

INK SLINGS.

—Work isn't half as hard as getting started to do it. —Yesterday was one of the kind that will give us all spring fever a few months later. —Our idea of being rich is to have a turkey on Thanksgiving and enough hard coal to roast it with. —Instead of being sent to jail the fellow who stole the hogs from the penitentiary ought to be given a medal. —The winner in the race for success is always the person who keeps on going after his competitors have stopped. —The friends of Senator Pepper are waiting with more or less impatience to see him flop over to Pinchot for President. —In some sections of Pennsylvania it is a grave question whether more homes are equipped with radio sets than stills. —The peace of Europe has been "hanging in the balance" for so long that it probably wouldn't feel comfortable in any other position. —If Hi Johnson should get the Republican nomination and Henry Ford the Democratic where would the real Republicans and Democrats go. —Now, supposing Harvard beats Yale and Penn beats Cornell and Pitt beats State, what are the comparative score dopsters going to say about it? —Dr. Ellen Potter has decreed that the county jail must go. We have a notion, however, that Nellie will be in the discard long before any of the jails have went. —We'll need a lot of money before January 1st, 1924, and we're not going to have it unless every subscriber to the "Watchman" gets paid up into 1924 within thirty-eight days. —A stein of beer costs a billion marks in Germany. Here, one costs several hours pussy-footin' through alleys and cellars and then enough regular money to buy several billion German marks. —It is probable that every good woman who voted against the Amendment that would have given preachers a reduced fare on the railroads, gives her pastor all the white meat of the chicken when he deigns to take a meal at her house. —One of the Pittsburgh newspapers boasts that twenty million dollars a year are spent for the public schools of that city. But a large proportion of the money comes from the State Treasury, as no personal school tax is levied against Pittsburgh people. —Governor Pinchot is out in Nebraska talking to the farmers. Nebraska has been in a bad way for some one to talk to it since Bryan moved to Florida and, maybe, Giff will be able to show them that, next to W. J., he would be the best runner-up who ever entered a Presidential race. —Governor Walton, of Oklahoma, has been impeached by the unanimous action of the Senate of that State. Since all of the Senators were against him he must have been wrong. Very wrong. Seldom, if ever, does one hear of a public official who is in so bad that there is not a person to stand up for him. —Talking about delegates to the National convention from this district we think the several gentlemen and one woman who have written urging us to enter the contest—if there is to be one—but without our decision to act on their suggestion at least until we learn where the convention will be held and what the car-fare will be. —We notice that M. Ward Fleming Esq., of Philipsburg, is offering a house at Munson for sale. Of course it is not an unusual thing for a person to offer a house for sale. That is done every day, but the advertisement says this house has "a good cellar" and that's so unusual that almost we feel like writing for details as to the cellar. —Dr. Cook, the gentleman who some years ago tried to make the world believe he had discovered the North Pole and couldn't get away with it, has just been caught again in the act of trying to make a lot of suckers believe he had rich oil fields in Texas and Wyoming. His fake pole story brought only public ridicule, but his fake oil tales have drawn fourteen years in a federal prison and twelve thousand dollars fine. —The Elmira, N. Y., Advertiser, of Friday classes Supt. J. K. Johnston, of Tyrone, as a "powerful" talker. Mr. Johnston spoke to the Chamber of Commerce of that city on "Government in Business and Business in Government." In fact the gentleman has for some time been much in demand in the public forums that are being conducted everywhere for the purpose of engendering a better understanding of the economic relationship between the railroads and the public. Mr. Johnston is a thorough railroad man. We have known that for many years. Few there are with such intelligent and comprehensive understanding of the carrier problems and few endowed with more pleasing personalities, so that it should be easy for him to hold the attention of an audience and command its respect for what he says. We haven't heard him on the platform, but we are ready to accept the Advertiser's word for it that he has developed into a "powerful" talker.

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Law Enforcement and the Pinchots.

