

INK SLINGS.

—It may be safely said that the Washington bootlegger shot the wrong Senator.

—Talking about the cool in Coolidge poor Denby evidently got his share of that too.

—The reports from Washington are bad enough but according to news writers "the worst is yet to come."

—The Hon. Robert M. Foster, of State College, is said to have his ear to the ground listening for a call to be a candidate for district delegate to the National convention.

—Poor old Hen Cabot Lodge! Isn't he the snake's elbow, the fine point of nothin' whittled down. What if Senator Walsh should ask him for the loan of the dagger he so exultingly stuck in the back of Woodrow Wilson.

—Between Mr. Mellon, millionaire of Pennsylvania, and Senator Garner, moderately circumstanced, of Texas, we know who is trying to do the greatest good to the greatest number. Mellon's plan relieves the burdens of four thousand and Garner's helps about one hundred and nineteen million nine hundred and ninety-six to get along a bit better.

—Of course the Democrats are supposed not to say anything nasty about the administration because of the astounding revelations of the Teapot Dome scandal—and they won't. All the further they will go in disloyal thoughts of our government is conjuring up what the Republicans would have said about the administration had it happened to have been Democratic.

—Our dear Governor is recovering from the effects of an operation on his ear. Of course the sympathy of the Commonwealth goes out to any one afflicted as he has been and right here we drop a couple of tears as big as horse chestnuts. * * * They'd be bigger if we were not convinced that Giffy didn't keep his aural appendix on the ground too long, straining to hear a call to the Presidency.

—Let us see! Way back in the wet spring of '37 we heard that it was Alexander Hamilton who "smote the rock of national resources and abundant streams of currency flowed forth." In the exciting fall of 1923 and the early spring of '24, we have heard words like these: "Next to Hamilton, Mellon is the greatest Secretary of the Treasury the country has ever known." Alex had his Aaron Burr but Andy is away over in Armageddon yelling for help to save him from this Democratic fellow, Garner, of Texas, who seems to have framed a tax bill that helps a lot of people who are least able to bear the burden of taxation.

—Externally W. P. A. is after knowledge. Last week he wanted to know when spring would be here and we told him not until we had had the "saplin bender, the poor man's manure, the robin and the onion snows." Wednesday he turned up and wanted to know what one of the stations we put the flaky precipitation of that day under. We admit being taken unawares. There was no satisfactory answer in mind to give him, but since a futile effort to pass the job of shoveling off two hundred and fifty feet of side walk to two boys, one seven, the other thirteen, we know what snow Wednesday's was. It was the back bender.

—The conference in Chicago, the fore part of this week, to decide whether or not Mr. McAdoo should continue in the race for Presidential nomination has declared that there is no reason why he should withdraw in consequence of the unjust linking of his name with the oil scandal. Here let us make the same declaration, though not from the same motives as actuated the Chicago conference. Nothing else was to be expected of the personnel of that gathering. Many of them had attached themselves to the McAdoo banner for the sole reason that they thought he would be a winner and they would become dispensers or devourers of plums. We are not for McAdoo or any one else. We are for the nominee of the New York convention, but we do think that McAdoo ought to stay in the race. We don't believe that he is tainted with oil and we do believe that it is his duty to himself to fight for vindication in the great convention of his party.

—If it be true that Mr. Gray intends to give up the chairmanship of the Democratic county committee, as is rumored, a new county chairman will have to be elected at the April primary. Democrats in all parts of the county should carefully take account of stock with a view to locating a man with the ability and determination to take advantage of the great opportunities that are apparent. There is better spirit among the members of our party than there has been for some years. And all that is needed now is the right man to mould it into a cohesive, fighting force for success. Mr. Gray has laid the foundation very well and if he should decide that he cannot give further time to the service we should exercise great care in the selection of the man who is to build on it. We have heard the name of former County Commissioner W. H. Noll Jr. associated with the office. Certainly he would make a splendid chairman but we have also heard that Mr. Noll is considering the matter of becoming a candidate for the Legislature.

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Denby Has Resigned.

