

INK SLINGS.

Why is it that so often when you hire just the right man to do a job you have to tell him how to do it.

At this distance it looks as though France and Germany might get together for partial settlement of their difficulties before very long.

If the present dry spell and intense heat continues much longer the farmers will have short clover and very thin timothy to cut next month.

With the thermometer registering 88 degrees at eight o'clock Wednesday evening, we are wondering what the fellow is thinking who predicted a cold, unseasonable summer.

After Germany has used up all of the synonyms available for rephrasing her first offer of reparations to the Allies the world may hope for something definite in the way of settlement of the European troubles.

Ten Pullman cars are required to haul the President and his party across the country to Alaska. Extravagant as that may sound it looks like a piker junket when compared with Lasker's farewell trip on the Leviathan.

President Meiklejohn has done about the only thing he could do: Resign and get out of Amherst. When any group of men start out on a man hunt they never stop until some sacrifice has been laid on the altar of their vindictive natures.

Mt. Etna is on a rampage over in Sicily and thousands are fleeing before the floods of molten lava that is coursing down her sides. We note that the King of Italy is on the way to offer the stricken populace comfort. And that'll do them a lot of good.

The President has started on his much advertised "swing around the circle." He headed right into the enemy's country, the great Middle West, where they are likely to make his foreign policy so hot for him that he will be glad enough to escape to the cooling climes of Alaska.

The resignation of Marcus Aaron, prominent Pittsburgh publicist from the State council of education, is the first direct slap Governor Pinchot has received in consequence of his treatment of Dr. Finegan. It was a right smart wallop, however, and suggests to the Governor that it would be well to prepare for more than an ordinary fight if he aims to make the public school system a political asset.

Our revised edition of Lamentations, Chapter I, third verse, should really read as follows: And when we realized that the infected finger about which we have been bawling for the past two weeks was the one absolutely essential to proper fly casting and that the days of the trout fishing season in the year of our Lord 1923, are flitting fast; there came upon us a surge of wailing and gnashing of teeth.

We note that William Jennings Bryan did not give up newspaper work with the death of the Commoner. He has contracted to write for the agricultural publications of Senator Arthur Capper, Republican. In this it seems to us that Mr. Bryan has cut out for himself the job of his life, for he has agreed to write nothing of a partisan nature and that is something Mr. Bryan has never successfully done before.

Col. House is beginning to emerge from the quiescence that fell upon him so suddenly several years ago. While in his recent public utterance he doesn't tell all that the public would like to know from him, he does reiterate his belief that America should go into the League of Nations, which is rather discomfiting to those enemies of Woodrow Wilson who sought to have the country believe that House was really opposed to the League.

With the announcement that Fred Hazelton is to be removed as prohibition enforcement officer at Philadelphia, on July 1st, the information is given out that the Sams fellow who is to succeed him, is the "hot dog" of the prohibition sleuths. Every time things get so rotten in enforcement circles that the public comes near asking Haynes and Wheeler why they are, there is a "shake up" and great things are promised that never materialize.

Those of you who had interest enough to read it last week, were vouchsafed some very profound advice as to the right and wrong ways on which to cut bean poles. We told you that Sunday was the wrong day, because we tried it and got an infected finger from which we have been suffering the torments of the damned ever since. Our main pencil pusher is clear out of commission but, from the number of tied up fingers that we have met up with, going to and from the doctor's office, we imagine there must have been a lot of people cutting bean poles on Sunday, or doing worse things.

Those Wilmington, Delaware, twins who celebrated the eighty-seventh anniversary of their birth give as their recipe for reaching such a ripe old age: "Eat moderately, avoid dancing and theatres, and retire early." The dear old ladies are doubtless very sincere in giving the modern world an idea of how they have managed to live so long, but since neither of them have ever danced a step in their lives, seen the inside of a theatre more than once, most people will pass up their gratuitous advice as a bit of hokum on the part of a couple of old folks for whose reception the good Lord isn't just quite ready.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 68.

