freedom of the seas" has been questioned and according to news dispatches a rum laden ship was raced and captured eighteen miles out at sea beyond the three mile line. Professor Ellery C. Stowell, of the faculty of the American University of Washington, has expressed the opinion that any ship of any nation putting out from the West Indies laden with liquor "without any genuine port of destination, hovering or intending to hover off our coasts with the view of landing contraband liquor, in evasion or violation of our law," might be sunk or confiscated wherever caught on the high seas. It is said that other noted international lawyers concur in this view. This opens up a wide field for dry agents to work.

Possibly Professor Stowell is right but action on his suggestion might lead to grave consequences. International law is an uncertain quantity and subject to various interpretations. The ship referred to as captured eighteen miles out was an American vessel and any litigation that might grow out of the incident would be disposed of in domestic courts. But tackling an English, French or Japanese ship in that way could not be disposed of so easily for the act would assume the nature of piracy and might be resented by the government offended by a declaration of war. The hovering of rum ships on the line may be humiliating to the dry agents and tantalizing to rum drinkers, but maybe it were better to let them alone.

The women of the country are taking the measure of Herbert Hoover with the price of sugar as the standard.

Senator Pepper a Bogus Convert.

Senator Pepper is a close observer of the weather cock. When the public mind was tainted by ignorance and prejudiced against the League of Nations George Wharton Pepper was the most vehement and persistent of the blatherskites engaged in the work of defaming the project and those responsible for it. Such denunciation was popular in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania where political pirates regulated the frame of mind of the voters. It was also agreeable to the managers of the party which hoped to gain power by organizing the ignorance and bigotry of traitors, aliens and infidels against the administration in power. Lusting for office Pepper freely gave service in opposition to the League.

Now that the weather vane indicates that public sentiment is running strong in the opposite direction he is among the first to reverse himself on the question. In an interview published in the Philadelphia papers, on Sunday, he declares that he "is in favor of the United States entering the League of Nations if the League will rewrite the covenant, eliminating the objectionable features covered in the old reservations put forth by this country." But when the question of ratifying the League was pending in the Senate, and the Democratic Senators had expressed a willingness to accept all the reservations put forth by the Republicans, Pepper continued blatantly protesting against the League on any terms.

George Wharton Pepper broke into official life by pandering to the basest impulses of a corrupt party machine leadership. He is now trying to entrench himself by stultification equally contemptible. Such party leaders as the late Quay and Penrose are detestable enough but a man quite as perfidious who attempts to put over the same tricks while pretending to live a life of righteousness according to the tenets of a Christian church is simply intolerable. Mr. Pepper will not fool many people by his false pretense of conversion to the great purpose he assassinated three years ago. He is for the League of Nations now because he believes the people of the country are for it and opposition will be fatal.

If the tariff is not responsible for the high price of sugar it's a safe bet that Senator Smoot is disappointed in getting the high tax levy on sugar.

Price of and Tax on Sugar.

Upon his return to Washington after a vacation of five weeks President Harding expressed surprise at the high price of sugar. When he went away the price was only five or six cents a pound and nobody complained. But on his return it was selling everywhere at ten cents a pound and those familiar with the trade operations were predicting that it would go much higher. Thus far this prophecy has not been fulfilled but the canning season of midsummer and fall is likely to see very high if not record prices. Of course the President expressed anxiety as to the cause of the soaring, but has not yet been informed. He has been assured, however, that the tariff had nothing to do with it.

While the Fordney-McCumber tariff bill was pending in the Senate Senator Smoot, of Utah, who is largely interested in the beet sugar industry, had an official of the State Department at Washington sent to Cuba for the purpose of persuading the sugar planters of that Island to restrict their operations so as to create a scarcity of sugar both in this country and there. According to the best information obtainable this enterprise failed and the Mormon statesman addressed himself to increasing the tariff tax on sugar. Presumably the purpose in this was to accomplish the result in another way. That is, he would make the price of Cuban sugar so high by the addition of a heavy tariff tax that the domestic product could be sold at an immense profit.

The sugar market since the approval of the Fordney tariff bill is the best evidence of the success of this scheme. Almost the same day the bill was approved the price of sugar began climbing upward. It was a slow but steady rise, the idea being to prevent a two vigorous protest. But the protest came about the time the price reached ten cents a pound and it has been held there since for the reasons, probably, that buying diminished to some extent and the rate of increase had been too rapid. The time to reach the public in the price of sugar is when the canning industry is active. Probably the peak price will be reached then unless the tariff rate is reduced by the tariff commission.

Governor Pinchot thinks all the highways of the State ought to be patrolled and it is not improbable that his desire for patronage is father to the thought.

Daugherty Went Too Far.

