

INK SLINGS.

—Gen. Smed Butler is still in high in his crusade against vice in Philadelphia, but the peak of the hill is yet to be made.

—January and February are the months consecrated by the average business man to the damnable nuisance of making State and Federal reports differently principally to making jobs for other fellows.

—Any way the introduction of stag sleepers on the Pennsylvania will have a tendency toward keeping some men's minds more concentrated on the arms of Morpheus than on the other appendages of some one else.

—There's no use asking the question: "Are the seasons changing?" They have changed. When it gets down to 18 degrees below zero in Bellefonte on the morning of February 24th only a simp would contend that something hasn't happened.

—We know not who he is, but we want to say that the fellow who did the press work on the last edition of the Tyrone Times is an artist. That's what he is. And when the "Watchman" comes to the point of envying anything in the execution of any other country newspaper published we believe it the compliment supreme.

—Of course we sympathize with our State chairman, but we can't resist the "I told you so!" Evidently Austin didn't know of his dual identity. Mr. McCullough had a right to have a personal preference, but chairman McCullough should have had none if he hoped to continue his state organization as a cohesive, fighting force.

—The Hon. William I. Swoope was in this section last week, just visiting "round a bit in preparation for his coming campaign for re-election. The talked of effort of the Hon. Evan Jones to stage a comeback appears to have been all talk so that the Hon. William I. sees the road back to Washington through rose glasses. While here he relieved our mind on a matter that has perturbed it much. He's been too busy on committee assignments to start any of the oratorical effervescence that we thought he went to Congress to uncock, but he promised some soon.

—The collapse of the McAadoo boom in Pennsylvania rather confirms the "Watchman's" statement of two weeks ago to the effect that most of those who had attached themselves to his banners were only there because they thought his candidacy offered the surest route back to the public crib for them. As we have stated frequently we are not for McAadoo or any one else. We are for the man who has the best chance to win. Had we been for McAadoo, however, against the field, we would have stuck to him until the New York convention either bowled him out or named him. McAadoo has done nothing that a political friend should desert him for. A real friend would not desert him, no matter what he does.

—If ever we should so far forget a resolution, passed long, long ago, never to run for a legislative office, that we should be cajoled into a contest for one, our platform would be: Agin every new law presented for enactment. On such a platform we think any candidate could go before the all suffering public and win. The country is being lamed into sovietism. Mr. Private Citizen can't turn around without facing some inspector, inquisitor or regulator of this or that. His mail is nearly all forms to fill out within thirty days or be fined or go to prison. He is robbed of initiative and taxed out of hope. Yes sir. From this date on we are never going to give voice to that pet obsession of every one. "We ought to have a law passed, etc." That's what's brought all the trouble on us.

—Some years ago a certain distinguished gentleman represented the North precinct of Spring township in the Republican county convention. He had been head of a great industrial enterprise in our midst for several years, but this was his first essay into local politics. When the secretary of the convention called the roll of delegates he came down to Spring township; faltered a moment and then called: Noah H. Swayne, 2nd precinct of Spring. Then everybody laughed. Because everybody knew there was no such district as the 2nd precinct of Spring and those who enjoyed the joke most knew that because Mr. Swayne always signed himself Noah H. Swayne II the unsophisticated secretary thought the two I's after his name applied to the precinct rather than that he had been the namesake of the second generation removed from his distinguished grandfather, who was a Justice of the United States Supreme court. All this is only the prologue to the announcement that Noah is again in politics. He is being groomed for legislative honors in Delaware county. We haven't been advised as to whether he is an accessory before the fact, but if he is our greatest regret is that John Fow isn't about to tell the Delaware folks his pet Andy Jackson story. It was in point; after two Irishmen viewing a painting of the translation of Elijah and neither one of them knowing what it symbolized, one did decide that it was Andy Jackson going to Heaven and the other one agreed, because as he remarked: "If Andy made up his mind to go there all hell wouldn't keep him out."

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Mr. Vanderlip's Excuse.

Mr. Frank Vanderlip has somewhat impaired the value of his opinion on public questions by his recent careless statement with respect to the sale of former President Harding's newspaper. But in commenting upon the suit which the present owners of that property have instituted against him he expresses some facts that deserve consideration.

That is literally true, and there must have been a reason for it. In any event Mr. Vanderlip continues: "Nor have there been, so far as I am aware, any court proceedings instituted as a result of the criminal mismanagement of the Veterans' Bureau. The wholesale dishonesty there is not a matter of rumor; it is a matter of official record in the committee proceedings and the proceedings of Congress, and Mr. Forbes and his friends have as yet encountered no court proceedings. There have been no proceedings nor even a thorough investigation of the alien property administration. There are other directions in which court proceedings would be admirable. My attitude hides no motive of partnership. I have been a life-long Republican," he adds.