BELLEFONTE, PA., JUNE 22, 1923.

NO. 25.

Centre Democrats Should Lead.

A movement looking toward the strengthening of the line of Democracy in Pennsylvania has already grown to considerable proportions in and about Philadelphia. The Democratic women of the city recently organized a "luncheon club," which has met with such success in the direction of party rehabilitation, that men of that political faith are inclined to imitate the excellent example of their political sisters. It is a commendable movement and deserves every encouragement. But this is no good reason to limit it to Philadelphia and adjacent counties. The Democratic women and men of every county in the State should promptly get behind this proposition. There is glory enough to go around.

Last fall encouraging signs of party rejuvenation were revealed in all parts of Pennsylvania. The representation of the party in Congress and the General Assembly of the State was considerably increased and but for false pretenses of the Republican candidate for Governor and the fraudulent votes cast in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, the Republican majority in the State would have been reduced to nominal figures. Those results were accomplished with comparatively little effort, which was limited to a brief period of time. By beginning the work now and continuing it with energy enough during the remainder of this year and throughout next year Pennsylvania may be made a doubtful State.

During the session of the Legislature just ended Democratic Senators and Representatives constantly urged the consideration of legislation to prevent corruption of the ballot. But the Governor discouraged the effort, mindful, no doubt, that he is largely indebted to illegal votes for his election. This fact should admonish the voters who desire fair elections that the only way to secure them is by electing Democrats. To promote this result greater energy must be invested in the work of organizing the party, and the time to begin it is now. There should be a strong, earnest and active Democratic organization in every county and city in Pennsylvania, and we hope Centre county will set the example.

If Governor Pinchot will promise to use part of his espionage fund in a search for the whereabouts of Ambassador George Harvey a number of persons now disinterested will contribute.

Readjustment Under Way.

The work of reorganizing or readjusting the machinery of the State government in pursuance of the provisions of the reorganization code has been set in motion by the Governor. Thus far little has been accomplished of practical value, though much is promised. The titles of some of the public officials have been changed and the powers of a few of them enlarged. But there has been no weeding out of undesirable material or dismissal of redundant employees. One or two of the promotions announced may be commended as indicating improvement. But others invite criticism and suggest doubts. There was great need for better methods in administration, however, and we shall wait hopefully for developments.

The objection to the code is that its trend is toward centralization. A fundamental principle of democracy is expressed in diffusion of power. Jefferson conveyed the essence of popular government when he said "that government is best which governs least." The hearts of the people are right. The vast majority of the men and women of Pennsylvania favor just and honest administration. But they are not persuaded that it is necessary to vest in an individual all the powers of government in order to secure just and honest administration. Legislation and administration should be kept separate and apart. A system which gives an administrator immunity from accountability is dangerous.

This is precisely what the so-called administrative code does. It makes the Governor absolute master of the people and undisputed controller of the State. It is the antithesis of popular government. Exercised wisely such power may work good. Possibly Governor Pinchot may get the best out of it, but that is a question. He is essentially an imperialist. His complete domination of the General Assembly is ample proof of this fact. He compelled the most abject servility on the part of the Senators and Representatives of the people and either by negotiation or by force secured acquiescence in every measure he favored. There is no great promise of improvement in such a situation.

The Senatorial tour of Pennsylvania is ended so far as Pepper and Reed are concerned, but the people are still wondering what it was for.

Pinchot and Vare Are Pleased.

Governor Pinchot and Senator Vare are equally well pleased with the achievements of the Legislature during the nearly six months' session which ended last week. The Governor expressed his satisfaction in an address to the Representatives just before the final adjournment and the Senator's approval assumed the form of an address to the whole world. The Governor felicitated the members on the ground that they were not bossed. "We are told of sessions of the General Assembly," he said, "which have done their work under control of a boss. This session is not one of them. It has been free from dictation of any sort, either by an individual or an organization." This eulogy pleased the Representatives.