Mrs. Cordelia Erice Pinchot, widely believed to be the "power behind the throne" in Harrisburg, has uncovered some of the political plans of the administration for the next primary campaign. In a speech delivered before the Republican women of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, on Monday evening, she declared that all candidates for the Legislature next spring "will be put on the rack and questioned with regard to their stand on prohibition in particular and law enforcement in general." The Governor, having traded a couple of prohibition measures for his more favored code, Mrs. Cordelia joins him in censure of the Legislature for failing to pass them and proposes to make sure of them next session.

Mrs. Pinchot appears to be very earnest on the subject of law enforcement. In her speech of Monday evening she declared that "law enforcement is the most important issue before us to day. It is no longer a question of the right or wrong of prohibition; it is simply a question of law enforcement." But she doesn't mean that at all. Enforcement of the prohibition laws is what she has in mind. If anybody would come to her with a proposition and certain plan to enforce the laws against fraudulent voting and false counting of the ballots she would run like a rabbit. Vast slush funds would be no use in campaigns if the laws forbidding electoral frauds were enforced with half the zeal the prohibition legislation has been enforced since her husband became Governor.

No man or woman outside of an insane asylum believes that any candidate for any State office in Pennsylvania can spend a quarter of a million dollars in a primary campaign without violating the Corrupt Practices law. Violating that law is an infinitely greater crime than selling a glass of beer. One of the judges of one of the prominent Pennsylvania courts declared from the bench, the other day, that it "is a blow at the very foundation of the government." Yet when Governor Pinchot was urged during the last session of the Legislature to take steps to prevent such crimes he refused. In the face of this record neither Gifford nor Cordelia has license to talk much of law enforcement.

Governor Walton, of Oklahoma, has been impeached all right but he is not deprived of his right to fight the Ku Klux Klan and his inclination in that direction is probably not even impaired.

Small Chance for Bonus.

Secretary Mellon has made it reasonably certain that the army veterans will get no bonus from the next Congress unless they have friends enough in the Senate and House of Representatives to pass a law providing the funds over the veto of the President. The Secretary has set his head to the reduction of taxes and reasons that there can be no decrease in taxes if there is a soldiers' bounty. Party exigencies are more important than individual comfort, and party exigencies require an immediate and substantial tax reduction. The big contributors to the slush fund in 1920 depended upon promise of reward in the shape of tax reduction and disappointment will cut off supplies in 1924.

The promise of a soldiers' bonus was as clearly expressed in the platform of 1920 as was that of tax reduction. But a promise to those who furnish "the sinews of war" to the campaign committee is of infinitely greater importance than one to men who can produce only votes in small lots. Mr. Mellon is not only a heavy tax payer but a shrewd financier and he understands the necessity of keeping contributors in a liberal frame of mind. The only hope of Republican success next year lies in a big war chest, well filled, and the way to secure that is to reduce income taxes on surplus profits and large incomes. The beneficiaries of such a policy are certain to manifest gratitude in the usual way.

There is a chance to secure the bonus but it is precarious. The small Republican majority in the Senate is the hope. It is reasonably certain that the measure will pass the House, "the objection of the President to the contrary, notwithstanding." But the Senate is not likely to show such a measure of independence. It requires a two-third vote of the body to accomplish the result and there is a chance that with the full force of the Democrats and an equally unanimous support of the so-called agricultural bloc and the LaFollette, Johnson group of the radicals, the bill might be put over. The coming session will be a purely political affair and will require careful handling.

The Canadian squirrel which stored sixty-eight golf balls for nuts ought to be shot.

Pinchot and Coal Prices.

We have no brief to speak for Governor Pinchot and little inclination to defend him against his enemies in his own party. But candor compels the acknowledgement that he did a good work in his arraignment of the coal producers and coal carrying corporations in his speech before the American Academy of Political and Social Science, in Philadelphia, last Friday evening. The subject under discussion was the price of anthracite coal and the responsibility for the excessive charge to consumers. The speakers were, besides the Governor, Mr. Samuel D. Warriner, president of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company, and Mr. J. J. Walsh, secretary of the State Department of Mines.

