

INK SLINGS.

A Memorial day without a thunder storm was unusual.

It is June. Brides, roses and sweet girl graduates have come into their own.

The coming hatch of moths will have an awful time digesting some of the things the ladies called furs last winter.

The big reason that a dollar doesn't go as far now as it once did is because it has so many more roads to travel.

Boycotting sugar is a poor remedy for a national evil but it served its purpose of diverting the attention from the tariff tax as the real cause.

If President Harding does half of what he says he is going to do for Alaska he'll have no time for the Mayflower or the golf sticks during the rest of his term.

Almost we're afraid to refer to the delightfully seasonable weather we have been having for fear Old Probs gets mad again and sends along a few more frosts.

Give an eighteen year old boy a Ford, a flapper and a night out and you have placed in jeopardy the lives of all the other persons who happen to travel the same road.

The head of an average sized family spends as much in maintenance of his car, furnishing fares for the movies and buying new phonograph records, as his pap spent in paying for the old homestead and rearing the whole flock.

The government is still under obligations, under the Pittman law, to buy 5000 ounces of silver bullion at one dollar an ounce, but as the market price is considerably less there is not likely to be much trouble in getting the goods.

The Governor has signed the Williams bill which will require the State to reimburse certain school districts for the cost of transportation of such pupils as are required to attend schools in other districts for the purpose of better classification.

The correspondence war that is now being waged by the national chairmen of the Democratic and Republican parties may not meet with the approval of the rank and file of the latter army but it can't fail to impress them with the fact that their generals are all out of harmony on the matter of strategy for the next campaign.

Dr. Russell H. Conwell has told the Baptist convention that the world has reached the peak of its civilization. Certainly the mad scramble for money, the predominance of the technical in modern education and the popular indifference to the fine arts and literature would indicate that we are laying a poor foundation on which future generations are to build.

A great lamentation comes from London because American tourists are returning home before the season is over. Probably they are, but they are doing so only because of the extortionate prices charged Americans on the other side. We are the geese that lay the golden eggs, all right enough, and Europe shouldn't register a wail because of the results of her foolish attempts to kill us.

Secretary of Labor Davis told the graduating class of the Sharon High school "that the man with the flannel shirt is the man who is getting the money." We all know who the Secretary means, of course, but he isn't "the man with the flannel shirt." There ain't no such animal any more. He started gettin' the money away back in 1916 and's been wearing silk shirts ever since.

Judged from the long list of fatal accidents reported in yesterday's metropolitan papers a lot of people did their best to make Memorial day memorable for friends of the departed. We know we're a bit behind the times in our conception of the spirit of Memorial day. To us it has always seemed one set apart for reverential observance. The modern idea of ball games, dancing, and joy riding is running rampant and death grins at the mad orgies of jazz crazed humanity for he knows that with each holiday excess more graves will be on the hill-sides for the next Memorial day.

Italian ships are required by law to carry liquors for their crews and passengers, but as they are not now allowed to bring it inside the three mile limit while touching at the ports of this country international complications are likely to arise unless there is some modification of our own ruling with regard to ships. The prohibition question aside, our right to take such a position as would either require Italy to change her law in this regard or keep her ships out of our ports is very questionable. If the shoe were on the other foot we fancy Uncle Sam would make an awful fuss about it.

Henry Ford is just now very much talked of as a Presidential possibility and, to say the least, the leaders of both parties are viewing it with alarm. Nobody knows just what Henry's politics are and we doubt if he does himself. However that may be, he is a potential figure in the business world, owes nothing to the "big interests" and at his present rate of production will have a Ford for every voter in the land by 1924. He doesn't deny being a receptive candidate and if the West and the South should persuade him to run there will be more Lizzies at the polls than there ever have been before.

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Cost of Schools in Centre.