Senator Vare modestly ascribes the merits of the session to himself and the Governor. He informed the people that he surrendered a seat in the American Congress for the express purpose of contributing efforts, he says humble efforts, but that is modestly, "toward upholding the hand of the newly-elected Governor," and that he might "have the honor of assisting the Chief Executive in carrying out his announced programme, which at once became important as well as indispensable to the best interest of the people of the State." The Senator went to Harrisburg, he assures the public, "thoroughly convinced of the sincerity of the Governor's intentions," and being an unselfish and patriotic citizen, he set himself to the work of saving the Commonwealth.

Both these gentlemen have earned the good opinions of the people of Pennsylvania, and the admiration of themselves. The Governor has certainly smashed the Penrose machine and substituted a system of negotiation for the coarse methods of bossing that previously prevailed. This is an achievement of worth. It is much more refined and ought to give vastly greater satisfaction for the reason that it represents the commercial principle of "quid pro quo." It is a sort of recrudescence of the old Simon Cameron system, afterward adopted by Quay and subsequently abandoned by Penrose in favor of the boss system. But it proved a temporary success, at least. The howls will come when Pinchot begins to resign.

If Germany had really tried to keep its first promise to pay indemnities France might have been more willing to accept its second promise.

Jack Flinn the Real Leader.

The work of the last session of the Legislature may have revealed the poverty of the Republican party of Pennsylvania in leadership but it developed a new, and let us hope an entirely satisfactory, "guide, philosopher and friend." At the close of the session Governor Pinchot and Senator Vare rather immodestly assumed the credit of all the achievements of the session. But as a matter of fact neither of them figured much in the equation. The man who really accomplished things is our old and Democratic friend, Jack Flinn, of Elk county. In every critical emergency Mr. Flinn was summoned to the council table and he pointed out the way of escape from disaster.

The mess at Harrisburg would have increased to frightful proportions if Jack Flinn hadn't intervened in behalf of the Governor. Possibly he was representing Joe Grundy in his activities in behalf of the machine rather than the people of Elk county, who gave him his commission. But that is neither here nor there. Jack is as practical as he is capable and it may be safely predicted that whoever else may suffer through the operation of the Pinchot methods Jack's constituents will be taken care of. The Ridgway hospital, always a favorite of the appropriations committee, will get what is coming to it when the State charity funds are being distributed under the direction of Giff.

When the reorganization code was on the rocks Jack Flinn was sent to the wheel, speedily steered to the open channel and forced it through. No Republican in the House could have achieved that result. When the tax muddle became muzzed up beyond hope Jack Flinn was summoned to control and he rescued the administration. No Republican on the floor or in the State could have accomplished that result.

It may seem paradoxical but the most vociferous howlers for "Americanism" are those who make profit out of ballot box stuffing.

The idea of getting William Jennings Bryan to write on subjects other than partisan is preposterous. W. J. B. is partisan himself.

Mr. Lasker's "million dollar junket" is now on, but a congressional investigation is likely to call it off later.

That Funny Special Fund.

There is no legal reason why any one so inclined may not contribute to a fund for the use of the Governor in any way he desires to disburse it. If the Governor's fancy should take the direction of a funeral pyre Larry Eyer has an indisputable right to pay all or part of the "freight." It happens that in the case in point the gubernatorial mind is focussed on another purpose. That is, he is soliciting contributions for use in the enforcement of a law which the Legislature enacted and refused to provide the "sineews of war" to make it effective. Of course every citizen, or for that matter, every inhabitant of the wide world has an inherent right to chip in.

But there is grave objection to the introduction into the official life of the State of a system of espionage under which any citizen or interest with abundance of money may employ the police power of the State to pry into the affairs of another citizen or rival interest less opulent. It may be assumed, and in justice it must be admitted, that it is not Governor Pinchot's intention to employ the funds he is accumulating to so nefarious a purpose. But all Governors are not philanthropists, and the precedent which Governor Pinchot is trying to establish for a righteous purpose may be perverted at another time and by another Governor to promote an evil result.