Governor Pinchot's purpose was to justify his assumption in the settlement of the coal strike that the increased cost of production would be absorbed by the producers and carriers and in order to accomplish that he declared that one coal company in the last three years has paid dividends to its shareholders of "70, 205 and 190 per cent." and another paid "59, 137 and 168" during the same period, which, he added, "amounted to from \$1.03 to \$4.10 a ton," on the production of the mine. Of course these figures, if they are accurate, clearly establish the fact that excessive profits have been charged and that the coal consumers have been consistently and continuously victimized.

But notwithstanding these figures Governor Pinchot had no legal or moral reason to claim the right to either take from or add to the profits of coal mine operations, without the consent of those concerned. If an individual or a corporation is profiteering he or it may justly be held up to popular reprobation, but that is as far as any man or official may go. Nor had the Governor any legal right to tell the producers who they may or may not sell to. If coal production is a public service any man with the price to pay is entitled to the product, and the Governor's proposition that dealers who profiteer be refused coal showed woeful want of information or arrogant assumption of power.

Secretary Mellon's anxiety to cut down the income tax of multi-millionaires is the most touching incident of recent official life.

Pinchot Crawling Out of a Hole.

Governor Pinchot is now centering his energies on an effort to crawl out of the hole into which he fell when he "settled" the anthracite coal strike on terms that made a considerable increase in the price of coal inevitable. He was inveigled into that disaster by President Coolidge and Andy Mellon for the obvious purpose of removing him from the field of candidates for President. He tried to "get even" with Mellon, subsequently, by fastening upon him the odium of the failure to enforce the prohibition laws and failed because Wayne Wheeler joined forces with Mellon. Now the Governor is undertaking to compel the coal producers to cut prices to the level of that prevailing before the settlement. Of course that would turn the tide of public opinion in favor of Pinchot, for it would make good his absurd promise that the producers would absorb the ten per cent. increase in the wages of miners which he allowed in the terms of settlement. He called the producers into conference with him at Harrisburg and after a two-day session they advised him to "chase himself," so to speak. Then he issued a threat. He ordered the Secretary of Mines to make a survey of the products of the pits with the view of ascertaining what proportion of the coal sent to market is slate or stone, thus conveying the inference that unless they agreed to his demand as to price he will enforce the law against impurity.

Naturally that has caused some alarm among the coal producers. It is a fairly well established fact that ever since the coal famine during the war at least one-third of the coal sent to market comes from abandoned slate and refuse banks, and that a considerable part of the freshly mined coal is slate and rock. If the law against dilution were enforced the coal supply would be greatly diminished and the profits of producing vastly reduced. But the consumers are driven to wonder why the law is not enforced in any event. The Governor is under sworn obligations to enforce that law as well as the prohibition laws, and he offers to violate his oath if the producers help him out of the hole.

In spite of all efforts at repression every roar from Germany turns the mind back to events following the Franco-Prussian war.

It is intimated that Pinchot may use Hiram Johnson as a club to compel the organization to accept him as "a favorite son."

Wise Mr. Mellon is Mistaken.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon struck a popular note in his determination to force Congress to reduce taxes. His party platform of 1920 promised this relief and the campaign contributors expect it. A similar pledge was made to the service men of the world war, but in the opinion of the Secretary both cannot be fulfilled. Therefore the tax reduction promise will be kept and the other flouted. From a political angle this is a wise choice. Secretary Mellon is not only a master of finance but a shrewd politician. His estimate of policies for vote getting is as accurate as his appraisal of the value of securities. Tax reduction will "bring home the bacon."

There are a good many service men and they need the bounty. The disappointment will be a hardship to many of them and to some extent may be resented. But they are not "mobilized" for political work and they are more or less credulous. Multi-millionaires and profiteers are different in this respect. They are thoroughly organized and can not only cast their own votes in solid blocks but they can contribute with sufficient liberality to make the purchase of the floating vote a certainty, and the floating vote has been the principal asset of the Republican machine in recent years. The reduction of taxes on big incomes will save enough to the profiteers to buy an ordinary election.