In its Sunday issue the Philadelphia Public Ledger boastfully compares the cost of public school education of that city with that of other cities, including New York, Chicago and smaller towns. The educational standard in Philadelphia is on a high plane, our esteemed contemporary justly declares, and the cost is much less per pupil, than that in other towns. In Philadelphia, for example, it costs ninety-seven dollars and thirty cents a year for each pupil, while in New York, Chicago and the other cities mentioned the expense is considerably above a hundred dollars for the service. In the city of Harrisburg, this State, the cost amounts to one hundred and four dollars, nearly seven dollars more.

In ordinary circumstances this would afford a proper reason for congratulating the city of Philadelphia. The cost of education per pupil in a community is measured by the amount of taxes paid for school purposes by the people in addition to the bonus paid out of the State treasury, as compared with the school population. In Philadelphia the taxation for school purposes is by levy on the real estate, the millage being fixed by the school authorities, and may not exceed six mills on the dollar. Outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh the tax levy for schools may run to twenty mills in second class districts and twenty-five in third class districts. And in addition there may be levied and collected a personal tax of not less than one nor more than five dollars.

In view of the facts the low cost of education in Philadelphia is more a cause of shame than pride. In Bellefonte the millage is twenty-one and the personal tax two dollars and fifty cents on every man and woman resident in the borough. In other words, owing to the stupidity or something worse of the Representatives in the Legislature for the second and third class school districts the citizens and residents outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are taxed to pay the educational expenses of those cities. Personal taxes are not levied in those cities for the reason that payment would come out of the pockets of the politicians, as the poll taxes are drawn, to qualify the illiterates to vote.

Meantime aged persons should not place much hope in the pension bill recently approved by the Governor. It will take every cent of the \$25,000 appropriation to organize the bureau and maintain it two years.

Moving Cause of the Trip.

Tomorrow or some other day in the near future Senator Pepper and Senator Reed will set out on their proposed and much talked about pilgrimage through Pennsylvania. The actual purpose of this trip has not yet been fully revealed, though it has been the subject of considerable speculation. The Senators declare it is for the purpose of "getting acquainted with the people," but that is only an excited credulity. One element of their party ventures the opinion that their purpose is to organize opposition to the renomination of Harding, which sounds sensible, and another group is persuaded that the object is to shake Pinchot's strangle hold on the confidence of the farmers in the State.

Either of these reasons might justify the expense and labor of an automobile trip throughout the State if it were not for the intruding proclivities of the others. Senators Pepper and Reed were not widely known in Pennsylvania before Sproul catapulted them into the lime light, and if they hope to continue in public life it may be necessary for them to worm their way into the affections of a wider circle. But considerable time will elapse before their terms expire and it is not usual for politicians to "gush" before they have to. It is also true that President Harding gave them ample cause for a vigorous kick in some of the appointments he has made since their elevation to the Senate. But he has since reconciled them on this point, according to gossip.

As to the third reason for their extended, and let us hope enjoyable, journey over the fair and fertile surface of the State, there is wisdom as well as plausibility in the conjecture. Governor Pinchot has certainly got the old machine "in chancery," and unless he is shaken off or knocked out in the near future he will clean up that festering mess in much shorter time and better shape than he has done with the other evils he promised during the campaign of last fall to dispose of. Taking one consideration with another, and analyzing the three reasons for the approaching Senatorial trip, we are inclined to believe that the extinction of Pinchot is really and truly the moving cause.

Dr. Finnegan's term of office has expired but the people are not informed as to whether or not that ends Finneganism in the State.

The Tax Mess Still Muddled.

The Legislature having taken a recess of ten days or more on Thursday of last week the work of cleaning up the tax mess has made no progress since our last issue. During the previous week-end Governor Pinchot got hold of the noses of the Representatives and temporarily forced them to relinquish their purpose to prevent additional taxation. In accordance with his plan the votes defeating several tax schemes were reconsidered and measures placed on the calendar capable of producing the twenty millions of dollars which Pinchot imagines will put him into the Presidential race. But the recess falsely ascribed to respect for war heroes was taken to give further opportunity for forcing.

