

INK SLINGS.

—Summer is more than half gone. Do you realize it? —Certainly it has been fine weather for hay-making and harvest. —With circuses and carnivals Bellefonte is having something of a surfeit this season.

—The question we'd like most to have answered is: Will the Athletics come back or keep on going back? —Shelby, Montana, is another place that has discovered that printer's ink is about the only thing that can put something on the map to stay.

—The next time Bellefonte indulges in community sports Mr. C. D. C. will find the broad spit a much safer contest to enter than a potato race. —That four inch snowfall in Massachusetts might have been a safe enough celebration of the Fourth, but certainly it was not a very sane one.

—Flour is at the lowest price it has reached in years and still the Fordney-McCumber act that was passed by Congress to fool the farmers keeps fooling them. —Senator Max Leslie's hopes for political re-establishment in Allegheny county seem utterly blasted by the reported low feast at which the Flinn, Magee and Oliver forces sat in harmony.

—Time was when no mechanic dared to think himself a brick-layer unless he could lay at least a thousand a day. Today no one who lays more than six hundred is regarded as a real brick-layer. —There is only one explanation of the miracle that has been wrought at Wernersville where a landlord has advertised for tenants with large families. He is going to run for office, that's what he's after.

—And now it appears that the maiden trip of the Leviathan was so wet that only one dry passenger was aboard the ship. But then our officials are so busy watching foreign boats that they haven't time to watch those flying our own flag. —Mr. Bryan denies that he is for McAdoo for President. He expects to be a delegate from Florida to the next National convention and, of course, couldn't be expected to commit himself until the last chance of the lightning striking W. J. B. has gone.

—Wouldn't the Fourth of July, 1923, have been outstanding as a National holiday if Gibbons had only been able to put over a punch that would have sent Dempsey into the obscurity he tried so hard to find when real American boys were volunteering to fight for their country. —Thousands of bushels of cherries are rotting on the trees of Centre county for want of some one to pick them. They are selling on the streets at from ten to fifteen cents per quart and at this price represents the cost of picking them it goes to show how much labor has contributed to the rise in commodities.

—We are of the opinion that Joe Guffey should not be re-elected National committeeman from Pennsylvania, but it is foolish for the Hon. Eugene C. Bonniwell to think that he can succeed. Judge Bonniwell might make a very satisfactory representative for our party in the National committee, but he has gone too often to the well with his pitcher. —The Edward Bok prize of one hundred thousand dollars for a plan that will bring about peace to the world is being looked upon rather lightly by every one but Mr. Bok, himself. There is no telling, however, what it might draw out. All of the brains of America are not in legislative positions and those that are not are unclouded by partisanship and fearless of constituencies.

—Among those being seriously considered as prospective Democratic candidates for President are former Governor Cox, of Ohio; Governor A. L. Smith, of New York; Senator Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama; John W. Davis, of West Virginia, former Ambassador to Great Britain; Henry Ford, of Michigan, and Wm. G. McAdoo, former Secretary of the Treasury. Nowhere have we heard a sound that would indicate that anybody has thought of A. Mitchell Palmer as a potential candidate. —Whether the information is correct we know not, but we have heard that Bill Brown is to be the Republican nominee for sheriff. The leaders are said to have wakened up to find Bill too sick for them and rather than have it appear that they have lost prestige have decided to throw no obstacles in the path of his pleasant and profitable round of the public offices of the county. Our informant told us that Bill thinks that by the time he gets out of the sheriff's office he will be just ripe for prothonotary and then expects to spend his declining years in the treasurer's office.

—Oh, what a wallopp! Just when we have about recovered from the effects of that infected pencil pusher and have done sufficient penance to satisfy our conscience that all is squared for the crime of cutting bean poles on Sunday, for which the affliction was sent on us, along comes old Bill Gibson, of Crafton, shootin' right in our face as follows: "I read of your affliction in Ink Slings. You only think you are suffering retribution for past sins. If you really were the wonder is that you are living at all." Now, what do you think of that? Almost, we are on the point of admitting that we are discovered.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 68.

