

INK SLINGS.

Chicago claims to be the "biggest dry city" in the country. That may be but what anti-saloon people are looking for is the dryest big city.

It might be worth while to appoint a commission to put out what the coal commission did during the year or more it was investigating.

The fellow who thinks Governor Pinchot isn't a candidate for President must be having an awful time kiddin' himself into such a frame of mind.

If Bill Brown is elected Sheriff we're going to send him a perfect dictionary a Christmas present. Bill needs it. There is every evidence that the compilers forgot to put the word "enough" in the one he's using now.

Let us hope that the little Republics that are being born in what was once a great German empire will not emulate those of Central America that for years weren't happy unless they staged one or more rebellions every year.

Governor Pinchot has a method in his madness. He wants to make Pennsylvania so dry that he can kick up dust enough to blind the public to the manner in which he settled the coal strike and the way he saved the tax payers' money by reclassifying the departmental employees at Harrisburg so that they will get a hundred thousand dollars a year more than they ever got before.

If you have a job with the State Highway department in Centre county and care about holding it you had better keep your trap shut. Don't say anything about Pinchot to any one Joe Geary, of Pottsville, expressed himself the other day and now he's looking for another job. He was superintendent of the highways in Schuylkill county, but he has lost his meal ticket because he was what the Governor says he won't stand: disloyal.

The present board of Commissioners are laying their troubles on the loss of the dog tax and the extra costs occasioned by Woman's Suffrage. They should worry, the gasoline tax will yield far more than the dog tax ever did and as they levied \$55,330.75 more taxes last year than were levied in 1919 most people will think they ought to have handled the assessment and clerical work imposed by giving the vote to the women without blaming their short-comings on that.

The shortage of paper money in Germany discloses rather an anomalous condition of the currency over there. All the paper they can gather up has been converted into money on presses that are kept running night and day. There isn't much else in Germany but money—of the kind, yet there is an acute shortage. The reason is because it takes so much of it to get a purchaser anywhere. Now they are going to issue a hundred-billion mark note. But even it won't be one-hundred billionth as big as it sounds.

An interesting political incident has developed in Northumberland county. Anthony Swaboskie has petitioned the court to have his opponent for the office of Justice of the Peace in Mt. Carmel kicked off the ticket because he hasn't paid a State or county tax for three years. The constitution and the election laws say that none but qualified voters may be candidates for office and as a qualified voter is one who has paid a State or county tax within two years it looks rather bad for Mr. Hughes, the Republican candidate, who is out to beat Swaboskie.

In a signed statement published in the Gazette last week Commissioners Austin and Yarnell charged this paper with having forgotten that their predecessors raised the valuations in Centre county during the last year of their term. We didn't forget. We didn't know, and don't yet, that they did. However that may be it doesn't refute our statement that under the present board valuations have been raised \$1,775,750.00 and the tax rate raised two mills. That is taking it from the tax payers fore and aft. A raise of over 12% in valuations and 33% in millage is going some.

As for us, we're going to vote for the road-bond amendment and against the one that forbids railroads giving any but employees passes. If the road bill goes through the walking will be good enough to satisfy us, but we'd just love to have a pass once before we die. We wouldn't be any more particular about where it carried us than was an old friend—Leander Green by name. That was just prior to a fall election years ago, when there were bales of political tickets to every corner of Pennsylvania. Three or four days before the election Leander revealed that he had a perfectly good job waiting for him in Williamsport and volunteered to march right into the polls and call for the needed assistance, without even a look at the notorious "blind horse" of the West ward if the paper could be produced that would carry him to the Lycoming metropolis. We accepted the bet. But when Leander came to claim the stake—because he had won—we had no ticket to Williamsport. All that was left was one to Renovo, which he took and departed in glee. Next day we met him on the street and asked why he quit his job so soon. With that chuckle that only those who know Leander know, he replied: "I had no job in Williamsport and ah was glad the ticket took me to Ren-o-vo 'cause I's nebbar dar befo'."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Pinchot Increases Expenses.

If the figures of State Treasurer Snyder are correct the salary account of the State will be about \$100,000 more under the Pinchot code than it was under the old rules and rates. It is true that some of the high salaries have been reduced and some of the low salaries increased. But what is the use of all that if it saves nothing to the tax payers. There was no public complaint that any of the salaries were too small. No trouble was ever experienced in getting men to fill the low salaried jobs. Some of the salaries were far above the earning capacity of the men receiving them in any other employment. Such salaries as those ought to have been cut down.

