

INK SLINGS.

—Apparently Mabel Normand has gone to join the society of the un-

—Last month we might well have sung "December's as Pleasant as May."

—The New York girl who sold her forty million dollars to a foreign fortune hound, thinking she was to become a Princess, will have to be satisfied with a less high sounding title.

—We know Mrs. Barclay Warburton by sight only, and there may be those who will question our competency to express an opinion as to her charms, but the manner in which she causes chairman Harry Baker and Senators Pepper and Reed to change their minds, on occasion, rather justifies our belief that she is a woman of very winning ways.

—Spring creek got on a rampage on Wednesday and for a while it looked like our press rooms were in for a bath. The water rose at the rate of about a foot an hour for a while in the early afternoon and we felt about as miserable and helpless as when as a kid we knew the terrible ordeal of having our neck and ears washed was impending.

—A story is going the rounds to the effect that former Congressman Evan Jones, of Bradford, would like to go back to Washington and is considering entering the primaries against the Hon. William I. Swoope for the Republican nomination.

—General Dawes talked with characteristic candor to the foreign experts with whom he is sitting in Paris to diagnose the European financial disease. Ever since the General shocked the country with his rather inelegant but certainly understandable answers to a congressional investigating committee that was quizzing him he has appeared an interesting character to red blooded, two fisted, men.

—The president of the Republican women's clubs of Pennsylvania has telegraphed Senator Reed that Mrs. Warburton isn't the big cheese, at least among her Republican sisters in Philadelphia and that there are others who want to have a say as to who shall be the woman to go to Cleveland as a National delegate.

—The next Democratic National convention will be held in New York. We Democrats are proverbially poor and Gotham offered to do most by way of relieving that embarrassment; so there you are.

—The average radio fan is almost an exact replica of the owners of the first automobiles. We recall many invitations to what had been anticipated as delightful rides that in reality turned out to be afternoons wasted on the roadside while our host tinkered with the carburetor, the ignition or the timer.

—After all the adage, "when rogues fall out, honest men come by their own," may not have had anything to do with the existing Ku Klux quarrel.

—Hearings on the Mellon tax bill have begun in Washington and it is a safe guess that most of those heard will favor the bill.

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Revolt or Reconciliation, Which?

Governor Pinchot has announced his candidacy for the honorary office of delegate-at-large to the Cleveland National convention, but it is not certain whether it represents a declaration of war on the machine or a token of reconciliation.

But on the other hand the Governor may mean that he will be a candidate for the office in spite of the leaders. That is the attitude he assumed when he aspired to the nomination of two years ago, and he won out, though at an enormous cost to himself and his family.

Two years ago Mr. Pinchot beat the machine at its own game because he completely fooled the managers of the opposition. He spent money as freely as a drunken sailor but obscured the operation in such secrecy that it was not suspected.

Within the next few days the atmosphere will be cleared and the facts developed. There are signs of other troubles in the ranks and insurgencies impending and in the event that they grow sufficiently to menace the machine Governor Pinchot might make up his mind to lead the revolt.

The big dirigible, Shenandoah, broke from its moorings at Lakehurst, Long Island, on Wednesday evening as the result of a seventy-two mile gale and was adrift for eight hours. One report had it drifting west but this was a mistake, as it got no further away from its base than Newark, N. J.

—It isn't the fact that Governor Pinchot has decided to go to Cleveland that is worrying the Republican organization in this State. It is what he might undertake to do after he gets there that is causing them the sleepless nights.

—General Dawes has made his first speech to the Reparations Commission and singularly enough he used no "swear words."

—Hearings on the Mellon tax bill have begun in Washington and it is a safe guess that most of those heard will favor the bill.

—If it isn't the "Watchman" this week it isn't true.

Chairman Baker Greatly Surprised.

Mrs. Barclay Warburton, of Philadelphia, presented chairman W. Harry Baker and his colleagues in the management of the Republican machine of Pennsylvania, the surprise of their lives, the other day. Mrs. Warburton has been a source of some anxiety to the managers for some time.

This fact has not escaped her attention, though she kept her own counsel on the matter until the question of slating delegates-at-large to the National convention came up. Mrs. Warburton demanded that a woman be placed on the list and the managers paid no attention to her demand.

Of course Mr. Baker was surprised and amazed that any one should think that he is opposed to Mrs. Warburton for the vice chairmanship, or that it could be imagined that the list of delegates-at-large would be without a woman member.

—The approved plan for the Bok prize is probably not the best that could have been made, but according to the judges is the best that was made, and as it is disapproved by the bitter enders ought to be favored by all others.

Moral Improvement in Philadelphia.