But the statement of Mr. Vanderlip is an arraignment of the Republican party. During all the period of inactivity complained of that party has been in complete control of the government. In discussing the Teapot Dome inquiry, the other day, a distinguished Senator declared that notwithstanding that the Department of Justice controls a great secret service force not a scintilla of evidence has been furnished the committee from the Attorney General's office, and another Senator declared with equal emphasis and accuracy that the head of the secret service is now engaged in an effort to prevent witnesses from giving incriminating testimony. These are facts that ought to be brought out. The public has a right to know and the remedy will never come until the people do know.

That is the excuse Mr. Vanderlip gives for the speech that brought up on him the popular condemnation and a \$600,000 libel suit. It may not be adequate but he is willing to take the consequences. "If this country were invaded by an alien foe," he declares, "and I were a young man, I believe I would offer myself for its defense. It has been attacked by something more dangerous than a military invasion by a foreign foe. Corruption has attacked the government at its heart. I believe that I am a patriotic citizen and I propose to offer the same service in fighting this danger that a young man should offer in fighting a military invasion. I am really enlisted in this matter because of profound conviction."

—The law of compensation works out in everything under the sun. All winter season we have literally been patting ourselves on the back over the nice weather we were having and practically no snow to shovel when last week we got a regular allopactic dose of about fifteen inches, and on Sunday morning the mercury ran down to 15 and 18 degrees below zero in Bellefonte. Pleasant Gap and Potters Mills reported 20 below with Linden Hall 22, so we have had a pretty good touch of real winter.

—Mr. Denby has gone, but Secretary Daugherty still lingers. Whatever the latter may be, guilty or innocent, of any moral or legal dereliction of his duty to his country President Coolidge is solely responsible for his holding on to a position where he can sprag the wheels of justice. Mr. Daugherty couldn't remain Attorney General of the United States a day if the President desired otherwise.

—It seems inevitable. Mr. Secretary Daugherty is going. But when he has been finally offered up as a sacrifice by the Grand Old Party it will have to be written into his political obituary that he died with his boots on.

—It's lucky that Secretary Fall did return Mr. McLean's \$100,000 check. It seems that McLean had only a couple of thousand in the bank.

—If developments continue it may occur to President Coolidge to make Governor McCray, of Indiana, successor to Secretary Denby.

—The purchasing power of a dollar may not be up to the standard but if you have enough of them you can get by.

Dealing With Vore Pinchot "Stays Put."

However much those Republicans who supported Gifford Pinchot, for nomination in 1922, may complain of his ingratitude, it must be admitted that in his dealings with the Vore machine, of Philadelphia, the Governor "stays put." After chairman Baker, in consideration of favors assured to the Baker-Beidleman machine, of Harrisburg, had placed the Governor's name on the slate for delegate-at-large to the Cleveland convention a rather formidable protest was made by the Vore machine. In order to appease that threatened opposition the Governor appointed the discredited former Mayor of Philadelphia, Tom Smith, to the chairmanship of the Delaware river bridge joint commission, a very important office.

As soon as Smith was safely seated in this office he had issued circulars to prospective or expectant applicants for contracts on the vastly expensive enterprise inviting them to apply to his bonding company to bond them. This was plain inference that those who thus favored him would be favored in return. Rival bonding companies protested and the Attorney General of New Jersey, who has a voice in the matter, declared it was unfair if not actually illegal. But Mr. Pinchot refuses to remove Smith from the office he has prostituted, though he did admonish him against the practice in the future and suggested that bonds already executed by his company be shifted to other companies.

Governor Pinchot realizes that Tom Smith is an important figure in the Vore machine. He sought the office on the bridge commission for the advantage it would afford him in drumming up business for his bonding company. While he was Mayor of Philadelphia he practically compelled all city contractors to patronize his business venture and it is said made more money out of the bonding of city contractors than he received in salary as Mayor. Mr. Pinchot was aware of this at the time he named Tom Smith but probably overlooked the fact because the appointment helped to break up the opposition to him as a candidate for delegate-at-large to the Republican National convention where he hopes to shine.

—Probably Attorney General Daugherty wasn't consulted about the validity of the Teapot oil leases for the reason that nobody places a high value on Daugherty's legal opinion.

Pinchot Refutes a Falsehood.