Auditor General Lewis has shown by actual figures that no additional taxes are needed to meet the obligations of the State if taken in a business way. There are "lapsed" appropriations sufficient to meet all demands, if proper retrenchments are made in administration and proper methods are adopted in the collections. That being true the levy of additional taxes is a crime against the people of Pennsylvania. The administrators of the government have a right to levy sufficient taxes to meet the actual expenses. The levy of burdens to pay for joy riding or ambitious projects is robbery, plain and simple. Every Senator and Representative should be held to strict account for his part in it.

The Democrats in the General Assembly have fully met their obligations to the people thus far in this matter. If John A. McSparran had been elected Governor last fall the mess would have been far advanced in the process of cleaning up and there would have been no demand for increased taxation. No will-o-the-wisp in the form of ambition for higher honors would have beguiled him from his promise to retrench and improve the public service. No Democratic Senator or Representative should aid the present Governor to burden the people for his own aggrandizement. The question will be up for consideration next week, when the recess is ended, and we hope there will be no recency on the Democratic side.

The Governor's visit to the Eastern penitentiary, after the exposure, didn't contribute much to the cause of reform but it got the front page all right.

Misdirected Indignation.

Senator Fess, of Ohio, is highly indignant because General Hines, the new director of the Veterans' bureau of the government, recently declared that "the bureau will no longer be run under the dictation of political pull, and that cases fathered by Congressmen will hereafter have the same status as any other cases, on their merits." Senator Fess, who was for some time chairman of the Republican Congressional campaign committee, imagines that is the worst form of heresy. "Bureaucratic government has reached the limit," he writes. "Any suggestion that the decrees of Congress will be ignored will have but one result. This government is not owned by the bureaus."

There is nothing in the statement of Director Hines to justify the interpretation of Senator Fess. Director Hines didn't even insinuate that "the decrees of Congress will be ignored." But the decrees of Congress are not expressed by Congressional spoils-mongers speaking through the departments of the government. They are declared through the regular channels of legislation, by means of bills or resolutions considered and adopted. Spoils-mongers simply prevent the purposes of Congress by corrupting the bureaus and other executive agencies in order to procure favors for dependent followers. Senator Fess is a past master in this nefarious and demoralizing work.

Obviously Director Hines has spoken on the subject in the interest of the veterans. Senator Fess has replied in the language of the "scurvy politician." But he has not terrorized the director of the Veterans' bureau or the veterans. According to a Washington correspondent an organ of the soldiers has informed Senator Fess that the Veterans' bureau "is not owned by politicians. We have had one political administration under Colonel Forbes, and the abuses which grew up, the millions which were squandered, the thousands of worthy veterans that were mishandled, is scandal enough of that kind." It is the purpose of General Hines to correct that evil and threats will not divert him from that purpose.

The radio craze may work harm here and there, but the fact that it keeps men, women and children at home nights is no cause of complaint.

What France really needs in the Ruhr Valley is a few strike breakers and plenty of patience.

Mr. Ford's Ambitions Unimportant.

There is no necessity for worrying over Mr. Henry Ford's ambitions. It is said that he is already the richest man in the world and it is altogether probable that he will continue to accumulate funds and acquire other forms of wealth as long as he lives. But there is no great harm in that. He gains his wealth honestly. Nobody accuses him of cheating and he neither boosts prices nor cuts wages to increase profits. There is no just cause of complaint against wealth so acquired. It gratifies the possessor and injures no one. As a matter of fact Mr. Ford's vast and rapid accumulations have helped rather than harmed the world. He has used his money wisely and to good purpose.

Whether Mr. Ford is a candidate for President of the United States or not is a matter of little importance. Nobody knows much about his party affiliations. He had been a Republican for many years but it is not likely that he will be considered by the convention of that party next year. Mr. Harding has a mortgage on that nomination at that time, and he is certain to foreclose. The party is controlled by special interests which are not friendly to Mr. Ford. For that reason, with all his money, he could not buy the Republican nomination away from Harding who has served the interests to the full measure of his opportunities. Besides Mr. Ford quit that party a few years ago.