The marvelous progress which the new Mayor of Philadelphia and his imported Director of Public Safety has made in "cleaning up" that "corrupt and contented" city, must be gratifying to every right-minded citizen of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia's crime record has been a blot upon the escutcheon of Pennsylvania for many years. The haunts of vice have been under the protection, rather than the condemnation, of the police and the gravest crimes were perpetrated with impunity for the reason that however notorious the offender political influence and agencies were able to guarantee him freedom from punishment.

But the people of Pennsylvania would have greater reason to rejoice if the reform energies of the city government were directed in the right channel. Philadelphia has been bad in every variety of crime but the worst feature of its criminal records lies in the corruption of the ballot.

—Some fellow fond of figures has discovered that more money is spent for chewing gum than for books in this country. But he hasn't the courage to ascribe the fact to the suffrage amendment.

Mr. Mellon's Tire Punctured.

The Senator from Michigan, Mr. Couzens, formerly an automobile builder, was a fit instrument to puncture the tire of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon. Mr. Couzens is a Republican and a multi-millionaire.

Mr. Mellon contends that the tax rate on big incomes forces capital to accept tax-free securities of less productive power, thus robbing industrial enterprise of an essential element.

Congressman Tague, of Texas, a member of the House committee on Ways and Means, estimates that the adoption of the Mellon bill by Congress would save Mr. Mellon \$2,000,000 a year in income tax.

—Former Secretary Fall has been caught in one lie in connection with the Teapot Dome transaction and the investigation is not finished.

Confession of Imbecility.

The election of Senator Smith, of South Carolina, to the important office of chairman of the Senate committee on Interstate Commerce was a real surprise. That corporate influence would prevent the elevation of Senator LaFollette, ranking Republican on the committee, to the chairmanship, was certain from the beginning.

If Senator Smith were a servile agent of the corporations his election, notwithstanding his well defined political faith, could be understood. The Republican majority in the Senate, in that event, might have made his election a useful party expedient.

As it is now the election of Senator Smith to the chairmanship of the Interstate Commerce committee is a public and official acknowledgment that the Republican leadership in Congress is utterly and irretrievably incompetent.

—Japan is still shaking at intervals but not because she is afraid of any army or navy in the world.

Irrigation in New Mexico.

Former Secretary of the Interior Fall leased the Teapot Dome naval oil reserve to the H. F. Sinclair interests while he was still functioning as a member of President Harding's Cabinet, for which act Fall became the subject of ugly criticism followed by an investigation by the Senate Lands Committee.

As a misery loves company, the three governments want to do the same thing at the same time and in the same manner, lending each other moral support through the ordeal.

In the Pan-Slavic Tide.

Recognition of the Bolshevik government of Russia is the bitter pill governments of the Little Entente nations are preparing to swallow.

So much for the governments. The peoples of these countries are predominantly of Slavic extraction; the 5,000,000 combined population, 37,000,000 are bound by ties of race to the Russian people.

The crux of the matter is that the governments of the Little Entente are closely related to those of Western Europe while the people are looking toward the East. The issue is the old one of Pan-Slavism. That the government cannot avoid the recognition of the distasteful Russian regime brings up the old problem: Can Western Europe resist the tide of Pan Slavic?

Distribution Again.

As the case stands the farmer has proved that his prices are too low and the milling interests seem to show through statistics of operation that they are paid a minimum for the conversion service. Yet a spread exists, measured by 13 cents per pound the farmer receives for his grain, and the 10 cents per pound paid by the consumer for whole wheat flour.

Something Wrong Somewhere.

Something is wrong somewhere. One hundred and fifty farmers in Imbler, Oregon, sat down to a banquet at a meeting there and the meal cost them just sixteen cents each. Nearly everything on the tables was the product of the farm and the cost a plate was computed at the price the farmer was paid for the products, plus the labor cost of preparing the food.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

While all the members of the Erie police force were in conference with Mayor J. C. Williams, last Wednesday afternoon, discussing law enforcement, two bandits entered the Lincoln bank, in the business district of that city, held up the cashier and three girl clerks, and escaped with \$2800.

—Mrs. James Silverthorne, aged 62 years, of Titusville, died in about half an hour after being taken to the city hospital last Thursday afternoon. When her clothing was removed nurses found in salt bags sewed to the inside of her skirts \$8,617 in cash, Liberty bonds and bank securities.

—Stabbed in the abdomen during a street fight at Altoona, early on Monday, Benedetto Laporte, a Pennsylvania Railroad workman, died four hours later in the hospital. Alfonso Damico and Dominick Nagniso were arrested, and each accused the other of the crime, both being held for trial for murder at the next regular term of court in Blair county.

