

INK SLINGS.

The mere mention of a third party scares Senator Pepper stiff. Coolidge may be cool as a rule but he gets hot when inquisition gets too close to his friend Mellon.

If there is no fraud to be discovered what is the use of wasting energy to prevent investigation?

Having failed utterly on Tuesday our annual trout supper came out of a can that was marked "kippered hering."

So far as Kiwanis has had to do with the hospital drive there is not one who can say that the work has not been wonderfully done.

As a keynote Senator Pepper has proved a failure and his expectation of presiding over the Cleveland convention has been ditched.

The hospital drive isn't over the top yet, but when State College and Snow Shoe complete their campaigns the goal will likely be reached.

Anyway the few big catches of trout that have been reported up to this time encourage the hope that luck will be better as the waters get something more like normal.

We presume it was because Senator Pepper used the wrong key up in Maine that Secretary Hughes had to go over to New York and deliver another keynote speech on Tuesday night.

If the Prohibition enforcement bureau is as rotten as Senator Watson would have the world believe it is why an investigation at all. Why don't they dump the whole thing and start it all over again.

The Westfield, N. J., ex-serviceman who has killed Secretary Mellon his wooden leg evidently wants to provide Andy with something to stand on after the soldier boys get through with him for his opposition to a bonus for them.

Of course it's perfectly all right for Pepper and Pinchot and Watson and Mellon to be fighting, but Coolidge evidently thinks it's all wrong for the Democrats to undertake the job of showing the people what they are fighting about.

As for Bellefonte and Spring township Mr. Roy, the campaign manager told us that their gifts to the hospital drive were the largest per capita contributions that he has received in twenty-five years' experience in this kind of work.

The evolution of the kid is something to conjure with. Twenty-five years ago a calico egg made him happy at the Easter breakfast table. Sunday morning he'll turn up his nose if the rabbit has laid anything less costly than Mah Jong or a radio set.

If forty per cent. of the farmers of the country are against Coolidge, as the poll being made by the Farm Journal, of Philadelphia and Chicago, reveals, the Cleveland convention will have to trot out a dark horse if it has any hope of naming a man with a chance to win.

Don't forget, Democrats, when you go out to the primaries next Tuesday, to vote for Mrs. Allen for delegate to the National convention. She has been very gracious in coming here to speak whenever her services have been commanded and Centre should return the compliment by giving her a nice vote.

Surely there must be something wrong with the Daves committee report. With Germany, Belgium, France, England, Italy and all the rest concluding that it is a very fair basis on which to make settlement there is reason for suspicion. It is the first proposal since 1918 that has been met with any accord at all.

President Coolidge seems to have been as unfortunate in his message to Congress as was Senator Pepper in his keynote speech at Portland, Maine. Pepper tried to make the country believe that black is white and now the President wants to head off any more investigating for fear it will be discovered that it really is black.

The attempt of the McCormick crowd to get back into the saddle in the Democratic party in Pennsylvania is positive proof that they think the next President will be a Democrat. They want the honors and the plums and when there isn't a chance for such perquisites they don't care a hang what becomes of the Pennsylvania Democracy.

Without going into details about the new Japanese crisis we merely want to suggest the idea that if America doesn't want Japs they should be content to stay at home, their dignity wouldn't be half so outraged if they adopted the policy that as long governed a lot of us: Never want to go where you know you're wanted.

We have no candidate for Assemblyman. The Democratic primary allot will have no name printed in the space reserved for nominations for that office. If you know a Democrat who would make a good member of the Legislature write his name in. The ticket should be complete. There is no reason why we should let the office go by default.

By the time those indicted Kulluxers get out of the scrape they set themselves up as Lilly they will probably realize that hooded and veiled forays may be harmless enough in their incipency, but when ass psychology gets to working they may become very dangerous indeed, especially when firearms are toted along in concealment.

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Pinchot Will Not Be Forced Off.

The tirade which Senator Watson, of Indiana, delivered against Governor Pinchot, on Saturday, unquestionably caused a great deal of surprise, considerable amazement and even some consternation among Republican leaders, as an esteemed contemporary observes, but it will not result in Governor Pinchot's name being stricken from the "slate" of candidates for delegate-at-large. Senator Watson declared that Governor Pinchot induced Senator Couzens to engage Francis J. Heney to conduct the investigation of the Treasury, for the purpose of "injuring Secretary Mellon and undermining President Coolidge." That may be true. Governor Pinchot "owns the soft impeachment," in part. But he will not be so punished.

