

INK SLINGS.

—Mr. Attorney General Daugherty is not quite on the slide, but certainly he must feel himself slipping.

—When it comes down to getting the country back to "Normalcy" that seems to be what our friends, the Republicans, are trying to do everything but.

—The Methodists surely ought to fire their Conference booking agent. Here he's gone and billed them for a session in Williamsport the week after the Evangelicals have been there to eat up all the chicken.

—The Republican delegation from Pennsylvania to the Cleveland convention has pre-empted three hotels. We presume one for Senators Pepper and Reed; one for Harry Baker and one for Gifford and Cordelia.

—In fourteen days spring will be here. When winter arrived, three months ago, the spectre in the seasonal procession was the snow shovel. Now the fly in the ointment of approaching spring is the lawn mower.

—Incidentally, who's heard of Herbert Hoover lately? Before he was invited into the Cabinet there was some question as to whether Herb was a Democrat or Republican. We wonder what he wishes that he was now.

—If we are to put any credence in the signs of the times and believe the suggestions we hear from significant sources on the side there is a political snit waiting for the right Democrats in the Legislative and Congressional contests in this district.

—The Governor's proposal to have his code modified by the next Legislature so that it won't give as much power to his successor as it has bestowed on him looks to us a good bit like marching the Commonwealth up the hill; then marching it down again.

—The country isn't sore at government. It's sore at the kind of government. When we give a dollar in indirect taxation to a soldier we do it cheerfully. But when we learn that he gets only fifteen cents of it just naturally we rise up on our hind feet and want to know where and why the other eighty-five go.

—We note with interest the first meeting and luncheon of the recently organized Kiwanis club of Bellefonte, all the while wondering what Kiwanis is really going to do to justify its existence. Such organizations throughout the country are doing big things in the way of community welfare and we are hoping that Kiwanis here will do the same.

—What's the use of sending Republicans to Washington anyhow. The first two years they devote to messing things up and the next two—because they are found out—they make a pretense of cleaning up and when they don't get that completed they have the nerve to stand up and ask the country to keep them in power until they do it.

—Isn't it funny how misguided some people are? If we were to propose Senator Walsh for membership in the Ku Klux Klan there wouldn't be enough black balls in the box to express the feelings of Klan as to his eligibility. Yet, what the Ku Klux has or will do for the country will be forgotten long before it will have fully appraised the stupendous service of the Senator from Montana.

—We are not worrying about the effects on the government of the terrible scandals that are daily being revealed at Washington. The next President of the United States will be a Democrat, confidence will be restored and the Republicans will clean their own house if they hope to have a look in 1928. It was ever thus. Overwhelming victories like the one that swept Harding into office in 1920 are invariably interpreted as licenses to loaf, but they are not that; even though those who jockey themselves into the control of the Republican party think so.

—By way of suggestion to those who think of running for the position of chairman of the Democracy of Centre county let us exude this: The other day a gentleman suggested that there is a remote possibility that we might meet with favor as a candidate. Waiving discussion as to the why of that "remote possibility" we want to say right here that we wouldn't advise any one to take the office with a thought of getting results unless every one who votes for him would thereby pledge himself or herself to give at least fifty cents a year toward paying the bills.

—Those closest to those who really know in Washington are of the opinion that all the orgie of corruption that is shocking the country today was framed in Chicago, four years ago, when that mid-night conference was held and the Presidential nomination handed to Senator Harding. They do not imply that the late President knew anything of it. But it is the conviction of the best informed that his sense of gratitude for the great honor conferred on him blinded him to the game that was being played. The half has not been told of the corruption of the traitors to the confiding trust Mr. Harding reposed in them. Revelation may yet be expected of such scandals as will blacken the pages of American governmental history forever and shake the confidence of the country in the Republican party to pieces, all because it has offered the only asylum to those whom Elihu Root once declared to be the "corrupt and criminal masquerading as Republicans."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 69.