It may be added with absolute confidence that Mr. Ford is even less likely to be nominated by the Democratic National convention next year. Democratic nominations for President have never been, and are not now, subjects of barter and trade. The possession of wealth is a negligible element in the selection of Democratic candidates for President. Fitness is the first consideration and will continue to be in the future. Neither Grover Cleveland nor Woodrow Wilson was rich but they were marvelously fit. Masters of the science of government they were capable of solving foreign or domestic problems promptly and justly. The Democratic candidate next year will be such a man.

Because of the recent uncovering of scandalous conditions in the eastern penitentiary at Philadelphia one of the leading papers of that city proceeded to knock every penal institution in the State, and particularly the new western penitentiary at Rockview, principally because ample cell blocks have not been completed there to house all the vicious and degenerate inmates who were responsible for the scandal in the eastern institution. The editor of the paper in question overlooks the fact that while the ultimate aim of the Rockview penitentiary is an institution to take care of all offenders in the State, its primary object at its inception was a model prison farm where men who have not fallen into the last stages of dishonor and disrepute could be given an opportunity to serve their sentence at manual labor in the open air and sunlight, and not in steel and concrete cell blocks.

It has been many years since the Bellefonte postoffice was closed as tight on a legal holiday as it was on Wednesday; and it was not in accordance with the wish of postmaster John L. Knisely but because of orders from the department in the interest of economy. Heretofore there has always been a morning delivery by carriers and a later delivery of mail through the carrier's window. But on Wednesday the carriers did not report for duty because the department desired to economize to the extent of the half day's pay allowed carriers for part time on legal holidays. Truly there's a "mess" in Washington that needs cleaning up as bad as the "mess" in Harrisburg.

Farmers and market men will be interested in learning that the Legislature has passed a bill, which has been signed by the Governor, changing the weight of the standard bushel measurements of the following articles of produce: Tomatoes, 56 pounds instead of 60; apples 48 instead of 45; turnips, 56 instead of 60; peas in the pod, 28 instead of 56; cranberries, 32 instead of 40; barley, 48 instead of 47, and cucumbers, 48 instead of 50.

Prime Minister Baldwin, of Great Britain, is managing three offices and his predecessor in office broke down trying to run one.

The new law requiring motor owners to acquire a "title" to their machines is a sly process of extracting money from their pockets.

Even cold weather in Spring has its compensations. It delayed the coming of the flies.

All the stores and business places in Bellefonte observed Memorial day.

Ford's Presidential Prospects.

From the New York World. Senator Harrison, of Mississippi, believes that if Henry Ford entered the primaries as a Democratic candidate for President he would sweep nearly all the Southern States, Alabama excepted. "Mr. Ford is strong in the South," continues Senator Harrison, "because of his espousal of Muscle Shoals, and this has given him much strength among the farmers of the country."

This seems a strange reason to nominate a man for President—that if the government will spend millions of dollars in developing a great water power he will take it off the government's hands for a hundred years. Nevertheless, we are not disposed to quarrel with Senator Harrison's conclusions.

There is unquestionably a great deal of Henry Ford Presidential sentiment throughout the South and Middle West. Mr. Ford is economically unsound in all the different ways that appeal to the American farmer who is in debt, and he is industrially efficient in all the different ways in which the average man thinks that government could be managed. Wealth is no political handicap in Mr. Ford's case. Although he has more money than anybody else, the fact that none of it has been tainted by Wall Street is a certificate of purity. The West would never dream of describing Henry Ford as a "plute," to use its own expressive abbreviation, although he could buy and sell half of the Wall Street "plutes" whose money is regarded beyond the Mississippi as the fountain-head of all iniquity.

Back of the Ford political myth is a notion too, that somehow he would manage, if he were President, to run the government in the same way that he runs the Ford factory, with quantity production, big wages for everybody, large profits to be invested in further production, and steadily reduced prices to the consumer. How Mr. Ford would overcome the various obstacles of a Constitution framed by men who knew nothing about quantity production and were highly suspicious of centralized power is not clear to his political admirers, but in such matters of detail they are ready to rely on faith.