There is really no need for a special fund for use of prohibition enforcement in Pennsylvania. The people of Pennsylvania are as a rule law-abiding, peace-loving, industrious, honest and sober. The police powers and peace officials may be depended upon to enforce the laws and punish violators of the statutes. The employment of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars' worth of cheap political dependents would help considerably in building up an arrogant personal partisan machine, but could not possibly contribute materially toward the moral improvement of the people. Those who contribute to the fund are clearly within their rights but are not doing much good.

The government ownership of railroads has long been a mooted question for argument by the general public, and even now many intelligent people advocate that doctrine, notwithstanding the fact that government control during the world war did not prove the success hoped for. But does any one suppose for a minute that the government could have equalled the privately controlled Pennsylvania railroad in restoring to public use the Broad Street station, Philadelphia, so soon after the disastrous fire which destroyed the immense train shed on the morning of June 11th? In just four days sixteen tracks were opened for use into the station and by the time this item gets into print travel to and from the station will be flowing along in its regular current. Of course the work that has been done is only temporary but it is of such a character that it will serve all the demands made upon it while permanent restoration is being made.

Several days ago, as the morning passenger train on the Lewisburg and Tyrone railroad was on its way to Bellefonte, a big bull mounted the tracks this side of Millinburg and literally defied the approaching train. The engineer slowed down and blew the whistle but the bovine didn't budge. Then he stopped the train with the engine almost touching the bull but it stuck to the track until the fireman drove it off with stones.

Residents of Philipsburg evidently are not anxious for paved streets, as the proposition to increase the indebtedness of the borough to the extent of \$30,000 for paving purposes was turned down at a special election on Tuesday by a vote of 656 to 232.

Bonar Law resigned the Premiership of Great Britain because he had lost his voice. If ever that malady overtakes Senator LaFollette he won't resign. He'll die.

Henry Ford, having declared that he has no desire to be President, it may be hoped that an expected deluge of foolish talk will be averted.

One trouble with the late Washington conference is that it failed to take into consideration the cupidity of Chinese bandits.

Brother Bill Vare seems to imagine that he and the Governor form a strong force in the uplifting line of endeavor.

Yesterday was the longest day of the year and for the comfort of all of us let us hope it was the hottest.

For all the news you should read the "Watchman."

War Debts and Reparations.

From the Philadelphia Record. Frenchmen and Italians, in office and out of it, are very generally determined to unite the war debts and the reparations, making the war debts contingent upon the sums collected from Germany. Loucheur, recently Minister of Devastated Territories, suggests a reduction of the indemnity to two items; one, the actual cost of reconstruction of the devastated areas, and two, the repayment of the debts due to this country and Great Britain. Our government has categorically refused to allow war debts and reparations to be considered together. England has never suggested the combination except in the Balfour note of last August, and that has been pretty thoroughly explained away or retracted.

There is one simple test before which the Italian and French idea collapses at once. When these debts were incurred was there the slightest suggestion that their payment was contingent on what could be got from Germany? England, France and Italy were in great need of supplies from this country, and they borrowed from our government the means of paying for them. There was no suggestion that we were advancing money to be repaid by Germany, and it is not reasonable that the debtors should now interpose a condition that was never thought of then, and is not now suggested by Great Britain. The liability of the borrowers was absolute; it was not contingent upon what could be extracted from Germany.

If Italy and France are unable to pay we might forgive the debt, but there is not the least reason why the ability of Germany to pay, or the success of France in extorting money from Germany, should be the measure of the obligation.

It is also urged by Frenchmen and Italians, and by occasional Englishmen, that all the Allied and Associated Powers were fighting for a common object, which they ultimately attained, and therefore all their debts ought to be pooled. There is an element of plausibility in this, but it does not go farther than to reconcile us to the loss of what we advanced to our comrades in arms if they plead inability.