BELLEFONTE, PA., MARCH 7, 1924.

NO. 10.

Daugherty Will Resign.

It is practically agreed among the Republican leaders in Washington that Attorney General Daugherty will resign his office about the first of May. Like Denby he protested loudly that he would not resign and like the Secretary of Navy he will resign to "save the face" of the administration.

Next to former Secretary of the Interior, Albert A. Fall, the most culpable of the conspirators to rob the Navy of its oil reserve is Attorney General Daugherty. It is true that he had no part in the actual transactions with Doheny and Sinclair, but he must have had guilty knowledge of the negotiations from the beginning, and it was his duty as law officer of the government to protest and prevent.

The Harding administration brought into control of the government at Washington a group of corruptionists and incompetents who set about at once to plunder. Fall in the Interior Department, Daugherty in the Department of Justice, Denby in the Navy Department, Forbes in the Bureau of Veterans, and others seem to have winked at looting almost the moment they were inducted into office.

A Michigan Congressman threatens to form an automobile bloc in the House. That is a dangerous proposition. Anything that might interfere with the right of any body to put additional taxes on automobiles should be discouraged.

Pinchot Wants Code Modified.

Governor Pinchot stands appalled at the vastness of the power conferred upon him by the "administrative code" enacted by the last Legislature. It is not that he is afraid of abuses during the period of his tenure of the office. On the contrary he is still sublimely confident of his own wisdom, forbearance and patriotism.

For this reason the Governor intends to ask the next Legislature to materially modify the measure and bring it within reasonable distance of constitutional authority. At one recent conference held in the office of Senator Pepper and called for the purpose of selling Pinchot a place on the slate of delegates-at-large to the National convention, he submitted the proposition and was led to believe it had been acquiesced in.

When the measure was pending in the Legislature the "Watchman" protested against its passage for precisely the same reasons that the Governor now wants it modified. But a servile Legislature, influenced by a lust for spoils and enticed by promises of official favors, enacted the law and Pinchot employed it with the zeal and ingenuity of a huckster to promote his selfish ambition.

It may be true, as Senator Lodge says, that "President Harding gave his life to the nation." But he first gave the nation over to a gang of corruptionists.

Tax Bill a Democratic Victory.

As we expected, the insurgent Republicans of the House of Representatives yielded, in part at least, to the lure of spoils. On the final vote on the Mellon bill the Longworth compromise as between the Mellon and the Garner bills was adopted. It wasn't much of a victory for the machine but it serves as a meagre meal to the vanity of the Republican floor leader.

The Mellon bill was a rich man's measure. Senator Couzens, of Michigan, declares that if it had been in force from the beginning of the income tax levy it would have saved him \$4,000,000. In the same period of time it would have saved Secretary Mellon probably double that amount. It was the result of an implied agreement between the Republican party managers and the multi-millionaires of the country in consideration of slush funds contributed in 1920 and expected in 1924.

The Garner bill not only increased the exemption upon small incomes but decreased the levy from four to two per cent. Like the other measure it provided for taxation of subjects not heretofore taxed, but in less proportion. It was in reality a tax reduction bill and will decrease the tax levy of the country on all subjects a matter of nearly half a billion dollars a year.

An esteemed contemporary suggests that Jim Reed's aspirations for the Democratic nomination be "laughed out of the convention." We move to substitute "hooted" for "laughed."

Fight Against Pinchot Revived.

There have been some indications within the past week of a revival of the opposition to Governor Pinchot as a candidate for delegate-at-large to the Republican National convention. Frank McClain has had himself interviewed two or three times within that period and in each interview he has declared that Republican sentiment is being aroused on the subject.

During his recent sojourn in New York the Governor has been rather free with his tongue as well as heretical. He has openly charged the Republican leaders in Washington with responsibility for the oil scandals and other crimes against the country and on one occasion, at least, declared that greater crimes than those already exposed had been perpetrated by the same gang of corruptionists.