BELLEFONTE, PA., JULY 13, 1923.

NO. 27.

Pinchot's Ambition Satisfied.

Governor Pinchot has relinquished all his ambition to be President for the present at least. Some months ago, when the future purposes of Mr. Harding were in doubt, there was a good deal of talk of our Governor for the succession. The Anti-Saloon League and other ultra prohibitionists were particularly active in propagating the idea, and the Governor made no attempt to check them. But the political atmosphere has since cleared. President Harding is an active candidate and with the thousands of office holders behind him there isn't even a look-in for any other aspirant. Because of this fact Governor Pinchot has become resentful of any suggestion that he might entertain the ambition.

Some days ago, according to an extremely servile Republican contemporary, some of the Governor's Pike county neighbors intimated that certain action might exercise an influence on his political future. The Governor replied with some asperity that "he is not now and would not be a candidate for any other office, and that he wanted that fact clearly understood." That was certainly fine but not all. Our servile contemporary adds: "He made it plain, also, that he has an important piece of work to do on Capitol Hill and that all of his energy and ability and thought are being devoted to that particular job." No doubt that settled the matter once and for all with his Pike county neighbors.

But it sets the rest of us to thinking. The Governor must have had some purpose in mind other than the important work on Capitol Hill in Harrisburg when he planned out and forced through the General Assembly a measure which makes him master of all the governing agencies of the State. Men with the single purpose of serving the public weal rarely build up a personal machine so firmly entrenched as to be practically invincible, and at a sacrifice of reputation and integrity. If Governor Pinchot has no ambitions beyond the faithful administration of his present office why did he form alliances with the Vane machine, the Penrose contingent and the Grandy outfit to accomplish these results?

—If scopolamin will compel persons to tell the truth a few doses judiciously administered to Republican politicians might result in some interesting recent history of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Bok's Princely Offer.

Mr. Edward Bok, formerly editor of the Ladies' Home Journal, offers a prize of \$100,000 for a plan of world co-operation for permanent peace. Half of this munificent sum is to be paid for the plan upon approval by a committee of distinguished citizens and the other half on the acceptance of the plan by the United States Senate. It is a great as well as an interesting proposition and perfectly safe. The United States Senate will never agree to any plan which could possibly bring about the result, and the offer gets "the first page" for a considerable time and over a wide area without expense. President Harding's pet, Mr. Lasker, could hardly do better in the matter of publicity.

There will likely be a good many contestants for this princely prize and the ideas will take various forms. Mr. DeMar, the very capable cartoonist of the Philadelphia Record, has already brought forward an admirable one. He depicts the League of Nations with the door ajar and a hanging sign: "Don't knock—Walk in." Uncle Sam stands in front of the sign, plainly perplexed but "almost persuaded." It is a great thought expressed in simple figures. If Mr. Bok, and thousands of others like him who sincerely desire peace, had voted for the purposes they cherish now, three years ago, the result would be so far advanced by this time that there would be no necessity for such offers as he makes.

Other plans might be suggested and hundreds of them will be, but we doubt if any will hit the mark as surely as that of Mr. DeMar. Another might be as effective but less attractive. For example, if Senator Lodge were literally killed, Senator Moses extradited, Senator LaFollette's tongue torn out by the roots and Senator Johnson, of California, and Senator Reed, of Missouri, expelled from the Senate there might be a chance of agreeing upon a plan that would make the United States an influential member of the League of Nations and thus guarantee to the world a powerful agency sincerely striving for "Peace on earth, good will among men." But we own this plan is not feasible.

—If American tourists spend a billion and a half in Europe this year, as it is estimated they will, it won't take them long to supply the money to pay what Europe owes this country.

Harding's Faith in Public Credulity.