The resignation of Secretary of the Navy Denby came as a surprise to the public. Within a week he had positively declared that he would not resign and the President had encouraged him to this frame of mind by telling the Senate to mind its own business. But on Monday he did resign, giving as a reason for the action that his "continuance in the cabinet would increase your (the President's) embarrassments." But he took pains to say that neither the President nor any one else has at any time advised him to resign. Current rumors contradict this statement. It is freely asserted that both the President and others have given him such advice.

The resignation of Mr. Denby is no more surprising than the failure of Assistant Secretary Roosevelt to resign. It is widely believed that Roosevelt was the brains of the department, and it is reasonably certain that the assistant secretary was much closer to the lessee of the property than his chief. It has even been asserted that the appointment of Roosevelt was made at the request of Harry Sinclair, and by a singular coincidence Sinclair took Mr. Roosevelt's brother, Archie, into his employ at a liberal rate of compensation. If Denby is uncommonly stupid, as seems to be generally admitted, and Roosevelt mentally alert, it might easily be shown that the wrong man has resigned.

The attitude of the President in the matter is also somewhat peculiar. In his letter to Denby accepting the resignation, he writes, "it is with regret that I am to part with you." A Washington correspondent to the Associated Press recalls that in almost similar language President Taft accepted the resignation of Ballinger after he had disposed of all the available timber land to speculators. It was subsequently shown that Taft had asked for the resignation and it is now believed that Coolidge has done the same thing. In any event it is a strange mix-up and may be the beginning of a series of exposures which will shock the country.

The Literary Digest publishes a list of "members of the Wilson cabinet said to have had oil connections after leaving office." An appropriate companion picture would be a list of members of the Harding cabinet who had oil connections while in office.

Opposition to Pinchot Dwindling.

The bottom seems to have dropped out of the movement to defeat Governor Pinchot for delegate-at-large to the Cleveland convention. It began with a mighty roar. Dave Lane, Billy Campbell and a few others in Philadelphia declared that they would never consent to such a degradation of a valued party favor. Such offices belonged to the party saints and Pinchot was a rank heretic. From the west end of the State, Senator Max Leslie raised a voice of protest and Frank McClain, of Lancaster, was unanimously chosen field marshal of the force. But it is no longer vociferous or even amusing.

The trouble is that the creators of the movement have been disappointed. They fully expected that some stalwart millionaire would come forward and open a well filled purse. The invitation to such an angel was cordially given and loudly announced. But the only response came from Mr. Straasburger, of Norristown, and it was expressed in wind. He is eloquent in boasting of his liberality in the past but said nothing of the necessities of the present or the requirements of the future. That was the discouraging feature of the matter. The Mackrelis, of Pittsburgh, and the Campbells, of Philadelphia, want something substantial to feed on.

The truth is that Pinchot's agreement with chairman Baker and Congressman Vane to retain their followers on the pay roll took all the ginger out of the stalwart opponents of the Governor. If Straasburger had opened his purse, as he was expected to do, it might have been different. The opposition to Pinchot is widely diffused and easily aroused. But there must be an incentive and in the absence of spoils and funds it lies dormant. Unless something practical is done within a short period of time Pinchot will be elected, and that accomplished he may cavort in the convention according to his fancy.

—Some of the Teapot Dome conspirators may have voted the Democratic ticket occasionally, but none of those in public office was a Democrat.

—Teddy and Archie Roosevelt were tolerably close to Mr. Doheny, but thus far no odor of oil has come from their garments.

—In fixing the time for his resignation to become effective Secretary Denby may have thought of a chance "to do it again."

Change of Doubtful Wisdom.

A great many Pennsylvania Democrats will regret, and a good many will resent, the action of State chairman Austen E. McCullough in taking the choice of the Pennsylvania member of the National committee out of the power of the voters of the party and vesting it in the hands of the State committee. It may be true that he has a legal right to thus alter the custom of the party. But the wisdom of exercising the right is certainly doubtful. The principles of the party are expressed in the voice of the people. "In the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom" as well as safety. The party has been getting along fairly well under the old rule. It was acquiesced in universally.