If the leaders of the Republican machine in Pennsylvania should remove Mr. Pinchot's name from the slate assigned reason for his recommendation of Heney, the injury of Secretary Mellon and the undermining of President Coolidge, would not only be accomplished but the chances are that Pinchot would be nominated for President by the Cleveland convention. The ostensible reason Pinchot gives for encouraging the investigation of Mellon is that the Secretary of the Treasury has deliberately hampered the enforcement of the Volstead law, and presumably with the assent of Coolidge. Forcing Pinchot from the slate as a penalty for his activity in this matter would be confirmation of his charge and cause such a tumult among Prohibitionists as would submerge Coolidge.

Thus far there is actually only one candidate for the principal favor of the Cleveland convention. Senator Johnson, of California, imagines that he is a candidate but it is only a "day-dream" of an absurd ambition. The office-holders will control the convention absolutely and they will nominate Coolidge unless something is developed between now and the convention that would render his election impossible. The only thing that could possibly achieve this result would be the forcing of Pinchot off the slate and thus giving him opportunity to go out and enlist the Prohibitionists into a solid army in support of his candidacy for President. Probably this enticing picture influenced him to suggest Heney.

If this country had promptly taken its place in the League of Nations the question of Germany's ability to pay the reparations would never have arisen.

Pepper Influenced by Disappointment.

Senator George Wharton Pepper tried a long time to break into official life and frequently vilified the late Senator Boies Penrose because his ambition was disappointed. It now appears that his enmity toward Attorney General Daugherty is ascribable to the same cause. Soon after the inauguration of the late President Harding Mr. Pepper applied for appointment to the office of solicitor general in the Department of Justice. In obedience to custom the matter was referred to Daugherty, head of the department. Daugherty consulted Senators Penrose and Knox, then in commission and since dead, who "refused their endorsement on the ground that he was not qualified by legal experience or temperament."

Senator Penrose enjoyed a keen faculty of reading human character. Senator Knox was a great lawyer. They agreed in their estimate of Pepper. He was unfit for the office to which he aspired because of lack of legal experience and for the additional reason that "he had no claim on the party for political honors." But he blamed Daugherty for his failure and has been pursuing him ever since. So long as he remained in private life this wouldn't have mattered much. But after the death of Penrose Governor Sprout yielded to the persuasion of General Atterbury, of the Pennsylvania railroad, and put Pepper in position to do much harm or good. He seems to have chosen to use his power for evil.

We have no inclination to defend Daugherty. The exposures made by the Senate committee prove his unfitness for the office he held because of lack of legal ability as well as experience. We are not disposed to offer apologies for the late President Harding's blunders, but all the evils of the last three years in Washington are not ascribable to his faults. The Republican party stands indicted before the court of public opinion for the malfeasances and crimes that are now being exposed. Senator Pepper is not blameless in the matter, either. His vote in favor of Senator Newberry, in the face of a court record of his guilt, marks Senator Pepper as a party slave and political maverick.

The trouble with the Prince of Wales is that he has made horse-back riding a "hobby."

Shifting Blame to Harding's Grave.

The obvious purpose of the Republican leaders is to fasten all the blame of the corruption recently revealed and still being exposed in Washington, upon the late President Harding. Only a few days ago the Democratic members of the Senate committee investigating the Department of Justice had to clamp the lid down on a witness who was being led on by the Republican investigators to say that the late President was one of the five or six men who had made a "graft" of some thirty millions of dollars out of the oil leases. In his keynote speech delivered at Portland, Maine, last week, Senator Pepper boldly declared the proposition and since has reiterated and defended it. Manifestly the hope is to bury the scandals in the Harding coffin.

"The appointment of Forbes as head of the Veterans' bureau and of Fall as Secretary of the Interior have proved to be terrible mistakes; while the selection of Mr. Daugherty as Attorney General seems to me to have been a grave error in judgment," Senator Pepper declared, and added, "when I say this I am speaking of the mistakes, not of the living, but of the dead." Forbes, Fall and Daugherty are the authors of all the evils and perpetrators of the crimes now under investigation and the late President was responsible for their opportunities to loot and plunder as they did. But Mr. Harding was not alone in responsibility. Only Daugherty was a personal appointment. The others were favored under agreement of the party leaders and in pursuance of contracts made at the convention to secure his nomination.

Admitting that Fall and Daugherty were appointed to membership in the Harding cabinet by Mr. Harding they were not continued in Mr. Coolidge's cabinet by Mr. Harding. President Coolidge selected his own cabinet and when he determined to retain Fall and Daugherty he knew all about them, for the question of their fitness had been publicly discussed before the death of Mr. Harding. The resolution to investigate the Teapot Dome lease was adopted by the Senate more than a year before Harding died and the scandal involved in that lease was already "smelling to high heaven." But Coolidge, with the approval of all the party leaders, kept Fall and Daugherty in office and assumed responsibility for them. He is quite as much to blame as Harding for their crimes.

After all, Magnus Johnson isn't so far afield in wanting to be President. The constitution forbids, of course, but every other Senator in Congress violates the constitution every day.