As a matter of fact, however, the Secretary is mistaken in his notion that it is impossible to reduce taxes and pay the bonus next year. If the tax reduction is properly placed it will be as "easy as rolling off a log." But the reduction must be on tariff taxes instead of big incomes. The tariff revenues yield less than half a billion dollars but cost the people more than two and a half billions. The consumers pay that as they pay every other tax and a fifty per cent. cut in the schedules would save the people of the county enough to pay the soldiers' bonus and decrease the tax on small incomes by half. Those who enjoy excessive taxes can afford to pay, and the weak rather than the strong should be taken care of.

We are revealing no secret in stating that the movement for a "woman delegate-at-large to the Republican National convention" is simply a gesture to secure that honor for Mrs. Pinchot.

Senator Johnson a Candidate.

Whatever else in the political life of the country is in doubt Senator Hiram W. Johnson's attitude on the question of the Presidency is revealed. In a statement given to the public, a few days ago, the California "fire-brand" submits "himself and his political tenets to the decision of his fellow-citizens." Of course his purpose is not self-aggrandizement. He is out to save the Republican party, "threatened with disintegration." Possibly Mr. Johnson believes it is worth saving, and there may be others of the same opinion. But the number is diminishing rapidly. Recent experience has caused marvelous changes in public opinion on that subject.

In this connection Mr. Johnson says: "Reaction and progress must fight it out again in the Republican party in the coming Presidential primaries. I question not men now, but their philosophy in government. That which obtains in Washington does not fit present day needs." That is literally true. But it is doubtful if the Johnson type will serve any better. The fault in Washington is that the high ideals which made our government the leader in progress have been abandoned and the advantages gained during the administration of Woodrow Wilson are almost hopelessly lost. The substitution of the Johnson philosophy for that of the present administration will hardly serve the purpose of a remedy.

It must be admitted, however, that Senator Johnson "has a kick coming." He was viciously treated in the Republican National convention four years ago. If he had been given the votes in that body to which he was entitled he might still have failed of the nomination, but his defeat would have been fair and honorable. But he was not allowed the votes that were present and instructed for him and if he had resented the outrage as Roosevelt resented a similar treatment eight years before he could now come to the people with clean hands and demand justice. He failed to do that and not only condoned the crime against himself but forfeited his right of appeal.

The frequent visits of Senator Lodge to the White House are ominous. The Johnsons of the Senate will never be reconciled to such an association.

Colonel Forbes was emphatic enough in his denials but not convincing.

Poincaire and Ollivier.

From the Philadelphia Record. Ollivier may have denied it late in life, but he has gone into history as saying, on the eve of France's start for Berlin, which was interrupted at Sedan, that he assumed the responsibility for war "with a light heart." It is in the same spirit of levity that Poincaire announces his intention of further invading Germany, though the nations that rescued France from obliteration in 1914 are opposed to this course, and if Poincaire's course should lead to its legitimate results he would appeal to the nations he has treated with marked discourtesy to save France again. They will not do it.

To the Chamber of Deputies Poincaire said on Friday: "We shall continue to negotiate in the friendliest way possible, but France cannot give way." What, then, is there to negotiate? France is going to pursue its present course no matter what its associates in the world war think or do; any negotiation when the result is pre-determined is a farce or a fraud, and Poincaire's frankness forestalls the charge of fraud.

The immediate question now is not whether France or Great Britain is correct in its construction of the peace treaty, but whether France owes a decent respect to the opinions of the nations that saved its life. Italy does not sanction any further invasion of Germany, or any attempt to destroy Germany. Great Britain has opposed the invasion of the Ruhr from the first, and it has of late been pressing for a competent economic investigation of Germany's capacity to pay the 132 billion gold marks. The United States, which saved France from collapse in 1917, supported this proposal, and would take no part in an investigation limited as Poincaire insisted. Is this decent treatment by France of the countries to which it owes its life?

Poincaire said to the Chamber: "We have never ceased to support union among the Allies, and it is never from our side that the Entente is broken." And yet since Poincaire became Prime Minister France has yielded nothing. It has persisted in a course in which Italy would not join it, and which Great Britain strongly opposed. France betrayed the treaty of Sevres and betrayed England in the Near East. It was checked momentarily by the warning of Bonar Law that if France did not support England on the Dardanelles England would not support France on the Rhine.