The promise made by Gifford Pinchot, during his campaign for election, was that he would clean up the mess at Harrisburg. The most objectionable feature of the mess was redundant officials and exorbitant salaries for those who stood in the favor of the bosses. Mr. Pinchot has been in office for nearly a year and nothing worth while has been done toward cutting down the number of needless offices and reducing the excessive salaries. It is a well known fact that the number of officers might be cut one-third without impairing the efficiency of the service. Clerks in some of the departments are in each other's road, but nothing has been done to correct this fault.

While the code was pending in the Legislature Mr. Pinchot assured the public that the cost of government would be greatly reduced by the classification which the code contemplated. Not only has this promise been violated but as a matter of fact, if Treasurer Snyder tells the truth, the cost of administration will be increased by the enormous sum of \$100,000. The decrease might have been effected easily by cutting out the needless offices and cutting down the excessive salaries. But nothing of the kind has been done, except on paper, and reforms on paper are of little value. Probably the Governor thinks the people of Pennsylvania like to be fooled.

We are not electing a President or a Judge in Centre county this fall. All the tax payers are after are some county officials who will look after local business economically and efficiently.

The Pinchot Code Affirmed.

The Dauphin county court has affirmed the validity of the administrative code with reservations. That is, the court declares that the Legislature had a constitutional right to enact the legislation embodied in the code act but it is not certain that it exercised the right in a legal manner. This is somewhat equivocal but entirely satisfactory to both sides. The Governor said "the decision of the Dauphin county court in sustaining the validity of the administrative code is highly gratifying to me." State Treasurer Snyder declared that "the conclusion of the court as to the power of the Attorney General over the Auditor General and State Treasurer of course is satisfactory."

But the State Treasurer has taken an appeal, nevertheless. Possibly he hopes for a reversal by the Supreme court, and apparently such a result of the appeal will not surprise the lower court, for the presiding judge stated that he would not only allow an appeal but would grant a supercedes in case an appeal were taken. This may be interpreted by Mr. Snyder not only as a vindication but as a victory. His purpose may have been only to embarrass the administration by withholding salaries of employees. The supercedes permits him to do this until the matter is definitely settled by the Supreme court and that may be delayed for a considerable time. Snyder is a funny fellow.

But if that was the influencing cause of the litigation, or if the State Treasurer actually believed that the legislation unlawfully and unjustly robbed him of prerogatives guaranteed by the constitution, the Attorney General stands defeated. He held that the State Treasurer had no legal right to appeal to the court as an official, and that an appeal as a citizen made him personally liable for the considerable costs incurred in the action. The decision of the Dauphin county court overthrows that contention entirely. The expense of the judicial procedure will have to be paid by the State and it will be greatly enhanced by the fees of Treasurer Snyder's friendly counsel.

Of course we're pleased because Zev outran the English Derby winner, Papyrus, but we would have been very much happier had "My Own" been given the chance to turn the trick.

All those persons who think Bill Brown's "long, honorable military career" in the National Guard of Pennsylvania, entitles him to fifteen years in county office will surely vote for him for Sheriff.

Stegman and Taylor.

Last week we called attention to the fact that the eyes of the Nation, almost, are on Centre county.

Scattered to the furthest corners of this broad land of ours are those who still look on Old Centre county as home. Just as they are sentimentally attached to its mountains and valleys are they proud, always, of those who in the past brought fame to the county and those of present generations who are holding up the torch that the departed great threw down.

Who can tell what history will write of Capt. Dick Taylor and the little band that he was leading at Appremonte. Blind to everything else than duty that gallant little company harried the on-coming Germans just enough to make possible a reorganization of the wavering lines behind them and some, go as far as to say, saved Paris and victory.

Centre county has the opportunity of recognizing the honor that her soldiers have won for her. They have selected "Dick" Taylor as the one whom the fortunes of war gave the greatest opportunity to prove the metal of the sons of Centre. They are asking that he be made Sheriff. Not wholly because of the emoluments that may fall directly to him from the office. More as an expression of the public gratitude to all of them.

The fame of Centre county is in the contest. In every demand of 1917 and 1918 she went over the top. Her sons in the west, her sons in the north, her sons in the south read of the millions she gave in money and pointed with pride to the great spirit of her homeland. Now they are looking back to see what we are going to do when the heat of battle has cooled, when the effervescence of patriotism has worked off. They are hoping, longing for a verdict in November that will prove beyond peradventure that Centre does not forget.

Already we have published several of the many letters that have come to this office. Let us here publish another that suggests a parallel in the achievements of soldiers little thought of at the time but grown richer and more glorious with each passing year.