We recall no period in the recent history of the Democratic party when there was greater reason for wisdom. The bitter factionalism of the past had been largely wiped out. The party is approaching a great contest under the most hopeful auspices. No complaint had been made publicly against the system of selecting a member of the National committee which has prevailed ever since the adoption of the uniform State-wide primary law. There are no perceptible reasons for apprehending dissatisfaction from it in the future. An election by the people or an expression of preference by the voters ought to give a valid title to an office. It has always done so in the past.

Chairman of the Democratic State committee is an important office. Some very distinguished men have occupied and served the party with great ability and fidelity. Mr. McCullough has maintained the traditions of the office. He has worked earnestly and efficiently for the success of the party. But none of his predecessors attempted to revolutionize the customs of the party and there are no apparent reasons why he should do so. If he believes the change he has ordered is desirable he should have submitted it to the voters for determination. His action is too much like "bossism" to suit Democrats. Besides it justifies the suspicion of a "frame up," and such suspicions do harm.

Congressman Woodruff, of Michigan, believes that if the Mellon bill is passed one hundred million dollars can be raised for the Republican campaign. That suggests a new angle on the subject.

Mr. Fall's Refusal to Testify.

The refusal of the former Secretary of the Interior to testify in the Senate investigation of the Teapot Oil scandal was to be expected. On the witness stand and subject to cross examination, his evidence might have been converted into a serious indictment against the party. Most of the members of the President's cabinet are already "hooked up" in the affair and a complete disclosure such as Mr. Fall might be compelled to make might bring some other important leaders, including the slated candidate for President, under suspicion. Mr. Fall's excuse for refusing to testify was somewhat weak. But it appears to have served the purpose for the time being.

It is true that a defendant in criminal court may not be compelled to testify if his evidence would incriminate himself. But an investigating committee is not a criminal court and a witness before an investigating committee is protected by a law which provides that testimony given before a committee cannot be used against the defendant in any criminal court proceedings which follow. But in this case it is not a criminal court proceeding to be subsequently begun that is feared. It is the great tribunal of public opinion that is dreaded. The evidence which former Secretary Fall might give if he would testify frankly would probably make the Republican party of the country odious.

Even at that Mr. Fall might as well tell "the whole truth." Senator Walsh is after the facts with a determination that will bring them to the surface in spite of Fall. Moreover the evidence of Doheny and others, already in possession of the committee, is sufficient to send Fall to jail and all he can accomplish by refusing to testify is the protection of others high up in the Republican party. Probably he may imagine that that is sufficient reason to keep his lips sealed. But neither Doheny nor others who have testified showed great concern for the safety and liberty of Fall. They have pilloried him as a criminal and left him to get out of his troubles as best he can.

—Senator Willis assures the country that Attorney General Daugherty "is as clean as a hound's tooth." Maybe he had in mind a wolf hound.

—Possibly Mr. Pinchot has been holding his ear too long and too close to the ground.

Pinchot Sees a Hope.

The indications are that Governor Pinchot has begun to realize that out of the miserable oil mess in Washington there may be drawn an opportunity to revive his ambition to be the Republican candidate for President. No charge has been made that implicates President Coolidge in the corrupt transaction or asperses his character. But his stubborn support of the involved members of the cabinet, Secretary of the Navy Denby and Attorney General Daugherty, has alienated hundreds of thousands of voters who were friendly and the party leaders are plainly showing distrust of his availability as a candidate. In this unexpected development Governor Pinchot discerns a hope.

When chairman W. Harry Baker, with the assent of Senators Pepper and Reed, agreed to place Pinchot's name on the slate for delegate-at-large a condition was made that the Governor would not be a candidate for the nomination or openly support any other candidate not approved by the organization. It was also agreed that the four or five hundred followers of the Baker-Beidleman machine already on the State pay roll be retained. This seemed to be a fairly good deal on both sides. Pinchot felt that he was keeping himself alive in politics and Baker was feathering his political nest. But the oil explosion has changed everything. It has made conservation rather than prohibition the paramount issue.