—The Pennsylvania railroad on Tuesday awarded to the Bethlehem Steel company a contract for erection of two two-track bridges over the Susquehanna river from Sunbury to Packer's Island and from the Island to Northumberland. This will make six tracks crossing the two branches of the river to the yards there. The contract price was said to be \$1,600,000.

—While she was bidding Frank Kiphorn, her lover, good-bye over the telephone, Miriam Orr, aged 19, of Lancaster, collapsed from the effects of poison tablets which she took in an attempt to end her life. Kiphorn notified the police, who went to the house, found the girl unconscious and a note addressed to her lover on the table. In the note she denied allegations which caused an argument between the two. Kiphorn is a baggage agent at the Pennsylvania railroad station in that city.

—The rod was upheld as a necessary aid to the cause of education when a jury that tried Eugene Moyer, a school teacher of Lehigh county, acquitted him on charges of assault and battery, growing out of a whipping that he was alleged to have inflicted upon two sons of Ray Geary, using a razor strap. The outcome of the trial hinged entirely on the ancient question whether a teacher has a legal right to flog pupils for breach of discipline. The jury divided the costs between the teacher and father of the boys.

—A record for speed in the disposition of court trials was established at Lewistown, on Monday, when Walter Smith, a Harrisburg negro, who was charged with having held up and robbed a local grocer on Saturday night of \$44.35, was sentenced to not less than two and not more than four years in the western penitentiary. Less than an hour and a half after he had staged the hold-up, Smith was arrested as he boarded a train at Mifflin, by J. B. Eberhart, of the Middle division police department. He was taken back to Lewistown in an automobile.

—Division and district engineers have been ordered to remove immediately from State Highway routes all signs or advertising matter illegally placed within the limits of the highways, Paul D. Wright, secretary of highways, announced last Friday. He pointed out that under the law no advertising matter of any kind or direction signs erected either by individuals, an association or municipalities, may be placed on a state highway route, and said attention of the engineers had been called to violations of law by candidates for office at the spring primaries.

—Mrs. Ray and her niece, of Mauch Chunk, while on their way home from a neighbors on Saturday night, were confronted by a highwayman, who stepped in front of them and ordered them to stop. Mrs. Ray, a powerful woman, did no such thing as stop, but let her right arm swing and landed a crushing blow on the hold-up man's nose, which made him reel and beat a hasty retreat. Mrs. Ray hit the highwayman so hard that she knocked several of her knuckles out of joint, but otherwise she was unscathed by the encounter.

—Registration of the Templer Motor Car company, of Lakewood, Ohio, for the sale of \$2,500,000 worth of stock in Pennsylvania has been refused by the State securities bureau. A syndicate of the officers and directors of the Templer Motors company, which went into the hands of a receiver in October, 1922, has taken over the affairs of the old concern and are now represented by M. F. Bramley, who was president and general manager of the company; W. M. Pattison, who was vice president, and Newton D. Baker, of Cleveland, the Secretary of War under President Wilson.

—"That represents matrimonial contentment," George E. Diehl, business manager of Penn Hall, explained to members of the Rotary club, of Chambersburg, when he drove up Lincoln way in his roadster. The right hand side of the body of the automobile is painted blue, while the left hand side is painted gray. The wheels are done in bright red. Mr. Diehl further explained that his wife likes blue for an auto body color, while he prefers gray, and as they like to go riding together, the color problem was satisfactorily solved by using two kinds of paint. But it does cause the curious to ask many questions.

—The sum of \$250 for information as to her whereabouts has been offered by the parents of Miss Vera Rhodes, a McVeytown girl who mysteriously disappeared on the night of December 22nd at West-nersville, Berks county. Miss Rhodes for the last five months had been a patient at the Wernersville sanatorium, where she was receiving treatment for nervous trouble. The week before Christmas she decided to go to McVeytown to spend the holidays with her sister, Mrs. S. B. Kiner. She was taken to the Wernersville railroad station, where she bought a ticket for Harrisburg and checked her baggage. That was the last seen or heard of her.

—Shot through the heart as he lay in bed, Gabor Trot, 45 years old, was killed instantly at Erie, last Friday, by one of four bullets fired at close range. Police arrested George T. Koick, 35 years old, a boarder, and the holding him for the slaying. August Jones, 56 years old, is being held as a material witness. Koick told police that he and Trot were quarrelling over money and that the latter had attacked him with a knife when he shot. This is the second murder to occur in the same house, while a boarder recently fell down a pair of stairs and killed himself through breaking his neck. Four men paid with their lives in the electric chair at Rockview, for the killing of John Florata, during an attempted robbery. The house is known by neighbors as the "black cat," because of its record for killings.