It would be hard to imagine a more transparent farce, in the consideration of a serious subject, than that expressed in the correspondence between President Harding and Judge Gary, head of the Iron and Steel Institute, concerning the twelve hour day for employees in the iron and steel industry. Some months ago the Iron and Steel Institute, after mature deliberation, declared that a day of less length than twelve hours would be destructive of the iron and steel industry. Shortly afterward the manager of the Colorado Iron and Steel company issued a statement to the effect that an eight hour day had been in operation in that plant for some time and proved profitable as well as helpful and satisfactory.

The steel workers were greatly disturbed because of this reactionary labor policy. For nearly five years they, in common with other wage earners of the country, had been striving to shorten the hours of labor and such progress had been achieved that an eight hour day had almost become the rule. Reversion to the twelve hour day seemed to them like a return to human slavery and they raised the voice of protest from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But President Harding took no notice of the action until he began planning his campaign for reelection and preparing his speeches for his "round the circle" trip. On the 18th of June he wrote to Judge Gary suggesting that the twelve hour day policy be revoked "when there is a surplus of labor available."

Of course Judge Gary and his associates in the Iron and Steel Institute promptly responded with assurances that they will comply with the suggestion when "there is a surplus of labor available." That must afford great encouragement to the puddlers, rollers and other employees of the Steel trust who are working their lives out in twelve hour shifts. But it gives a hope that may be long deferred. Members of the Iron and Steel Institute will determine when "there is a surplus of labor available" and it is safe to predict that they will fix the date long after that conjunctural period "when the cow jumps over the moon." But President Harding has much faith in the credulity of the people.

—Travel on the highways will never be entirely safe until "driving an automobile under the influence of liquor" is made a capital offense.

Economies that are Doubtful.

The old time adage, "figures can't lie," may be admitted, but it is equally true that figures may be juggled so as to deceive even careful students of affairs. In a speech delivered at Salt Lake City, while on his way to Alaska, President Harding made the boast that his administration had, by wise economies, saved the country a billion dollars. He probably reached this conclusion by adding together an estimated deficit of some eight hundred millions and a paper surplus at the end of the fiscal year of two hundred million dollars. The first was a bad guess and it looks as if the other is a hopeful conjecture.

The disbursements during 1923 amounted to \$3,697,478,020 as against \$3,795,000,000, in 1922, a difference of \$97,521,980. That is a considerable sum of money and if actual is quite worth while. But some very reliable statisticians declare that it required considerable juggling of figures to show that balance. For example, it is alleged that some payments have been held over for settlement during the fiscal year of 1923 and that if they had been made as they ought to have been instead of a surplus on the 30th of June. If that be true the value of the guess made by the Secretary of the Treasury in advance of the event is correspondingly strengthened.

There ought to have been a considerable saving during the fiscal year just ended as compared with the disbursements of the previous year. The appropriations by Congress for the support of the army and navy were in the neighborhood of two hundred millions less for 1923 than for 1922, and that difference ought to show up. It was accomplished, not by economies in the service or greater wisdom or integrity in management, but by reducing those branches of the government to a peace basis, thus saving in the pay rolls the difference between a war and peace army and navy. During the last year of the Wilson administration more than two billion dollars were saved in the same way and no boast made of it.

—That Frenchman who expects "to see us all flying in a few years" is too optimistic. The price of the machine forbids.

—There is no danger of the Democrats being without a candidate for President next year. The entrants are multiplying.

Politics in Mine Troubles.

The refusal of the representatives of the anthracite coal miners, in conference with agents of the operators at Atlantic City, to join in an agreement to continue operations after expiration of the existing contract, may have been a wise precaution, though it certainly disappoints the coal consuming public. After the experience of last winter the prospect or even the probability of a strike this year is like a horrible nightmare. But under such an agreement the mine owners might prolong the conference and delay an agreement indefinitely and the miners would have no redress. The existing agreement runs until the first of September and between now and then the problems ought to be solved.