Now everybody knows that President Coolidge is not a conservationist while the knowledge that Pinchot is, is equally well understood. He has a certificate from the late Colonel Roosevelt, and that is easily the "gnat's eyebrow" on the subject. He was the Roosevelt "right arm" in the fight against Ballinger during the Taft administration and out of that conflict grew the Bull Moose party, the Washington party and several other factional organizations that put the faithful out of the pasture for eight long lean years. In the light of these facts Mr. Pinchot sees a grand opportunity not only to squelch the Pennsylvania machine but to restore himself to the center of the stage.

The President congratulates Denby on the fact that "his honesty and integrity have not been impugned." Only his stupidity has been condemned.

Vanderlip a Slanderer.

It would be difficult to imagine a more despicable figure than Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip appeared as he emerged from the Senate committee investigating the oil scandal the other day. In a speech delivered before a local organization at Ossining, New York, a couple of days before, he made a covert charge that an excessive price had been paid in the purchase of President Harding's newspaper and that the money had been provided by the oil speculators who were swindling the government. The inference conveyed was that Mr. Harding had thus shared in the spoils of the conspiracy to rob the government.

Mr. Vanderlip had taken great pains to give his statement wide publicity. He called in a reporter of the New York Tribune in advance of the delivery and read the proof of his statement after the delivery. He fully realized the importance of the statement as a news feature and the effect of it upon the public mind as well as the damage it would cause to the reputation of the former President. But he was utterly regardless of the consequences. It gave him a brief period in the lime light, a short time in the centre of the stage, and that seems to have been all that he cared for.

Under oath before the committee he acknowledged that he had no reliable information on the subject. He had heard rumors which were damaging to a man of consequence and he availed himself of the first opportunity to spread it where it would do the most harm. Happily his purpose was disappointed. The press and the public promptly and with considerable emphasis repudiated the slander upon a dead man and condemned the slanderer. It seems that Vanderlip had a personal grievance against some one in public office and imagined he could get even by his cock-and-bull story about Harding's newspaper.

—That weather prophet of New York State who predicted a foot of snow on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week came nearer hitting the bull's eye than the average prognosticator. While an inch or two either above or below that mark would make little difference the writer personally can qualify to finding enough of it to shovel when he tackled the job at 5:30 o'clock on Wednesday morning with about eight hundred square feet of walks and pavements ahead of him. The one thing we ask now is that it goes away gradually so as not to put Spring creek on another rampage.

The Old Red Herring.

From the Philadelphia Record.
Republican papers, seeking to draw a red herring across the trail of the Senatorial investigating committee, continue to refer to it as a "lynching bee" because it has been unusually successful in finding victims. Inasmuch as the committee is composed mainly of Republicans, with a Republican chairman, Senator Lenroot, this uncomplimentary reference to it may seem remarkable, but still it persists. Here, for instance, is that loyal G. O. P. sheet, the New York Tribune, declaring that "one could almost mark the day on which the proceedings turned from a fair-minded investigation into a yipping pursuit of partisan blood in the best traditions of a Southern lynching. * * * No one above ground or below ground was beyond the reach of innuendo. The real lynching spirit showed itself in the desire to lynch somebody, anybody, everybody in any way, nearly or remotely, related to the supposed crime."

What rot! The impelling spirit in this investigation is Senator Walsh, of Montana, a lawyer of high repute, and to him the American people owe an immense debt of gratitude for the patient and persistent manner in which he has run down faint clues and brought to light the most hideous scandal in the history of the United States. He has acted entirely without partisan animus, and certainly cannot be blamed if more Republicans than Democrats have been caught in the dragnet. That is a misfortune for the G. O. P., but is no evidence of a lynching spirit. If the Republican members of the committee had taken their responsibilities and duties more seriously they could have carried off the honors that have fallen to Mr. Walsh and have claimed for their party the credit of exposing grave evils, no matter who might be hurt. Instead of that, they went about their work perfunctorily and failed to accomplish anything.