In an address delivered before a New York audience, on Monday evening, Governor Pinchot refuted the malicious falsehood of the Republican National committee that the Wilson administration initiated the movement to rob the government of its valuable oil reserves. After stating that "the effort to get the Navy's oil away from the government has been in progress for years," the Governor added: "It was vigorously put forward in Congress during the Wilson administration but was defeated by the efforts of friends of conservation. \* \* \* Having failed in Congress the grabbers took another tack and this time through the faithlessness of executive officers to their public duty they won and the Navy lost."

In this frank statement of the truth Governor Pinchot will probably incur increased enmity of the Republican machine but he will win the approval of his own conscience and the confidence and respect of all fair-minded men and women. In order to divert attention from the perfidy of Republican officials inculpated in the crime of betraying the government, the Republican National committee has been inventing and publishing falsehoods to the effect that the Wilson administration favored the lease of the oil reserves; that Secretary Daniels wrote the act making the oil leases possible and that Senator Walsh advocated its passage. The records refute these statements, of course, but only a few have access to the records.

The Governor also corroborated in direct terms the statement previously whispered that Secretary Fall had planned to dispose of the forestry reserves of the country in the same fashion, and that the late President Harding had consented to the scheme. This is surprising in view of the fact that both Harding and Fall must have been familiar with the Ballinger scandal during the Taft administration. But cupidity is so great a force that it obliterates the lessons of history and experience. "The universal execration now heaped on the men of the Harding-Coolidge administration," the Governor declared, "is comparable in many respects to the feelings which wrecked the Taft administration."

—The United States has 83 per cent. of the automobiles in the world and maintains the ratio in automobile accidents.

Daugherty Rebukes Pepper.

Attorney General Daugherty was entirely justified in rebuking Senator George Wharton Pepper for his activity in the movement to force Mr. Daugherty out of the cabinet. Mr. Daugherty never ought to have been in the cabinet. He has neither the ability nor the distinction as a lawyer for the office, and his administration of the office has been inefficient and scandalous from the beginning. But why should Senator Pepper assume the role of censor? His first vote in the Senate was in favor of retaining in his seat Truman H. Newberry, who had been convicted by a jury and sentenced to prison by a court of a crime against the purity of the ballot, and whose every act since has been in the interest of corruption.

Professing to be an active and even zealous churchman George Wharton Pepper has contributed in every way possible to debauching the public morals. Since, in order to win the friendship of a bunch of south Philadelphia "rough-necks" he declared his willingness to "spit in the face of a bull dog," he has been aiding and abetting every political iniquity proposed by the Vore machine, in Philadelphia, the Baker-Beidleman machine in Pennsylvania, and the congressional machine in Washington. What right had a man with such a record to assume the character of moral guide to Daugherty or any other professional politician who is in public life for what he can get out of it by hook or crook?

Of course the resignation of Attorney General Daugherty would inure to the advantage of the Republican party now on the verge of moral bankruptcy. But George Wharton Pepper has no right to speak for the moral element of the party if there is a moral element left. For that reason Daugherty was justified in resenting his suggestion and threatening to appeal to the public. Such an appeal would be futile, as both Pepper and Daugherty know. But there was a terror in it for the reason that Pepper knows that Daugherty could uncover greater iniquities than have yet been revealed, and knowing this he refrained from challenging the Attorney General to proceed with his appeal to the public.

—The Scranton Times needn't worry about a market for "steam size" anthracite. Coal dealers have been selling it for "nut size" all over the country for months.

Mellon Bill in Grave Danger.

If the insurgent Republicans in Congress are consistent the Mellon millionaire tax bill will be defeated. On every point of difference between that measure and the bill introduced by Representative Garner, of Texas, the Garner bill has won out. But there is no certainty that the insurgents will hold out. The Republican machine has its heart set on the passage of the Mellon bill. The campaign fund will be large or small according as the final vote on this question results. It has been estimated that the saving to multi-millionaires, profiteers, and corporations will amount to hundreds of millions of dollars if the Mellon bill becomes a law.

It has been clearly proved that a large majority of the Senators and Representatives in Congress are opposed to the Mellon bill. But the force of patronage is potent and the capacity for trading of the Republican leaders proverbial. Representative Longworth, Republican floor leader, has been disappointed in one vote after another but has not given up hope. He believes that in the final roll call the hungry insurgents will yield to the temptation for spoils which will be held up before their eyes. The President is behind him as stake holder and it may safely be said that wonderful inducements will be offered for affirmative votes on the bill.