From the Philadelphia Record. If Attorney General Daugherty had contented himself with announcing that the President would accept a re-nomination, and would be very much surprised if he didn't get it, the President would not have felt obliged to disparage his statement and regret its untimeliness.

Of course, it is not at all too early to notify the country, and especially all other aspirants for the nomination, that Mr. Harding expects his party to do the usual thing. It is eminently proper to warn all trespassers of the White House grass. The choosing of delegates will begin in less than a year, and it is highly important that the delegates should know what is going to happen. They might flounder around in a state of uncertainty and make the serious mistake of voting for the wrong man. Daugherty was perfectly timely in his announcement of the Republican party's next candidate.

But he did not stop here. He went on to talk about the platform and tell what some of its leading planks will be. Here he dropped into prophecy, and that is very dangerous. It is more dangerous in politics than in anything else. How can Mr. Daugherty tell what the platform will be? The President himself doesn't know. It is perfectly safe to assume that he will write it, or he will edit it with a large blue pencil. But 15 months before the convention the President cannot tell what to put into that document.

He may put in his own suggestion for participation in the Permanent Court of International Justice, but he can't tell until he has seen how some of the Senators act about it. He may put ex-Governor Allen's plank asserting a larger part by the United States in world affairs, but he can tell better about that after the next Congress shall have been in session for a little while. Reports that he will have an open shop plank put into the platform will require a good deal of confirmation. A great many voters are opposed to the open shop, and while the President talked open shop last summer it is not likely that he would care to have anything on the subject put into the platform.

Republicans are said to be anxious that the Democrats should put a "wet" plank in their platform, but this is quite premature; they may want that plank themselves. The politicians do not know where such a thing would cut, and therefore they do not know whether to have a dry plank or a wet one. The safer course for both parties seems to be to declare for law enforcement. It may have been observed that Mr. Harding has never gone any further. He has never expressed his admiration for prohibition. Neither party will commit itself on the merits of the question if it can possibly avoid it. The Eighteenth amendment got into the Constitution without having been in either of the party platforms.

Mr. Harding's only dissatisfaction with the Attorney General's proclamation is that it is too early to know what can be safely put into the platform. Mr. Daugherty's selection of a candidate meets with the President's hearty approval.

Laying the Germs to Adam.

From the New York World. "In Adam's fall we sinned all," runs the good old couplet of original iniquity. If we abide by William Jennings Bryan's denial of natural evolution it comes far from making out the whole case for the woes of the first man. If Mr. Bryan is right and creation represented completion at the first week-end, Adam must stand not only as the fountainhead of original sin but, as Dr. Charles W. Stiles has pointed out to the Washington Biological society, as the primeval carrier of all the germs that afflict the sons of humanity and the beasts of field and wood. If germs were not created in the first of living bodies, they were developed, and development spells evolution.

Stiles' argument is a criticism of Mr. Bryan's logic rather than a fling at any theological article of belief. In the modern pulp it is not regarded as an offense to consider that man has bettered himself by growth since his appearance in Eden. If Mr. Bryan is himself conscious of no broadening, no deepening and no conviction of error in his full maturity, the doctor might ask, is the fact of his individual lack of evolutionary ripening an excuse for questioning the progress of humanity in the large?

Along with the germs of disease Adam must have had about his person the earliest seeds of mischievous economics. He must have been the original advocate of free silver, the pioneer propagandist of Bolshevism, the precedent promoter of prohibition; he must have set up the very mold of militarism and been the standard-bearer of panhandlers, profiteers and jazz-age janglers. To say these things is to expand the idea of original sin, and to do that it is not to flout in Mr. Bryan's face a form of mental evolution? Anyway, we see in the piling of fresh horrors of responsibility upon the first man added reasons for the weeping of Mark Twain, the jester, at the grave of Adam.

Hiram Johnson and Bob La Follette have not yet assented to Attorney General Daugherty's proposition that the nomination of Harding next year be made unanimous.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

For the alleged kidnapping of Lloyd Dutcher, 15 years old, from his home in Versailles, near McKeesport, John Winters, who entered a plea of guilty to the charge, was sentenced at Uniontown, on Monday, to serve from four to six years in the western penitentiary.

The biggest business deal of the year was consummated at Lancaster, on Saturday, when the Armstrong Cork company purchased the plant of the Lancaster Structural and Foundry company. The property consists of a number of buildings and eight acres of land.

Missing from home more than forty years, Moses Brumbach, of Sinking Spring, near Reading, has been declared legally dead by the Berks county orphans' court. He had realty worth \$13,000 coming to him from relatives' estates. Lillie Becker and William G. Brumbach, first cousins, are the principal heirs to the \$13,000.