The demands of the miners as a basis for future operation of the mines are various. They insist on the elimination of the twelve-hour day, an increase of wages, alterations in the working conditions at the mines and a limit of thirty days for a decision of questions submitted to the umpire. The operators profess a willingness to give up the twelve-hour day at some future time and agree to the thirty day limit for decision by the umpire. But they may hold out indefinitely on the wage question, for there is some reason in their statement that the present wage rate is "adequate to meet present conditions," according to the coal commissioners' report.

This statement brought out a disturbing question and gave the proceedings a political slant. It was charged that the report of the coal commission was written by Attorney General Daugherty "so as to make it accord with the labor policy of the Harding administration." This statement was attributed to George H. Cushing, publisher of a bulletin circulated in the coal trade, and the mine workers demanded an investigation of the matter. The vehement opposition to this demand would indicate that the operators have something to fear from such an inquiry. Just what influenced them is left to conjecture but it looks as if the administration is overworking the labor question.

—In his position as general manager of the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin Railroad company J. Harvey McClure, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McClure of Bellefonte, is meeting with such success that he was recently highly commended by the board of directors for having successfully effected a two year contract with the employees of that railroad. In his dealings with the men he has shown such a spirit of fairness and consideration for them that he has won their confidence and esteem to that extent that they are willing to co-operate to the best of their ability. As evidence that the company is not only improving the service but keeping its equipment up to a high standard, under the management of Mr. McClure, is the fact that only recently they placed an order for twenty new Pullman cars at a cost of approximately \$600,000.

—Last Saturday morning in glancing out of the window in the "Watchman" office, the writer observed a big California trout, fully two feet in length, floating down stream with another trout in its mouth that must have been easily twelve to fourteen inches long. The big "cannibal" floated down to the lower side of High street bridge where he anchored in a pool, evidently with the intention of devouring his catch at leisure. Quite a crowd gathered and watched the trout for probably a quarter of an hour, then some one threw a stone into the creek and the big trout loosened its hold just long enough for the other trout to flop out of its jaws and swim away, but the scales had been completely peeled off of the smaller one where the big fellow had it in its jaws.

—Senator Vare visited the Governor in Harrisburg, the other day, and according to the newspaper correspondents left in a gloomy mood. The Governor has harvested his crop.

—It is said that somebody has stolen the former Kaiser's saber. Sad, of course, but it may be said the former Kaiser is not likely to need it soon.

—Mrs. Rebecca C. Tuten, of Phillipsburg, has entered the political arena as a candidate for the nomination for Recorder on the Republican ticket.

—France has finally ratified the Washington conference treaty but has not agreed to all the conditions. Thus we are making progress.

—President Harding is a gifted phrase maker but he is making a wide chasm between his tongue and his conscience.

—Only fifteen more days of trout fishing, but bass are now in season.

Blocs and Parties.

From the Philadelphia Record. It has been observed by political philosophers that only in England and the dominions under English traditions and in the United States are there two parties whose struggles constitute political life. In other countries there are half a dozen small parties or groups, whose representatives in the national legislature may combine into what is known as a bloc, but the next day the bloc may disintegrate and another bloc succeed it, composed of some of the groups that were included in the first bloc and several that were excluded. The political philosophers usually prefer the Anglo-American party system to the blocs with which statesmen have to get along in nearly all other parliamentary countries.

Of course if politics existed for the peace and comfort of Prime Ministers or Presidents the party system would have very great advantages. A President or a Premier would know definitely whether he was leading the majority or minority. He would be in office with a safe majority behind him, or he would be out of office with no responsibilities, merely playing for position and hoping for better luck next time out of the ballot-box.

But the reason that there are rarely more than two parties in England, the British dominions and the United States is that Englishmen and Americans are severely practical; they are not struggling for causes, but for political power. Hence a third party has precious little attractions for them. A few enthusiastic Socialists, or Single Taxers, or, in former years, Prohibitionists, may be willing to stand up and be counted, without a ghost of a chance of securing control of the government. But the overwhelming majority of voters want to win, or to have a chance to win, and they join one of the two parties which occupy the greater part of the field. They may not get the political action that they want, but they would be quite certain not to get it if they flocked by themselves and formed a group, which in the legislative body would join other groups and give one statesman a majority today and another statesman a majority tomorrow.