Then there is a probability of another reason for reopening the fight which had practically frittered itself out a week ago. Mr. Straasberger may have "loosened up" a bit recently. Soon after the agreement to make him the candidate against the Governor he revealed signs of an attack of financial constipation which was necessarily discouraging to those who expected so much of him in the way of "sinews of war."

Senator Pepper blames it all on the late President Harding. That is "safety" if not actually "first." Harding being dead can't answer.

Congressman Andrews, of Massachusetts, says the veteran service men don't need cash. Wonder where he "gets that stuff."

Futile Effort to Involve Democrats.

There seems to be a thoroughly organized movement on the part of the Republican managers and newspapers to involve Democrats in the oil scandals. The effort is especially directed against such conspicuous members of the Democratic party as might be considered available for the nomination for President.

The obvious purpose of this organized misrepresentation is to confuse the public mind and divert attention from the criminal operations of Republican officials. Even if what they have said of Mr. McAdoo, Mr. Underwood and Mr. Daniels were true there would not be the least trace of criminality in their actions.

The turpitude in the scandals lies in the perfidy of public officials in betraying interests of the people which they had solemnly sworn to protect and conserve. No charge of this sort has been or can be made against any official of the Wilson administration. It may be true that Mr. Doheny professed to be a Democrat but he held no official position as a Democrat and the fact that he contributed liberally to the Republican campaign fund indicates that his profession that he was a Democrat was false.

Public sales in the county thus far have not been encouraging so far as prices bid on either stock or implements are concerned. It takes a \$300 horse of three years ago to get a bid of more than \$100 today and cows, very good ones, rarely go higher than \$70.

Tuesday night's rain was very spring-like and just hard enough to wash away a good portion of the filth accumulated on the streets since the deep snow of several weeks ago.

Governor Pinchot is back at his desk in Harrisburg with twenty pounds more flesh on his bones and oodles more juice in his batteries. Watch Gif! He might stampede the Cleveland convention with a Forbes cross and a crown of tea pots.

Last week's term of court was a little hard on sheriff Dick Taylor's boarders. With four regulars sent to the penitentiary he has only six left to answer the roll call at meal time.

Governor Pinchot has returned to Harrisburg in restored health and in fighting spirit. There ought to be several hot times in that old town in the near future.

Mr. McLean, the Washington millionaire, employs too many "handymen." He seems to have as many secretaries as "Grant had soldiers."

"Keep Coolidge" has been adopted as a slogan by Republicans in Iowa, and in the fact of the oil scandals it may be a difficult task.

It is said that the snow fall in February was much below normal but we are not referring to the matter in the form of a complaint.

Mars will be within 30,000,000 miles of the earth in August of this year, which is all right if he doesn't "rattle his saber."

March came in very lamb-like, but let us all hope it will not go out like a roaring lion.

Only thirty-nine more days until the opening of the trout fishing season.

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

A LITTLE FAIRY TALE.

The following pretty little fantasy in verse was written as a solace to two children whose illness necessitated their being taken to Florida. Their little hearts broke when they found they had to leave their "fairy garden" where they daily hunted the wee sprites and always hoped to find one under a stone.

A dear little fairy came just now From out the sun's warm rays, And said he'd been hunting some little folks

For days—and days—and days. He perched so light on my window sill That I feared he'd be wafted away By a soft snow-flake on the merry breeze, And, of course, I wished him to stay.

I told him just where you all had gone; While he fluttered and preened his wings, He was dainty and sweet, and beautifully pink; He must have been fashioned from dreams!

Well—after a while—it seemed not long He turned and made a bow; And while I looked he fluttered away And I can't see a trace of him now.

He's flying South—I'll tell you why I'm so certain and sure of that For right through the rays of the morning sun I see a wee fairy track.

WINIFRED B. MEEK-M., 1924.

Tax Bill Compromises.