No measure considered in Congress within a generation has been pressed with the force that has been behind this pet of the millionaires. No measure considered within that period has been so essentially class legislation. Every available influence, and in some cases the most sinister imaginable, has been invoked to entice, compel or deceive voters into petitioning for its passage. It is not because of its merit that these unusual efforts were made for it. It is because it promises to decrease the taxes of wealthy men and open up a flood of contributions for the Republican campaign. It is an instrument to benefit the rich at the expense of the poor.

—The next war will be a hummer. Scientists have already given warning "that the destructive products of the laboratories threaten to wipe man from the face of the earth."

—Premier Poincaré is against lotteries yet he has taken a good many chances in his political life.

Hungary's Rehabilitation.

So greatly has Washington absorbed public attention during the past few weeks that there is danger that the American people may lose the proper perspective of foreign events which are also of the first importance. Such is the announcement from Paris that the League of Nations, having put Austria squarely on her feet, is now about to perform an equally valuable service for Hungary through the flotation of a loan which will place its finances on a saving basis. All details have been arranged by the Reparations Commission, and an American, Governor W. G. P. Harding, of the Boston Federal Bank, formerly head of the Federal Reserve Board, is to be the benevolent dictator who will assume at Budapest the role taken in Vienna by Herr Zimmermann.

Ever since the break-up of the Austrian Empire Hungary has been the weak spot of Southeastern Europe. Indignant at the dismemberment of their country, parts of which have been given to Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Jugoslavia, the Magyars have never accepted their fate with resignation, as the Austrians have done, but have maintained a belligerent attitude which has been provocative of international trouble. While Czechoslovakia, under the wise direction of President Masaryk, has been going ahead at a remarkable pace, Hungary has been falling farther behind because of the reluctance of her people to acquiesce in the outcome of the war and substitute a constitutional government for the dictatorial rule of Admiral Horthy, wrongs committed by them. Naturally the Hungarians do not admit this, but it is the point of view generally taken in other countries. Now that the old resentments are dying out there will be a general hope that the League of Nations may be as successful in this new move as it was in rehabilitating Austria, settling the differences between Poland and Germany over Silesia, bringing Italy to terms in its arrogant attitude toward Greece, and in other ways maintaining the peace of Europe. The League is doing a wonderful work, in which unfortunately the United States can claim no part of the credit. It is a bit of historic justice that the political party which killed the Versailles peace treaty in the Senate, and kept us out of the League, is now being pilloried in public estimation because of its corrupt betrayal of the national defense. Teapot Dome, with all its attendant rottenness, is a poor substitute for the honorable and beneficent labors of the League of Nations.

Britain and Russia.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. It is a simple formula that Ramsay Macdonald is about to apply to Russia. The idea is to shake hands first and talk things over afterward. The course has its advantages. The Bolshevik Government will, for a time at least, be grateful to the British Prime Minister. Even though the masters of Moscow have shown themselves worthy of no man's trust, they would scarcely refuse certain concessions regarding war debts, private claims and such matters. They might even see the necessity of behaving themselves for a while, so that other nations might be induced to follow Britain's lead.

Just how long an era of good feeling can be maintained is a question that depends upon how long the Bolsheviks find it profitable to behave. Great Britain surrenders the considerable advantage of exacting pledges beforehand. But the main point is that Great Britain is recognizing a revolutionary government that may or may not prove permanent. In the past such minorities as the Bolshevik party have exercised comparatively ephemeral sway. Many nations, including the United States, prefer to wait a while yet. Perhaps there may arise in Russia a group more representative of the country that will form a government more likely to play the game of international relations according to recognized rules.

An Office-Holding Record.

From the St. Louis Star. Cabinets may come and Cabinets may go, but none of them can last a shorter time than the Venizelos ministry, which resigned before all of its members were comfortably seated.

—Without actual authority to express his views on any public question we feel safe in saying that the former Crown Prince will not be a candidate for President of Germany in the near future.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Roy Levan lost \$40, C. E. Marsteller \$30 and another man lost \$30 by having their pockets picked in crowds at Reading, Saturday night. James F. Moyer was robbed of his purse and a yearly railroad pass.

—Harold Goldsworthy, of Hazleton, a lineman of the Pennsylvania Power and Light company, died on Sunday at a Williamsport hospital from burns received when he came in contact with a high-tension wire after falling thirty feet from a pole.

—Reading police have asked Philadelphia officials to find Marie Stahlnecker, 15 years old, who disappeared on Saturday after getting her pay at a local office and told her girl friend she was going to the State metropolis. The girl could pass as being several years older, a description shows.