But if politics be the expression of the political wishes of the electorate, it is not at all certain that the party system is as good as the bloc system. The members of the bloc unite to secure certain specific action, which is far from being all that they desire, but is esteemed by them the most important thing at the moment. They succeed, and then the bloc disintegrates and some of the groups of which it consists unite with certain outside groups to attain another object. There may be two blocs but each exists for the purpose of attaining a specific object. When that is attained, another bloc is formed for another purpose.

Under the party system each party seeks to maintain the permanent organization of a political entity or a church. You are supposed to be a member of that party for life, and you generally are. The President and Mrs. Harding have expressed their strong hostility to people who vote with one party or another for the purpose of attaining this or that specific object. And yet nothing could be more rational than such action. According to the President, every man should be a Republican or a Democrat, just as he should be a Catholic or a Methodist or a Presbyterian. The party exists for its own sake. Its members are expected to be loyal to it, no matter what it does. The topic that is uppermost in people's minds at the present time is likely to be ignored by both the large parties next year, because each party is intent only on keeping or getting control of the government; it is not struggling to put a certain political program into effect.

"Too Much Government."

From the Chicago News. Summing up the impressions gained by recent travel through many States in the Union, one of the correspondents of the Daily News asserted in his dispatch to this newspaper the other day that a deep and significant issue was emerging in American politics—namely the issue between too much bureaucracy and too much avoidable interference and meddling by government on the one hand, and on the other hand, a vigorous reassertion of American ideas of liberty, healthy individualism and private initiative.

It is high time a powerful nationwide reaction was developed against the tendency to multiply restrictions, set up new regulatory agencies, increase cost of government and heap up loose and uncertain statutes productive of litigation and confusion. Signs of such a wholesome reaction are discernible even among the wage workers, who are often misrepresented by political radicals, and among the self-reliant farmers, equally misrepresented by self-constituted leaders of a supposed agrarian movement in favor of flat money and governmental fixing of agricultural prices.

Of late, certain officers of the railroad brotherhoods have repudiated the demand for railroad nationalization made by sundry radical groups in the name of organized labor. There are more staunch adherents to the sound old American gospel of the civil and industrial liberty than the bureaucrats think, and they are at last beginning to protest against wanton, injurious attacks upon the spirit and essence of American institutions.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Declared legally dead and his estate distributed among his heirs about twenty years ago, Uriah Elcheberger, 82 years old, returned to Bethlehem, Pa., on Sunday, from where he disappeared years ago. He will be sent to an old soldiers' home.

—Several thousand dollars' worth of stolen silk from the Sunbury convicting works was recovered by chief of police Quinn and Captain Keller of the Pennsylvania railroad police at Sunbury, when the homes of two suspects in that place were searched.

—William A. Rossiter, well known resident of Bucks county, owner of four farms and a model dairy of 100 pure-bred cattle, and who was private secretary to the late Charlemagne Tower, of Philadelphia, has been missing since June 29th, and no trace of his whereabouts can be found.

—Andrew Getskey, miner, of Beaver Meadow, who fell asleep while sitting on a railroad track watching that his cow would not be hit by a passenger train almost due, slept so soundly that he had to be kicked off the right of way by the engineer of the locomotive, who brought his train to a stop a few feet from the man.

—Fifteen children were made fatherless in two accidents on the Fourth of July at Bovard, a mining town in Westmoreland county. Harry B. Tait, the father of eight children, was killed when struck by an automobile on the New Alexandria highway. A few hours later Bert Morgan, who leaves seven children, fell from a tree and died from a fractured skull.

—Negotiations for the purchase of the \$4,000,000 plant of the Worthington Pump and Machinery company, at Hazelton, for the manufacture of a British automobile have fallen through. It was announced last week, as makers of the car and local bankers could not agree on the financing of the project. The Worthington works have been idle since the end of the world war.