The fact that we went to the rescue of France at an expense of about 25 billion dollars, put 2,000,000 soldiers in France and had almost 3,000,000 here to go as fast as transportation could be provided, shows that we made no small effort for the common cause. We incurred ample expenses ourselves besides the \$10,000,000,000 that we advanced to our associates in arms.

We are not in a hurry. We are not crowding them. If they can't pay, it is very likely that we would forgive them the debt. But we fail to see any merit in the suggestion that because we entered the war and incurred a debt of about \$25,000,000,000 and raised almost 5,000,000 soldiers we are under any sort of moral obligation, or obligation of honor, to give the Allies ten billions to meet a part of their expenses.

"The White Collars."

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. New York's bricklayers are holding out for \$12 a day and a two-year contract. If they don't get it, they may tie up \$600,000,000 worth of new buildings. In some degree these knights of the trowel may be wise. They are bent on getting "a-plenty while they are a-getting" and while the getting still is reasonably good. For these good labor days may not last. Apprenticeships, closed shops and copper-riveted labor monopolies to the contrary, notwithstanding, there are signs that something may be about to happen to the labor market. That something may be the growing revolt of "the white collars."

The other day a Chicago plasterer cashed his check for a week's work. It was \$220. Sunday work, especially arranged, and over time had fattened it. The common laborer working on the same job was pulling down \$60 and even \$70 a week.

Bank tellers who cash such checks peer out through their wickets, full of envy. Book-keepers, clerks and salesmen are thinking. Some of them are heading for trade schools, shedding that middle-class badge of soft-handed servitude, the white collar, as they go.

The "hickory shirt" has been in revolt a long time. A couple of million or so farmers struck out for the cities last year. Missouri reports a loss of 47,000 farm workers in a year. Pennsylvania finds 300,000 acres of farm land idle this year because the workers have been sucked into cities. A farmer sells a 300-pound hog for \$20 and an acre of wheat for \$15. With less work in the city he may get \$15 a day.

The old law of supply and demand has not been repealed and is working in the labor markets. The black coats and the "white collars" are feeling its grip. As they come crowding in organized labor may find it harder and harder to keep up its defenses.

Perhaps They Have.

From the Washington Star. The action of Switzerland in legalizing home brew makes it seem probable that the Swiss have discovered a better set of recipes than any of those used in this country.

In a couple of years President Harding may "pass" from the tall cedars to the tall timbers.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The Rev. Paul M. Lambert, pastor of the St. John's Reformed church at Pottstown, has resigned to become instructor in religion at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster.

More than 200 Pottstown women have refused to pay poll tax on the plea that they do not vote. Council will hold a special meeting to decide upon how they shall instruct tax collector Riegler in the cases of these delinquents.

Two gunmen shot and killed an unidentified man as he was walking in a business street of McKees Rocks, on Sunday. Six bullets were fired into the man's body. As their victim crumpled to the sidewalk while scores of pedestrians sought shelter, the gunmen fled.

Official announcement of the merger of the Erie Coal Mining company and the Argentine Coal Mining company, involving property valued at \$1,600,000, was made at Butler, on Saturday. The companies own five operating mines and a large acreage of coal land in the Butler district. Edward Siphitt and Charles Hosford, Jr., of Butler, have been named chairman and president, respectively.

On Saturday afternoon, while the Fritzinger family, living near Lowhill church, Lehigh county, were working in the fields, entrance was gained through the cellar of the house and \$800 taken from a bureau drawer. The money represented the savings of Miss Meta E. Fritzinger and of her brothers, Richard and Fred. A tramp, who was seen in that vicinity was suspected. Nothing else was disturbed.