Italy would not join it, and which Great Britain strongly opposed. France betrayed the treaty of Sevres and betrayed England in the Near East. It was checked momentarily by the warning of Bonar Law that if France did not support England on the Dardanelles England would not support France on the Rhine. The invasion of the Ruhr was done without the approval of Italy and in the face of the protests of Great Britain, America, Great Britain, Italy and Belgium united in support of an unrestricted investigation of German resources, and France would not budge an inch. The Allies have no legal right to extradite Frederick William. England and Italy object to any coercive measures to obtain that. Italy insists on a deeper invasion of Germany to punish it for harboring the former Crown Prince and to re-establish the Allied Military control, and will do it alone. And Poincaire has the effrontery to say that if the Entente is endangered it is not from the side of France.

For levity in trifling with incalculable interests we know of nothing since Emile Ollivier comparable with Raymond Poincaire.

A "Hard-Boiled" Combine.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Governor Pinchot pressed home, with relentless severity, his indictment of the anthracite monopoly at last week's session of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. It is only by such perseverance that the public can ever hope to curb what the Governor aptly termed, in the slang of the day, "a hard-boiled monopoly," enjoying and distributing enormous dividends from the production, transportation and sale of its product, dead to any sense of fair dealing with the public and deaf to every warning that it must reform itself or be reformed. It is no answer to the array of undisputed facts relating to coal-company dividends, the ever-widening margins between cost of production and sale prices and the almost invariable rule of unanimity that prevails in price lists for the spokesmen of the coal operators to talk about turning "these common sense" on the fires of controversy. What is wanted, and what the public will continue to demand, is less ruthless exploitation of the public by the coal monopoly and less arrogant indifference to a growing popular indignation that threatens to take control out of the hands of that monopoly.

Bootlegging in Wheat.

From Farm Life. The proposal to increase the tariff on wheat if it should be adopted, may open up a new business in contraband along the Canadian border. Even now, wheat in the United States is worth more than wheat in Canada. Like other commodities, grain looks for the highest market, and sometimes this brings it across the border without the payment of customs duty. Since the international boundary line is hundreds of miles long in our grain-growing sections of the north, it is naturally hard to guard that line against smugglers. There have been suggestions from Washington that the government may find it worth while to establish a wheat patrol to break up this form of bootlegging.

When you see it in the "Watchman" you know it's true.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSSTONE.

A forgotten umbrella led to the discovery that a safe had been blown in the office of a department store in Harrisburg, on Saturday night. The thieves obtained between \$2,000 and \$3,000 but in making their escape dropped two envelopes containing \$800.

Fire on Sunday destroyed the Citizens' Bank building at Allbion, Erie county, and for several hours threatened the entire business district. The loss was estimated at \$150,000. The Citizens' bank was closed early in October by a State bank examiner when a shortage of \$67,000 was discovered.

Forcing an entrance through a side window burglars early last Friday entered the county treasurer's office in the court house, at Huntingdon, blew open the outer doors of the vault, but before gaining entrance to the inner safe, were presumably frightened in their work, and escaped without booty.

One man died and five other persons became violently ill on Saturday night after eating home-made drop cakes at the home of Mrs. Stella Jones, in Philadelphia. The cakes were served during dinner. A few minutes later every one who had eaten them became ill. William Moore, grandfather of Mrs. Jones, died shortly afterward.

As a result of an argument that started over a gambling game, William Thompson, aged 20 years, of Steelton, is a patient at the Harrisburg hospital with a bullet wound in the right arm, while George White, colored, also of Steelton, is under arrest charged with the shooting. The shooting took place Saturday night, and White was arrested in Harrisburg on Sunday.

A robber who kept only enough of his loot to buy a new suit of clothes was reported to the police in Pittsburgh last Friday. The robber stole \$80 from an East Side barber shop last Wednesday. On Friday the owner of the shop found a note under the door. In the note the robber explained that he was returning \$65 of the stolen money, as he needed only \$15 for a suit.