It is not well to ask for a bill of particulars in discussing Henry Ford as Presidential material, for his supporters are not concerned with particulars. They know he is very successful in material achievement and that he has been the architect of his own enormous fortune. They know that he quarrels with banks and dislikes Wall Street. They know that he has no affiliation with the mill-run of American millionaires and that he is not a partisan in the sense in which that term is commonly used. He is not identified with the organization of either party and has only contempt for politics as a game. They look upon him as the economic apotheosis of the common man, and they would be glad to see him make over the government of the United States in his image. After he had tried it, the picture might not seem so alluring, but hope springs eternal in the breast of the farmer who cannot pay his debts; otherwise the American people might starve.

Although the World would consider Mr. Ford's nomination and election to the Presidency as a national calamity, it is one of those calamities that are always within the range of possibility. It is not wise to treat his tentative candidacy contemptuously; and the East, which is prone to political mistakes, could make no greater blunder. There is a state of mind in the country which has to be reckoned with, and among its possibilities is Henry Ford as a candidate for President.

To be sure Mr. Ford stoutly insists that he is not seeking the nomination, but that means nothing. A Methodist pastor from Detroit, writing in the Outlook, reports that "if America wants Henry Ford it will have to draft him," but there is no hint that Mr. Ford is the kind of man who would try to evade the draft on the pretext that he was engaged in essential industry.

A Step Backward.

From the Harrisburg Patriot. The attempt to abolish personal registration in Harrisburg and other third class cities, as Senator Schantz's bill proposes to do, can be regarded only as a step backward in election procedure. It is difficult to interpret any such legislation as anything but an encouragement to loose and evil elections.

In a city the size of Harrisburg and many other cities of its classification, the need for identifying the voters through personal registration is obvious. In smaller communities where every voter in the precinct is known by every other voter, the likelihood of impersonation to vote is not so strong, but in the congested districts that cannot be said.

Personal registration was invoked to prevent "repeating," the voting of an ineligible on the name of a bona fide voter. This method perhaps has not been a hundred per cent. effective, but it has helped and it ought not to be abandoned, unless something better is proposed and guaranteed.

When the Russian Wolf Will Howl.

From the Altoona Tribune. Wait till the Russians and Armenians hear that Americans gave \$30,000,000 to home charities last year.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

James D. Larrimer, aged 43 years, was shot and killed at Charleroi about midnight Saturday night when he was discovered in the Furman Ray grocery store by Marion Ray, son of the owner.

Franklin P. Van Horn, who drove an ax into his foot forty years ago, died at Sunbury on Saturday, from blood poisoning as the result of the accident. He was sixty-seven years old and is survived by a widow and four daughters.

Learning to ride a bicycle on the edge of a slate quarry at Slatedale, near Allentown, on Saturday, Stuart, 16 year old son of James A. Wells, of that place, lost control of the wheel and plunged 100 feet to his death. His father looked on, unable to save his boy.

Miss Maggie Walsh, Pottstown school teacher, was amazed to discover that during Saturday night some thief had dug up three big grape vines at her home. The thief took roots, branches and all, not leaving a trace behind. He was evidently preparing for a good supply of grapes next fall.

Loys Frabel, the 6 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Frabel, of Lock Haven, died at the Lock Haven hospital Sunday night from burns which she received when she upset a can of heating mixture over her dress. She was enveloped in flames and was seriously burned before aid could reach her.

Considerable mystery surrounds the finding of Orville Spiker, 38 years old, of Pottsville, unconscious, floating in a tank about two-thirds filled with water on Saturday night at the Standard steel works at Burnham. It is believed that he got into the tank to take a nap before work was turned in.