If the exposures now being made are a lynching, let us have lots more of such summary justice. The present investigation is not being conducted in lawless fashion, and if reputations are being blasted daily it is only because, through the orderly processes of the law, they deserve the pillorying they are receiving because of wrong-doing.

The Crusading Spirit.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
The British Cabinet has decided not to follow the United States in recognizing the Mexican government, as has been the custom in such cases. The reason given is that the stability of the Obregon regime is not yet assured and that therefore the course adopted toward Russia of shaking hands first and talking over differences afterward is not expedient. The real reason is rather plain. There is little doubt now that the De la Huerta rebellion is entering its last phase and that the power of Obregon has been sustained. But there is a movement among the reactionaries in Mexico to prevent the election of Obregon's man, Elias Calles, also the mahatma of the Mexican Labor party. The British Labor government, in fine, is likely to favor, whenever possible, labor parties in other countries. John R. Brown, a member of the British Labor party and general secretary of the International Federation of Trades Unions, the man who has been spoken of as British Ambassador to Mexico, has just returned from an investigation there. He believes that the Mexican "Facisti" will try to take power from the Labor party, and asserts in so many words that the British Labor party is interested in preventing it.

He moreover announced, just before sailing from New York the other day, that a group of British Laborites, headed by J. H. Thomas, the Colonial Minister, would next August come to Mexico for the purpose of lining up the Mexican Labor party with the British and European movements. He also mentioned they would try to do the same thing with the American Federation of Labor.

Meddling of this sort can be viewed only as an unhealthy symptom. It indicates a crusading spirit a little too nearly akin to bolshevism. The ruling group of the British Labor party realizes it has its hands full governing Britain. But there is a fringe that is not content to remain within its national boundaries. It is this fringe that Ramsay MacDonald will have trouble to control. Crusaders have always proved prime factors in upsetting the peace of nations.

Why the Slump?

From the Pennsylvania Farmer.
Indications are that farmers' meetings and organizations, especially those of a social and educational nature, are suffering by non-attendance in these days. In many places where there was once a strong Grange, farmers' club or union it is now impossible to get a quorum. What's the matter? Have they outgrown their usefulness, or has the almost universal jazz spirit permeated our rural sections also and interrupted serious, constructive thought? In most places nothing better has taken the place of the former organizations. Some people have answered us that it is due to the automobile, the great use of which takes folks away from home and community. Others say that people are seeking other and better sources of recreation and instruction.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The citizens of Tower City and vicinity are filing a petition to stop the placing of bear on the mountains south of the Williams, Lykens and Clarks valleys.

—William Henry Stumpf, 62 years old, was instantly killed at the John Miller sand works near Burnham on Friday. He attempted to knock the icicles from a pulley operating the washer screens, when he slipped and was caught in the pulley and his neck was broken.

—The Farmers' and Merchants' National bank, of Tyrone, on Friday was its civil suit to recover \$8,000 with interest from the Cadillac Sales company, of Huntingdon, the verdict being returned at 2 o'clock after a trial lasting four days. The suit was based on a note executed by the late C. A. Vuell.

—John Sokolowski was caught beneath a heavy fall of roof rock while at work in the Hopkins mines, near DuBois, on Saturday, and was instantly crushed to death. Sokolowski was a member of a gang that was lifting rails. His body was pinned beneath tons of rocks and over two hours were required to recover it.

—John Ferguson, of Phoenixville, is no doubt, the world's champion onion eater, as he takes as part of his diet about fourteen onions each day, or an average of 392 in a month. This makes his yearly total 4704, and in the last thirty years he has digested about 141,120 onions, or about 135 bushels. He has never been sick one day in his life.

—Roy Harris, of near Lock Haven, is in the Clinton county jail in default of \$500 bail charged with pointing and discharging a firearm at his neighbor, John Rote, the bullet passing through Rote's shoe top and grazing the flesh. A second shot went wide of the mark. Harris alleges that Rote charged him with a shovel, and he fired in self defense.