With a report heard for miles, a big Lehigh Valley pusher locomotive blew up on Friday in the cut-off at Durysa, seven miles south of Scranton, killing Samuel Martin, engineer, of Pittston, and James Boyden, fireman, of West Pittston. The locomotive was returning light from Mountain Top to Caxton yard when the explosion occurred. The locomotive is a total wreck.

Investigating a light that shone at the Philadelphia and Reading crossing along the state highway near Mahanoy City Thursday night, Earl Light, a chauffeur found an automobile turned over on the tracks and five men pinned under it. All were unconscious. Light flagged a fast freight just in time to save the men's lives. The men were taken later to their homes in St. Clair. All have severe injuries.

Russell Weisberger, 26 years old, an invalid, committed suicide at his home, at Luthersburg, when he placed the butt-end of a rifle upon an organ, leaned his forehead against the muzzle and pulled the trigger. He had been confined to his bed several months, but managed to get shells for a gun kept near his bed. His father, also an invalid, was the only other member of the family in the house at the time of the suicide.

A piece of hard clay from a new building excavation was hurled by a blast 100 feet across the principal street of Hazleton, last Thursday, and crashed through the leaded glass at the top of the Hazel Drug company's show window. It knocked a pencil from the hair of the cashier, Miss Gertrude Stern, missed the hat of a woman enjoying an ice cream sundae and landed in the milk shake that her escort was about to drink.

County detective G. E. Whited, of Ebensburg, acting under instructions from district attorney D. P. Weimer, lodged a charge of involuntary manslaughter against the superintendent and mine foreman of Reilly mine number 2, at Spangler, where an explosion on November 6 caused the death of seventy-seven men. William Young is superintendent and Owen J. Flanagan is mine foreman. It was charged that these men, as executives, were permitting practices contrary to the demands of safety and thus were responsible for the disaster.

Entering the Dufford furniture store on New Castle, on Thursday afternoon, Mrs. Josephine Best, a young widow, shot and seriously wounded Carl H. Dufford, secretary and treasurer of the company. She then calmly waited for the police after the revolver had been snatched from her hand by Berne Dufford, the man's brother. Questioned regarding the shooting, Mrs. Best, who formerly was employed as stenographer for the company, declared, poetically, that she shot Dufford when he attempted to end their relations. Dufford died on Saturday.

Harold F. Vandermark, of Nanticoke, Pa., a Senior at Bucknell University, was drowned, and Charles P. Williamson, of West Chester, and David L. Miller, of Juniata, narrowly escaped the same fate on Saturday when the canoe in which they had spent several hours on the Susquehanna river at Lewisburg, capsized. The students had taken advantage of a clear afternoon to spend several hours on the river when toward sunset they were carried into the main channel on a high wave raised by a stiff breeze. About forty yards from shore the canoe tipped, filled and sank.

Mrs. E. S. Smith and her daughter, Mrs. Jennie Anzul, both of whom were ill in bed, were forced to dress hurriedly early Monday morning and flee for their lives when a huge mine cave swallowed up part of the yard surrounding their home in Parsons, Luzerne county. The hole, which was seventy-five feet long and thirty-five feet wide, measured twenty-five feet deep in places. A porch and rear chimney were pulled away from the house proper by the subsidence. The cave is over the workings of the Pine Ridge mine of the Delaware and Hudson company. Later the same day workmen were assigned to the task of filling in the hole and repairing what damage was done.

An alleged fifth ace in a game of poker in the rooms of the Italian Sociale, at West Chester, on Saturday night, resulted in a murder. The dead man was Francesco Izzi, 35 years old. Tabia Inchiella, 25 years old, is in prison charged with murder. The trouble started about 2:30 Saturday morning. Izzi is said to have exhibited four aces when "called" by Inchiella, who had as many queens. It is said a fifth ace was found on the floor. Inchiella drew a revolver and began firing. Two shots hit the ceiling, but a third bullet penetrated Izzi's heart. After the shooting the accused slayer fled, but was captured two hours later. Izzi leaves a widow and six children and was naturalized. The other man is single and un-naturalized.

Luther Gerth, aged 40 years, railway mail clerk, of York, died almost instantly at the Pennsylvania station at Sunbury, near midnight Thursday night, after having been accidentally shot by a bullet from a revolver carried by Albert Snyder, a mail clerk whose home is at Kane. When Snyder's revolver slipped from his holster and fell to the floor of the mail car, it was discharged. The bullet entered Gerth's body near the left thigh. Taking an upward course, it came out through his shoulder. Dr. H. F. Evans, deputy coroner, pronounced the man's death accidental. The body was taken to York by Harry F. Moore, a fellow mail clerk, who had been a friend of Gerth's for years. Gerth is survived by his widow and one child, born a month ago. His run was between Harrisburg and Buffalo on trains 676 and 674.