Democrats can afford to view with equanimity the passage by the House of Representatives of the so-called Longworth compromise tax reduction bill, inasmuch as the compromise is virtually an acceptance of their point of view, the maximum surtax rate, 37.5 per cent, being much nearer the Garner bill figure, 44 per cent, than that sponsored by Secretary Mellon, which was 25 per cent. At the same time, we are told, "adoption of the plan was the cause for much jubilation on the Republican side," which has lately had nothing but defeats and rebuff for its portion.

There really ought to be no politics in a tax reduction bill, and there would probably have been none in this case if the Administration had not made the mistake of preparing a bill of its own and announcing that if it was materially changed a Presidential veto might be expected. This was so obviously a political play, intended to appeal to tax-payers on the eve of a national election, that Democratic antagonism was immediately aroused, and the Garner bill appeared as a substitute.

Probably the Senate, which in many respects is inclined to be more radical than the House, will make many changes in this compromise measure, but these are likely to be rather away from, than toward, the Mellon figures. After all, the American people are not greatly concerned whether the surtax on large incomes shall be 37.5, 40 or 44 per cent. What they want is a reduction in the tax on moderate incomes, and they would like to see Congress enact such legislation without regard to politics. A compromise between extreme views is the natural outcome of such a situation, and that is why the Republicans have backed down from their first position.

Strange Bedfellows.

What compensation has Serbia received for its acceptance of this solution of the Fiume question? And it is true that Italy promised to enter into closer relations and, in case of an attack, assist Serbia, and thereby avert danger on the Macedonian frontier? Such a reversal would be one of the most daring in history. Hitherto Italy has openly or in secret supported all opponents of Serbia. The good relations between Italy and Bulgaria and the striking Italian benevolence toward Hungary are generally known. Perhaps all these things were only methods of exerting pressure on Serbia and of impressing it with the importance of coming to terms with Mussolini.

The Geography of Morality.

Our Chinese missionaries, who are exercised over our best Americans taking up Mah Jong, which is a terrible gambling game of sin in China, should remember that virtue is geographical. Patches, played by many of our more correct Methodists some years ago, is nothing but faro in India—or is it Egypt?—while the apparently simple game of lotto, which we remember toying with as an innocent Presbyterian child, is, of course, identical with the original Wild West-ern vice of keno. We shouldn't be a bit surprised to hear that the devil invented tidily-winks, croquet and authors.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Returning from a neighboring town to his home at Kittanning Point, John Good obligingly gave a stranger a ride in his sled but on the way the stranger set upon him, violently choking him and stole \$57 in money, a judgment note for \$70 and valuable papers.

—Daniel K. Shadle, of Lock Haven, narrowly escaped fatal injuries when he fell while carrying a crock of sulphuric acid down the stairs at his garage. He sustained burns to his eye, neck and back, while the other parts of his body were protected by the clothing he wore.

—Inspecting the county jail at Hollidaysburg on Monday, warden William Reifstelek found that James Williams, colored, of Tyrone, had dug all but through the three-foot jail wall, concealing the opening with his clothes. A pipe and screwdriver were used.

—John Williams, one of the six convicts who escaped from the eastern penitentiary last July, was captured in Geneva, N. Y., after he had shot and killed a policeman who detected him and a man said to be his brother-in-law in the act of blowing a safe in the station of the New York Central Railroad last week.

—A well known farmer in Wayne county bid in an old lounge at a sale recently for 25 cents. It was twice re-covered and then thrown on the junk pile. A thrifty daughter of the farmer took the lounge home the other day. She varnished it and later started to upholster the old couch. As she ran her hand in the seam of the head rest she drew out a \$20 bill.

—Declaring that the liberation of bears and other destructive animals in certain sections of Blair county are becoming a nuisance and menace to many farmers and others by their depredation and destruction of crops and farm animals, Blair county Pomona Grange, at its meeting on Friday, adopted a resolution protesting to the State Game Commission against further liberations.