F. G. Morrison, employe of a newspaper at Risersburg, in Clarion county, has been missing from his home there since the first day of the hunting season, when he donned his hunting clothes, kissed his wife good bye, got into an automobile and drove away for a day in the woods. Not a word has been heard from him since. He is reported to have had on his person a large sum of money.

Attacked by an enraged bull, John R. Hartman, Civil war veteran and prominent resident of Mummansburg, Adams county, suffered injuries early Monday morning of which he died four hours later. Mr. Hartman was trying to drive the bull into the barn with a pitchfork. The animal suddenly turned on him, knocked him down and gored him, crushing his chest. Mr. Hartman was 78 years old. He leaves a daughter, Mrs. H. E. Berkey, wife of the Rev. Mr. Berkey, Lutheran pastor in Arendtville.

Dr. T. C. Harter, representative from Columbia county in the State Legislature, was arrested last Friday on a charge of criminal libel brought by district attorney Warren S. Sharpless, of Columbia county. Dr. Harter waived hearing and was held in \$3,000 bail for court. The action, it is understood, grew out of a letter alleged to have been written by Dr. Harter during the recent political campaign to the Rev. Edwin Radcliffe, a Bloomsburg clergyman, regarding prohibition enforcement.

Accidental death was the verdict returned by the coroner's jury that investigated the cause of the death of Clyde I. Hull, of Ridgway, whose dead body was found in the kitchen of his home with a bullet hole through the heart. Mrs. Hull was attracted to the kitchen of her home when she heard a shot, and hurrying there discovered her husband dead. About ten feet away was a rifle. It is believed that the weapon was accidentally discharged while he was cleaning it preparatory to starting on a hunting trip.

Two prisoners at the Pennsylvania Industrial Reformatory at Huntingdon attacked E. A. Fritchey, a guard, last Wednesday while he was sitting at his desk in the automobile tag department, ripped open his chest with a knife, from the temple to the mouth and knocked him unconscious by beating him over the head. The pair slipped up on Fritchey from behind to make the assault. Officials at the institution declined to say what would be done with the prisoners, nor could it be learned what their intention was in making the attack.

It cost Albert Mattern, of Sunbury, \$7.40 to blacken his landlord's eye. This amount was the fine and costs imposed on Mattern by Justice of the Peace John H. Vincent when M. L. Snyder, the landlord, sought damages for the assault. Mattern testified Snyder had been hounding him for months, declaring he owed him back rent. Receipts to date were produced by the tenant, however. Not to be outdone, the landlord raised the rent. Heated words followed and Mattern charged. His arrest was the result, but at the close of the hearing he addressed the justice thus: "Can I blacken the other one for \$7.40 extra?"

Mrs. Mabel V. Gray, of Williamsport, the first woman to be appointed sheriff in the State of Pennsylvania, says "there are some jobs that only a man can fill and the job of being sheriff is one of them." Mrs. Gray was appointed to the office several days after the death of her husband, Sheriff Thomas Gray, several months ago. "I will be very glad when my successor comes to relieve me on January 7th," Mrs. Gray said. "I believe that a woman isn't cut out for taking charge of a jail. It isn't natural. The job has been a strain on my nerves. While I believe that women are as capable as men for some offices, they certainly can't take the place of a man as the head of a jail."

Mrs. Bertha R. Ickes and her daughter and son, Miss Josephine Ickes and L. Chester Ickes, were indicted by the federal grand jury at Pittsburgh, on Monday, upon charges of fraudulent issuance of money orders at the Reynoldsville post-office, Bedford county, when Mrs. Ickes was postmistress and her daughter the assistant. Separate indictments were returned against each. Ickes, according to postoffice inspectors, told his mother and sister that he owned a valuable automobile patent and obtained \$3,958 in money orders for the purpose of promoting a campaign to sell the patent. He was said to have written his mother from Kansas City announcing the sale of the patent, but no money was enclosed, according to the inspectors. Ickes was taken into custody upon his return from the west.