A post-mortem examination conducted on a cow owned by Charles Shearer, a Cumberland county farmer, showed that death was caused by the bovine eating an old shoe. In addition to the mangled pieces of leather in the cow's stomach, the veterinarian found three large nails and twenty small ones.

—Fred Feisler, of Erie, 8 years of age, was shot to death in the accidental discharge of a rifle held by his chum, Ralph Leopold, aged 16. The latter boy had been shooting at a squirrel and the rifle was discharged while he was loading it for another shot, he told police. The bullet struck Feisler's head.

—The entire student body of the Allentown preparatory school and members of the faculty who live at that institution have been quarantined because of a case of scarlet fever contracted by a Senior, Charles Howard, of Bedminster, N. J. The isolation will continue for a period of ten days. It is the first time in the institution's history of twenty-one years that the school has been quarantined.

—The Lewistown school board, at its meeting Thursday evening, instructed Z. T. Stine, the city tax collector, to proceed to collect by law the school tax of 1,600 women in the city, who have refused to pay their taxes for the year 1923. The school officials declared that they would hold the collector and his bondsmen responsible for the collection of the tax of \$3 from each of the 1,600 women.

—Joseph Loopo, 35 years old, an employee, was smothered to death in several tons of crushed limestone at the Carbon plant west of New Castle, on Saturday. He was working in a bin unloading the limestone and was at one of the exits where the limestone had become blocked. When it loosened it came down so fast that he was completely covered and before fellow workmen could get him out he was smothered to death.

—Conrad Paulus, 76 years old, who was three times a widower, was buried last Saturday in a Steelton graveyard at the foot of the graves of his three wives. Paulus died Thursday night in his home in Steelton, but before his death arranged all the details of his funeral. His friends explained he loved all three wives equally and did not desire to show partiality even in death by having his grave beside the grave of one of his wives and not the others.

—An estate valued at \$10,500,000 was disposed of in the will of the late State Senator William Flinn, of Pittsburgh, which was filed for probate on Monday. The bulk of the estate was left to his children, share and share alike after liberal annuities were made to certain of his collateral heirs and liberal provisions made for the widow. The West Penn hospital, with which Senator Flinn was closely associated, was bequeathed a portion of his residuary estate.

—Three bandits attired in golf suits held up the Grossman department store in Washington, Pa., early last Friday and obtained \$1000 to \$1500 in merchandise. They escaped in an automobile in which several sets of golf clubs were exposed in the rear seat. Passersby hurrying through the storm gave little thought to the supposed golfers' car beside the store until the hold-up was reported. Washington was isolated by the storm and the only means of communication was by amateur broadcasting stations.

—Crime waves that may sweep other sections of the country seldom descend upon Forest county, the smallest in population in the State. Judge D. U. Arrid, of Warren, went to Tionesta the county seat, last week, to preside at the February term of criminal court, and returned home the same day, spending the time between trains hearing a divorce suit argument by two lawyers who accompanied him from Warren. There was no criminal business to attend to, and the grand jury that had been summoned was discharged without convening.

—Believing that he was caught in a fire trap, John Johnson, colored, jumped from the third story of the home of Samuel Barket, in Pottsville, on Saturday afternoon and while spectators turned away their heads, expecting him to be crushed to death, he was not even seriously injured. Johnson crashed to the sidewalk on his head, rose to his feet, and muttering, "Mighty close call that," walked away beaming with satisfaction because of his escape. If he had remained in his room he would not have been scorched, as the firemen conquered the flames without much damage to the house.

—Lynn Sedgwick, of Elk county, and his brother, Olaf, of Hornell, N. Y., who were recently united at St. Marys after being separated for seventeen years, are unable to talk to each other. Lynn was born in Sweden, but speaks only the English language, while Olaf, born in Chicago, can talk only Swedish. After Lynn was born, his parents moved with him to Chicago, where Olaf was born. Later, the parents returned to Sweden, taking Olaf with them, but leaving Lynn with relatives in Chicago. Each learned to talk the language of his home, which accounts for their present inability to converse with each other.

—Even a tale of pressure on his brain as the result of a fall did not save from an ignominious end the bittheous career of a 19 year old Chester youth, Frank H. Galvin, who divided his time between the roles of a sheik and a robber. He asked for an operation on his skull. He received a sentence to the penitentiary of from three to six years for burglary last week. Judge Robert A. Stutz, of Easton, substituting in quarter sessions court, rang down the curtain, for the time being at least, upon the debonair young man's existence as both welcomed guest of many girls of well-known Chester families and as a thief, guilty of numerous burglaries or attempted burglaries.