Yes, who can tell? History might write Taylor down as the Stegman of Civil war days.

New Dorp, N. Y., October 16th, 1923.

Editor Watchman.

A few days ago, in Brooklyn, Col. Lewis R. Stegman died at the advanced age of eighty-four years, and it is because of his death that we recall, at this time, his deathless exploit in the never-to-be forgotten battle of Gettysburg, in the first week of July, 1863.

The man who kept the Confederate forces from taking Culp's Hill and thus crumbling up the Union line was Col. Stegman, of the 102nd New York Vol.

The battle of Gettysburg was one of the fifteen decisive battles of all our wars. It was vital in that it proved to be the turning point in the great Civil war.

It is not a thing to be particularly proud of, but the fact remains, that we give but little heed to our real heroes while they live.

Col. Stegman never asked his fellow citizens for any favors. He was one of the most noted veterans in the borough of Brooklyn; had been wounded in the battles of Cedar Mountain, Gettysburg, Ringgold Gap and Pine Mountain.

To show to the Colonel some measure of the esteem in which they held him, his fellow citizens of Brooklyn took great delight in electing him to the office of Sheriff of King's county.

In those days it was a fee office and it was supposed to be worth \$75,000 a year.

I do not know what the office of Sheriff of Centre county is worth to the Sheriff, but I believe the worth of Dick Taylor to the office to be incalculable.

I have had many years' acquaintanceship with him, dating back to his childhood, when he as a small boy came to the farm of Robert McKnight, at Hunter's Park, and assisted in the farm work.

I soldiered with him in Co. B, during the Spanish-American war, and I believe the county never grew a better soldier than Dick.

I fully trust that the voters of Centre county will, for once, lay aside their party allegiance and show that of her two sons, both aspirants for the same office, the one to be chosen, is the one who chose to be, and was, and still is, a good soldier, not for one instant losing sight of the fact that the office of Sheriff requires a mighty fine brand of physical and moral manhood and courage.

As Col. Stegman and Gettysburg saved the Union, aided by the remnants of the 102nd N. Y. Vol., let there be enough Republicans in this battle of Ballots to aid the remnants (Democrats), in a Republican stronghold to save to soldier Dick Taylor the office for which he asks.

Can Centre county feel as loyal to its soldiers as the people of Brooklyn were? I feel that for any voter, no matter what his politics, to refuse to support Dick—well, its perjury.

WILL H. FIELDING.

Ford Accuses Secretary Weeks.

For some reason the administration at Washington has opposed the acceptance of Henry Ford's offer to take over the unfinished nitrate plant at Mussel Shoals, Alabama. The plant was begun during the war as an emergency measure to supply the government with nitrates for use of the army and navy. In the construction work nearly \$80,000,000 were expended and before completion of the project the war ended, thus removing the necessity for it. Following the close of the war various plans for disposing of the plant were suggested but none took practical form. It was finally announced that unless some feasible means were brought forward the work would be abandoned and the expense charged to loss.

At this stage of the game Henry Ford came forward with an offer to take over the plant, complete it and manufacture fertilizers at low cost for the farmers of the country. This at once aroused the opposition of the organized fertilizer producers who have been charging exorbitant prices for their products for years, and various schemes were undertaken to prevent the sale to Mr. Ford, though his offer was admitted to be fair. Finally the matter was referred to Congress and there it met a lobby so formidable as to cripple it for the time being and possibly strangle it for all time. Among these was the sale of an important part of the plant with the expectation that the offer would be withdrawn.

In a statement given to the public, the other day, Mr. Ford declared that politics are responsible for the opposition to his acquisition of the property. He accuses Secretary of War Weeks with conspiring to defeat his

plans in order to protect the fertilizer trust in its franchise to loot the farmers, as they have been doing for the past several years. Secretary Weeks promptly issued a denial of the charge but the circumstantial evidence in support of Mr. Ford's accusation is so strong that only the most credulous will be deceived by the Weeks' statement. At this distance from the capital it looks as if Ford's fight against Senator Newberry is responsible for the present trouble.

Penn State defeated the Navy last Saturday by the score of 21 to 3. Our victory was not as impressive, however, as the score might indicate to those who did not witness the game. Offensively the Navy was the stronger team. She gained many more first downs than State and completed far more forward passes. Defensively they might be rated by some as on a par because neither was able to cross the other's goal line from straight scrimmage, but it must not be forgotten that the Navy went through State's line for two marches almost the entire length of the field and State never made two first downs in succession. It was a brilliant game, however. Clean and interesting. And while the three scores made by our team were thrillingly spectacular we shudder to think what might have been the result had we not gone into the second half with fourteen points sewed up through breaks that happen rarely. In fact we don't recall that State has scored from a kick off since Killinger did it in New York and "Shorty" Miller's historic performance of two such feats at Penn some years ago.