—Alfred Wagstaff, of New York city, 14 year old nephew of Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker, of McMillan, was severely injured, when one of the three large Wyoming moles in the Shoemaker park attacked him knocking him down and biting him in the back and on the arm. Jesse Phillips, caretaker, beat off the animal. The moles were shot by order of Colonel Shoemaker.

—Miss Margaret McKibben, of Pittsburgh, and Miss Melva Howes, of Fayette City, students at the summer session of Slippery Rock Normal school, were drowned on Sunday afternoon when they stepped into a deep hole while wading in a stream at Mineral Springs, near Slippery Rock. Efforts to rescue the girls proved futile, no one in the party of which they were members being able to swim. The bodies were recovered.

—Miss Keturah Walker, aged 24 years, daughter of John F. Walker, of Milton, was drowned in the Susquehanna river on Saturday evening near the Muncy dam. With two other Milton girls, members of a camping party, she was rowing a boat, which became lodged on a rock. While attempting to release it the girls capsized the boat and Miss Walker sank. Her companions clung to the overturned craft until it drifted into shallow water.

—While Attorney W. D. Lewis, representing the United Charities and Attorney Frank X. York, representing Peter Donchek of Lansford, Schuylkill county, charged with assaulting his adopted daughter and assault and battery upon his wife, bondsmen in order to keep him in jail, Donchek committed suicide in his cell. He tied his belt around his neck, attached one end to a nail and leaped from the radiator, breaking his neck. The dead man left a note denouncing his wife and giving all his belongings to his brother John, stating it was his last letter to him.

—A drink-crazed negro was shot and killed and three police officers were shot in a battle at Mount Union, Huntingdon county, on Sunday night. Chief of Police McConahay was shot through the body. He died on Tuesday. Patrolman Miller, the only other member of the borough police force, was shot through the neck. His condition is serious. Sergeant C. E. Cutshall, of the Pennsylvania Railroad police, was shot in the arm. All are at the Blair Memorial hospital at Huntingdon. The battle occurred when the officers attempted to arrest the negro, who had threatened to "shoot up" the town.

—The fire which for several years past has been consuming the coal lands owned by Peale, Peacock and Kerr, near Hawk Run, Clearfield county, is nearing its finish. Last winter a force of men with steam shovels was put to work to reduce the source of trouble and their work has been so well done the company announces it expects the fire soon to be completely extinguished. The fire has been in progress for years and thousands of tons of coal burned. At times the ground in the vicinity was so hot pedestrians could not walk on it. The company owns many acres in that section and when the fire is out the work of mining will go ahead.

—After forcing an entrance into the home of Mrs. Emma Shagline, of Pittsburgh, early Saturday morning, Rocco N. All, aged 29 years, went to her room and beat and bit her severely when she refused to desert her three children and elope with him. In a battle which lasted twenty minutes, Mrs. Shagline was thrown over the bed and several chairs and severely injured. Growing weak from the blows and biting, Mrs. Shagline tore herself from All's grasp, dashed from the house and notified the police. The police later arrested All, who admitted that he was infuriated with Mrs. Shagline, but denied that he had abused her. He was held for a hearing. On one side the flesh was torn from the woman's body in small pieces.

—Going to Philadelphia to take charge of the body of his brother who leaped to death from the fifth floor of the Ritz-Carlton hotel on Friday, Peter G. Maugack, of Barnesboro, Pa., was robbed of \$200 as he slept in a Central hotel early Saturday morning. James George Maugack, who owned a restaurant in that city, leaped from the hotel window after he had barricaded himself in a room and fired several shots through the door at a bell-boy and the assistant manager. His brother was notified that he was injured in the fall, and did not learn of his death until he reached that city. He was taken to the morgue, where he identified the body. He then went to a hotel, and when he awoke Saturday morning discovered he had been robbed of \$200 hidden under his pillow. Notifying the coroner of the fact that he had been robbed that official looted the Barnesboro man \$100 from the \$200 cash found in his brother's pockets.