Councilman John Schroeder, of West Hazleton, has made a sensation by his proposal that the council apply to federal court for the appointment of a receiver, and that the borough go through bankruptcy court to have its affairs wound up. He claims the town cannot pay its debts, and that the tax limit is reached. Council, instead of taking his advice, arranged to go before voters at the primary on September 18, for approval of a \$25,000 bond issue.

Members of the Pennsylvania railroad police have been warned to be on the watch for James Robb, alleged murderer of Lieutenant Lehman, who escaped from the authorities at Wilmington, Del., on Saturday. Lieutenant Lehman, a railroad officer, was shot and killed in the freight platform at Media, Pa., about a year ago by bandits who had been robbing freight stations in the vicinity. Robb was arrested as one of the murderers and was being held for trial when he escaped.

The Rev. S. S. Hughes, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal church at Bloomsburg, officiated at the wedding recently of John Williams and Miss Ruth Brown, both of Berwick. The bridegroom was without funds. The minister didn't know the couple, but the bridegroom said he worked for the American Car and Foundry company, and would give an order on his pay for the minister's fee. A few days later the bridegroom got the bill, reading, "To marrying man and woman, \$5. Please remit." On Saturday the minister got his check.

John Tallavido, 21 years of age, of Hallton, Elk county, was blown to atoms when a heavy blast of dynamite was exploded within a foot of him in the right-of-way of the Central Pennsylvania Lumber company, near his home. Tallavido was a member of the party that was clearing the right-of-way, using dynamite to blast stumps. A heavy charge had been placed under a stump and after the warning was issued, the fuse was touched off. Just as it was about to explode, Tallavido appeared within a few feet of the stump and received the full charge.

A. C. Brothers, cashier of the new Commodore Bank, at Commodore, Indiana county, is in the Indiana county jail at Anderson, charged with misappropriating funds amounting to \$20,000. The money has been missing for several months and a week ago Brothers was dismissed from service. Information was made against him by State Banking Examiner Phillips. He was asked for \$20,000 bail, but it has not been forthcoming. Officials of the bank declare that most of the money has been recovered and that the stability of the institution has not been shaken by its experience.

During the strike of coal miners in 1922, George B. Hoover, of Woodbury, Pa., extended credit in the amount of \$7000 to the strikers in that region. Hoover, a miller, gave the miners flour and told them he needed no security other than their word of honor that they would pay. After the miners returned to work they began to pay the bill. From time to time they paid Hoover amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1000. Recently a delegation of miners called on him and presented a \$3000 check, making the final payment. As a token of their appreciation they also gave the miller a gold watch.

Owen Flanagan, indicted for involuntary manslaughter in connection with the Spangler mine disaster last November, was found guilty in court at Ebensburg, on Saturday. He was foreman of the mine when 77 men were killed in an explosion. The Commonwealth charged that he was negligent. William Young, mine superintendent, indicted on a similar charge, was freed when the court ruled that the prosecution had not presented sufficient evidence against him. The jury returned the verdict after deliberating for one hour and 45 minutes. The costs of the trial were placed on the county.

A Snyder county couple motored to Altoona last week on their honeymoon, stopping at the home of the bride's sister. The automobile developed trouble. The bridegroom sought a garage and learned that the nearest place where the particular kind of car he drove could be repaired was at Sunbury. Off he started for Sunbury. When he reached there it dawned on him that he had forgotten something, but he couldn't recall what. Oh, yes, his bride! The Altoona police appealed to by the frantic bridegroom, located the bride at the home of her sister and dispelled her fears that she had been deserted.

Fred Mussare was sentenced to serve not less than twelve nor more than eighteen years in the penitentiary, while Tony Mussare was sentenced to serve not less than fifteen nor more than twenty years in the penitentiary. They were charged with the murder of Joe Ferraci in a street battle at Bradford. Mayer Drauser, of Bradford, who testified during his trial, later went on the State side and swore that he had testified falsely, and was held under \$2000 bail on a charge of perjury. The trial created somewhat of a record in that a husband and his wife served on the same murder jury. They were Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Allen, of Red Rock.