—Get your job work done here.

A Writ of Certiorari Granted in the Centre County Bank Case.

On Monday the United States Supreme court granted the petitions of Florence F. Dale, Andrew Breese and George R. Meek praying for a writ of certiorari.

The petition was presented to the Supreme court on Monday, October 8th. The next morning the Public Ledger announced, among its legal news, that it had been denied. This gave rise to a popular impression that the petitions had been summarily thrown out of court. The "Watchman," being reasonably sure that such was not the case, made no report of the occurrence. It would have been a very unusual procedure for the Supreme court, in fact almost a physical impossibility. The local attorneys who were interested in the case were in the court room until one o'clock. It was then filled with others waiting to present causes to the bench. The Supreme court adjourns at 3:15 so that persons familiar with its practice were certain that it could not have disposed of all the business before it for that afternoon and taken up the Centre County bank case specially as well.

The error probably was caused by the Ledger's Washington correspondent. In reporting the local cases, he evidently got them in among the petitions that had been presented at an earlier session and were "denied" by the Court, whereas they should have been merely marked "submitted."

The petitions were in the nature of prayers for a review of the decree of the U. S. Circuit court of appeals. It will be recalled that Mrs. Dale and Messrs. Breese and Meek appealed to the Circuit court from Judge Witmer's ruling in the District court. The Circuit court sustained Judge Witmer in an opinion filed by Judge Davis in the latter part of August.

All the questions involved are jurisdictional. They have no bearing on the facts of merits of any of the cases.

The cases are now regularly on the Supreme court calendar for argument, but the time at which they will be taken up is indefinite. The Supreme court adjourned on Monday and will not sit again until November 12th.

The "Watchman" is indebted to Miss Helen Bartholomew, of Centre Hall, for the splendid report of the county institute proceedings that appears in this issue. Miss Bartholomew is teaching in the Centre Hall schools and is a very versatile young woman. Besides being a most capable teacher she does very good newspaper work and enjoys the distinction of being the county's most self-reliant motorist.

Bellefonte has about one-eleventh of the population of Centre county, yet it cost about one-fifth of the county's total outlay for assessing. Evidently the assessors in the other districts are not getting their share.

It is said that Colonel Harvey resigned the Ambassadorship in London to become press agent for the J. Pierpont Morgan bank. There is less distinction in his new office but considerably more profit.

The Bellefonte hospital is under many obligations to the good people of Unionville for a very generous donation sent to the institution last Friday.

It is said the haters are trying to bring the silk dicer into vogue again. They have probably reached the limit in high prices of the soft and cady varieties.

A Democratic mass meeting will be held in Grange hall, at Spring Mills, this (Friday) evening. Every body is invited, especially the ladies.

Pinchot hasn't much cause for complaint. Coolidge is perfectly willing to let him enforce the dry laws in Pennsylvania in his own way.

It is said that the American people eat on an average 15,000,000 bananas a day. It's small wonder that dago run short.

Senator Smoot, of Utah, is likely to get himself disliked among the leaders of his party. He recommends a luxury tax.

The Ku Kluxers claim to be 100 per cent. American but they always employ un-American methods.

The New York Tribune asks "How dry is Pennsylvania?" and the only answer is: "nobody knows."

With the defeat of Papyrus the last hope of the English sporting world is extinguished.

Charlie Snyder is too busy at home to annoy Pinchot in Harrisburg these days.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Seneca E. Bennett, aged 62, was found dead in bed at Lewistown on Sunday morning.

Fire late on Monday night badly damaged the Bloomsburg High school building, a three-story brick structure, located half a block from the town's business district. The loss is estimated at \$75,000.

Thieves, who some days ago entered the Bethlehem Presbyterian church near Gringo, Beaver county, and stole the Bible, it is believed by some, are guilty of a new outrage. In a later visit not only was the carpet stripped from the floor and taken, but the clock was removed from the wall and carried away.

Grabbing for his dinner can, which had fallen from his hand, Andrew Pascoe, of Pottsville, aged 17 years, lost his balance on a mine cage at the No. 9 colliery of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company and fell 400 feet down the mine shaft to instant death. Pascoe was going to the surface on the cage when the can was jolted from his hand.