—A plot believed to have been an attempt to effect a jail delivery at the Northumberland county prison on Sunday, was frustrated when jail attendants searched the clothing of three suspicious-looking visitors who called to see Samuel Lucifer, a Kulpmont murderer now serving a long term, revealing two automatic revolvers, a magazine of bullets, and a sharp razor. The men were all held pending an investigation.

—Mrs. Walter Lloyd, of Pottsville, was seriously burned last week by an explosion of flour dust when she was pouring a quantity of spoiled flour down a garbage chute. The dust exploded with the same force that has sometimes been witnessed in mills, and the flames coming up the chute set Mrs. Lloyd's dress on fire. Before neighbors could extinguish the fire she was terribly roasted. The explosion tore doors off their hinges.

—Found lying unconscious along the state highway between Shamokin and Mount Carmel early Saturday morning, Samuel Gringo, of Centrella, claimed that he had been set upon by three unknown men the night before and robbed of \$75. He suffered from exposure but was not badly injured. Gringo had visited an Exchange pool room, as said, and while there flashed a roll of bills. He was attacked while walking from Exchange to Mount Carmel.

—After a roll of bills amounting to \$92 had been tramped under foot in the barnyard of John Murovski, of near Latrobe, for a year, the United States Treasury Department will be called upon to redeem them. Murovski lost the roll in the first place, while he was milking a cow, the money having slipped from his right hand hip pocket. Last Wednesday, while working about the barn, he kicked up the roll, badly mutilated and with the numerals all but obliterated.

—No word has been received of N. A. Steffy, a Hartleton farmer, who disappeared three weeks ago. He is known to have had several hundred dollars in his possession, and his safety is feared for his relatives. He wrote a letter to his son, Eli, of Juniata, saying: "I will need no money," and directed going I will need no money," and directed the son to dispose of his assets and turn the money over to his wife. Steffy, who was 67 years old, was last seen in Northumberland January 28th.

—Frank Baker, of Lock Haven, has sued H. C. Carter, assistant steward of the Fraternal Order of Eagles of that place, for false arrest in connection with the theft of \$392.75 from the rooms of the lodge recently, which officers of the lodge claimed Mr. Baker had taken. At a subsequent hearing before Alderman William Rathgeber, Baker was afterward cleared of the charge, but feels that the mental agony and blot sustained to his reputation can only be appeased by \$1,000 damages, which will in part reimburse him for the expense he has been put to in defending himself in the affair.

—Clarence L. Kendall, 19 years of age, of Greencastle, Franklin county, was awarded a verdict of \$1138.33 by a jury in Common Pleas court for injuries suffered he says, when he was kicked by Wilbur Raubser, also of Greencastle. Kendall's father, George W. Kendall, was awarded \$764 for loss of his services. It was testified that Clarence Kendall is extremely susceptible to tickling which made him a target for jests of men gathered in a store he had entered to make a purchase. Kendall enraged, struck Raubser, who in turn kicked him. The injury necessitated a surgical operation.

—District State Forester Walter Leach, of Mount Union, has located in Brady township, Huntingdon county, what is believed to be the biggest sassafras tree in Pennsylvania. It stands along the state highway near Altydale and measures on feet, eight inches in circumference, breast high. The tree is bigger than the historic sassafras in Harrisburg, which is believed to be over 200 years old. Another big tree in Brady township is an American elm on the property of E. C. Metz, Allensville, which is more than sixteen feet in circumference and is over eighty feet high, with a branch spread of sixty feet.

—John Greim, of Shinglehouse, Potter county, was found dead in his chair by the stove, recently, while his wife was on a visit to relatives in Ohio. Ever since his death the widow has been searching the house for some valuable papers and bonds she knew her husband to have had. She made inquiry at every bank for many miles around, but no bonds were located. Calling in her brother, Louis Schmidt, for advice, he hit upon the idea that the deceased man may have secreted them in his cellar, as several days previous to his death he had been speaking of the cellar to Schmidt. They began searching the cellar, decided to dig up the floor, and there carefully folded in an old tin can they located \$13,000 worth of bonds and the valuable papers.