A contract was let last week to A. L. Anderson & Bros., Inc. of Altoona, by the Pennsylvania Railroad company, for the building of a new reservoir on Tipton run, ten miles east of Altoona. It will have a capacity of 230,000,000 gallons, cost upward of \$1,000,000 and the breast of the dam will be 475 feet long and sixty-eight feet high.

Charles Donnelly, aged 50 years, former chief of Allegheny county detectives, was found dead on Sunday afternoon in the doorway of a business building in lower Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh. His identity was not discovered until the body had been removed to the morgue. Mr. Donnelly was a graduate of Princeton University and starred on the football team. The cause of his sudden death has not been determined and an autopsy will be performed.

A Harrisburg firm dealing in burglar alarms displayed prominently in its window an advertising sign containing the warning, "Stop Thief." A thief obeyed the warning literally last Wednesday and did stop. When he resumed his stroll, the firm was minus about \$2000 worth of fountain pens and other merchandise, and the thief has probably not stopped since, as no trace of him has been obtained.

Police chief J. H. Conway, of Malvern, must stand trial at criminal court, in Chester county on a charge of first-degree murder in the death of William Mitchell, a negro school boy, last April 29th, on the street, while he was on his way to a railroad station to meet his mother, because of a verdict of a jury Deputy Coroner Patrick, of West Chester, which investigated the death and rendered a verdict accusing the officer of doing the shooting.

A jury in the Blair county court last week returned a verdict in favor of Charles C. Bowers against the First National Bank of Claysburg, in Blair county, to recover \$800 in United States bonds and \$100 in United States saving stamps stolen from his box when the bank was burglarized on December 9th, 1921. The jury awarded him the full amount of his claim with interest. It is said that approximately \$18,000 worth of bonds and other securities were stolen from the safety deposit boxes at the time that have never been recovered.

Christ Kelley, of Oaks, Pa., was taken from a box car in a Pennsylvania freight train at Lewistown last Wednesday, hysterical and almost dead from exhaustion. The car was loaded with "dry" hides and sealed in Philadelphia the Saturday afternoon previous and the seals were broken to liberate him. Kelley says he was drinking with friends and crawled into the car to take a nap. He awoke to find the car moving. The crew heard his cries, but lacked authority to break the seals until reaching Lewistown. He was sentenced to twenty days.

School boards in Easton and vicinity seem to be having trouble with their taxes. At a recent meeting of the Easton board action was taken increasing the school tax rate on property from 13 mills to 15 mills and doubling the per capita tax on individuals, making it \$2. A meeting of the Bangor board announcement was made that fully 1500 women in that town had not paid their per capita tax, and it was decided that suits should be started against them by the school solicitor. Their names will be placed on the minutes of the board and published once a week for three weeks.

Lloyd Buckwalter, 20 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Buckwalter, of Intercourse, Lancaster county, was electrocuted on Monday morning at the substitution of the Intercourse Electric company at Paradise. Buckwalter was installing lightning arresters. He was standing on the ground reaching up with a screwdriver when one hand came in contact with a switch carrying 2300 volts. He was hurled back into the arms of fellow-workmen, Enos Hostetter and William Citzman, of Inter-course. He lived twenty minutes, drawing his last breath just as the physician, Dr. L. M. Bryson, of Paradise, arrived. Dr. G. W. H. Frew, of Paradise, deputy coroner, conducted an investigation, declaring death was accidental.

Fishing without permission in the Great Casetown dam of the Spring Brook Water company, near Wilkes-Barre, three men became trapped in the mud and drowned early Sunday morning. The dead men are: August Walters, aged 43; William Walters, 18, a son, and Andrew Yocavite aged 39 years, a boarder in the Walters' family. The three men and Albert Walters, aged 14, were fishing with a forty-foot seine. The elder Walters waded out in the big reservoir and suddenly disappeared. The other two waded in to rescue him and they, too, disappeared. Albert Walters then ran for aid and met a patrol of the water company, who rushed to the scene and after several hours' search found the bodies of the three men standing upright in the water about six feet apart. All had been trapped in a mass of sticky mud which held them a foot under the surface.