Caught in an explosion of dynamite Thursday while working in a mine near Carrolltown, Albert Cebra, aged 35 years, of St. Benedict, had both eyes blown out and a portion of his face torn off. He also suffered severe burns of the face, a fracture of the jaw and his one hand was so badly mutilated that amputation of three fingers was found necessary.

The jury in the case of Mr. and Mrs. Ledy K. Trate vs. the city of Williamsport returned a verdict last Friday of \$5,820.79 in favor of the plaintiffs. In passing over an iron doorway set in the pavement in front of a Fourth street place of business one of the doors opened, throwing Mrs. Trate to the pavement and fracturing her hip and a bone in her foot.

Joseph Causil, mayor of Johnstown, will be required to return a sum of money aggregating with interest, \$13,140, to D. A. Boyer, of the same city, as the jury serving on the case of Boyer vs. Causil, that was brought in the Blair county courts on a change of venue and tried at the October term of civil court last week, rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for the full amount as claimed.

As a result of an old accident Sunday, William Gardner, aged 16 years, of Altoona, may lose the sight of his right eye. Gardner was hiking along a road near Altoona when he felt a stinging pain in the one eye. He was taken to the Altoona hospital, where an X-ray examination revealed a piece of metal in the one eye, presumably a bullet, although the boy said that he had heard no shot.

One million feet of timber will be required by the American Wood Products corporation, of Austin, in filling an order for battery boxes. The transaction will involve over \$100,000 and will tax the plant to capacity. W. J. Palmer is manager of the plant in Austin. A subsidiary known as the Peerless Body corporation builders of truck bodies, also is in operation under the management of Mr. Palmer.

The body of William B. Murdock Jr., a shoe dealer of Tyrone, was found in the Eastlawn cemetery at that place, on Monday, lying across the grave in which the body of his wife was buried two years ago. The police reported he had shot himself in the head. Murdock had grieved since his wife died and was a frequent visitor to the cemetery. When he did not return home Sunday night his friends instituted a search and the body was found early Monday.

James Hendershot, 65 years old, went to bed last Wednesday night in the almshouse of the Bloomsburg poor district, a pauper. Thursday morning he awoke to find himself a comparatively rich man. "That's fine. I guess I'll have to leave here now, but I'll wait until I get the money," he said, when informed that as one of the cousins contesting the will of the late Mrs. Abigail A. Geisinger, of Danville, he would benefit from the settlement of the case out of court.

A piece of paper four inches long by three inches wide, was used by the late Major Samuel Comfort, of Doylestown, to bequeath his entire estate, said to be worth about \$1,000,000, to his widow and daughter. The will, written in April, was filed this week with the register. It consists of only two sentences, naming the widow and his daughter as his sole beneficiaries and executors. Major Comfort for many years was connected with the Standard Oil company of New Jersey. He died October 11.

A bomb explosion followed quickly by fire, completely destroyed the store and dwelling of Joseph Torsello, on LaSalle street, Berwick, on Monday, with a loss of \$14,000. A half dozen families in the neighborhood were thrown out of their beds, and windows within a square were broken. Torsello was to have been married that day, but the wedding was postponed because fire damaged his dwelling last week while he was away. He scouted the police theory that a jealous rival was responsible for the outrage.

A broken neck apparently is not considered a very serious matter by Miss Mary Yohn, of Dauphin county, aged 39 years, who fell out of a pear tree at the farm of her father near Newport a week ago. The woman landed on her head and shoulders and complained of pain in her neck. She treated herself with home remedies, but later went to the Harrisburg hospital for an examination. An X-ray examination revealed her neck broken. Several vertebrae were crushed by the fall. When Miss Yohn was told of the seriousness of her injury and advised to remain at the hospital, she replied that she had to go home to attend to some household duties, but that she would later return.

Dr. Thomas Brennan, aged 28 years, of Shenandoah, was killed and three others of a party of six men were slightly injured early on Saturday when their automobile overturned several miles east of Milliford. The party was on its way to State College to see the State-Navy football game. George Gress, former quarterback and half-back at Penn State, driver of the car, said that the accident occurred before daylight in a fog. The state highway was wet and slippery. The party was off the right road, and in going back the car skidded and turned over. Dr. Brennan was next to Gress and the car turned over on the side on which he was sitting. He was caught beneath the body of the machine and his skull was fractured. Gress said none of the others in the party suffered serious harm. Carl Wertz received an injury to his collar-bone. Others in the party were Thomas Slavin and two men named O'Hara and Bachman. Wertz and Slavin were former Shenandoah football players. The car was only slightly damaged, being driven into Lewisburg under its own power.