—The fate of Henry Percibolla, 23 year old Italian youth who came to this country two years ago to make his fortune, and located in Shamokin, was death by blood poisoning last Friday. Several weeks ago he received a cut on the back of his left hand, and regarding it lightly, neglected to receive medical attention. The result was blood poisoning developed, causing his death. He is survived by his wife and several children.

—Russell Snyder, of Mill Hall; E. W. Zelle, of Castanea, and Meyer Hodes, of Lock Haven, were each fined \$25.00 and costs at a hearing before Alderman William Rathgeber, in Lock Haven on Saturday, on the charge of dealing in raw furs without a State license. Dean McCauley, of Salona, was committed to the county jail in default of \$300 bail for a hearing on March 28, pending a further investigation on the same charge.

—Dr. J. K. Rishel, president of the J. K. Rishel Furniture company, of Williamsport, has made a memorial gift of \$100,000 to the Williamsport Dickinson Seminary, of which he is director and treasurer. The gift is a memorial to his wife. This is the largest gift ever made to the Seminary, which is just now entering upon a program of expansion in building and scholastic curriculum, and which can now be carried out on a broader scale than at first planned.

—One of the largest car orders received in recent years was awarded on Saturday to the American Car and Foundry company, at Berwick, 2000 steel box cars for the Pennsylvania Railroad company and 750 steel frame automobile cars for the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad company. Construction work will be started as soon as material is on hand. With orders recently received, Saturday's bookings are sufficient to keep the plant busy for nearly nine months.

—Testifying that her daughter, Jennie Scotko, 18 years old, had stolen clothing belonging to mourners at a funeral at her home and that she had not yet recovered her best coat, which was among the stolen articles, Mrs. Scotko, of Shamokin, influenced the Northumberland county court jury at Sunbury, on Monday, to send her daughter and a companion, Marie Bartko, also of Shamokin, to a reform institution. She testified that she is the mother of thirteen children, nine of whom are yet at home, and was unable to control her eldest.

—Having 2,300 volts of electricity pass through his body without killing him was the frightful experience of Michael Stishock, a Shamokin miner employed at the Hickory Ridge colliery, on Friday. Stishock is employed at the colliery engine house, and while leaning over a guard rail making adjustments to the machinery, accidentally came in contact with a high tension wire. His screams attracted the attention of another employee who rushed to the switch box and shut off the current. Stishock dropped to the floor unconscious, but was revived a short time later by a physician. It was found that he suffered burns about the abdomen and left shoulder.

—Shamokin officers and State police are searching for an automobile truck, believed to have been responsible for the death of John Purcell, aged 23 years, who was found along the Shamokin-Mount Carmel road a short distance east of Shamokin at 6 o'clock Saturday morning, with his chest badly crushed and unconscious. He died an hour later in the Shamokin State hospital without having regained consciousness. Purcell was employed as a driver at the Burnside colliery and was on his way to work when he was apparently run down. It is believed that a heavy log truck or similar vehicle struck him and ran him down without the driver knowing it. An official investigation is being conducted by Dr. Joseph Fisher, county coroner.

—Official notice has been given by N. R. Buller, commissioner of State fisheries at Harrisburg, that all streams in game refuge No. 30, located in Norwich township, McKean county, will be closed to fishermen for a term of five years, the streams to be used during that period for the propagation of brook trout. The brooks which are closed under the order include Indian run, Havana brook and Long Hollow run. Twenty years ago these were among the most prolific trout streams in the State, prior to the building of the town of Norwich in that vicinity by the Goodyear Lumber company, of Buffalo, N. Y. An immense sawmill was erected there, other industries flourished and for fifteen years Norwich was a thriving village of 1500 people, with churches, schools, theatres and stores. Today bears, deer, wildcats and foxes roam the brush-covered streets of Norwich, which is gradually going back to the forest from whence it came.