Perversion of Power of Court.

Probably the most dastardly and dangerous prostitution of power in the history of this country was that expressed in the indictment of Senator Wheeler, of Montana, in one of the Federal courts of that State last week. Senator Wheeler is responsible for, and the prosecutor in, the investigation of the Attorney General's office which forced President Coolidge to ask the resignation of Harry M. Daugherty. Ever since the beginning of the investigation secret service agents of the Department of Justice have been combing the State of Montana in search of something on Wheeler and finally a judge appointed by Daugherty brought a charge that Wheeler had accepted a fee for legal services contrary to law.

The charge is that after Mr. Wheeler was elected Senator, but before he had been inducted into the office, he attended to some business for a client who had a claim against the government. Upon the testimony of one of the government secret service men in the Postoffice Department this charge was made and a true bill found by the grand jury. To fully appreciate this action it should be known that only one side is heard before a grand jury and upon the evidence of one witness the charge was affirmed. Senator Wheeler declares that the charge is false and his associates in the Senate have such faith in his integrity that a resolution to investigate the proceedings was unanimously adopted.

This is one, but the worst of several strange perversions of the courts which has been perpetrated since the investigations begun in Washington. It is a settled principle of law that a witness should testify unless the evidence he should give would incriminate himself. When Harry Sinclair was examined as a witness before the committee investigating the Teapot Dome scandal he refused to testify more recently when Mr. Daugherty's brother was asked to give evidence in the investigation of the Attorney General he simply defied the committee, and by obtaining process from a local court presided over by Daugherty's former partner refused to produce the evidence needed.

Coolidge Wants to Stop Investigations

The concerted and insidious effort to stop the exposure of corruption in government which has been in progress for some weeks culminated the other day in a protest against the investigation of the Treasury Department made by President Coolidge to the Senate. Protesting that the Department "has nothing to conceal" the uncalculated for message to the Senate is substantial evidence to the contrary. If there were nothing to conceal there could be no reason to object to an investigation which in that event would help rather than harm the public official concerned. But the Secretary objects, in a letter to the President, in which is embodied a veiled threat to resign if the inquiry is not stopped.

In his ambiguous letter asking former Attorney General Daugherty to resign President Coolidge alleged as his principal cause of action that Mr. Daugherty had refused to give another investigating committee certain information required for the prosecution of its work. In his extraordinary message to the Senate in reference to the investigation of the Treasury he rebukes the Senate for asking for information essential to the performance of its mission. The cause of this inconsistency is left to conjecture but the fact arouses the suspicion that both the President and the Secretary realize the danger of revelations which will involve both of them and the leaders of the party in scandalous conduct.

The Democrats of the Senate and the few Republicans who have greater interest in the honest administration of the government than in the spoils of office wisely determined to continue the investigation, and with increased energy, notwithstanding the protest of the President and the chance of restoring Secretary Mellon to the direction of his distillery and his gasoline business. As Senator Robinson said, "there exist conditions in the Bureau of Internal Revenue which the Senate unanimously decided should be investigated," and they will be thoroughly searched and exposed. President Coolidge's intervention affords the most convincing reason for the investigation that has thus far been presented.

In trying to do something for the farmers without doing something against the corporations President Coolidge is traveling in circles.

The Indictment of Sinclair.

The indictment of Harry F. Sinclair by the grand jury of the District of Columbia on the charge of contempt in that he refused to answer questions "pertinent to the matter and question then under inquiry" before a committee of the Senate is encouraging. The penalty is a "fine of from \$100 to \$1000 and imprisonment of from one to twelve months" in the jail of the District. Mr. Sinclair will probably exhaust all the provisions of the law to avert the penalty. If convicted in the district court he will appeal to the higher courts. If the validity of the proceedings is affirmed finally, Mr. Sinclair will probably come down from the pedestal and avoid the penalty by giving his testimony.

The importance of this incident is that it will settle for all time the question of the right of Congress to compel witnesses to testify in investigations. Several times in the past witnesses have refused to testify and on one or two occasions the recalcitrants were summarily committed until a change in their frame of mind induced them to yield. But in the pending investigations a spirit of resistance to the authority of the committee has been shown several times. Men of the Sinclair type sometimes come to the belief that wealth gives immunity, and the action against Sinclair is intended to break up such notions as they are developed. Secretary Fall gave a valid reason for refusing to testify.

In the last analysis Harry Sinclair is an unimportant figure in the affairs of the country. His evidence, if he had testified, would likely have been of little value. But another witness has defied the authority of the Senate committee and the action against Sinclair will determine whether he can be compelled to testify. Harry Daugherty's brother could no doubt give the committee and the country a vast amount of information concerning the operations of the Columbus crowd which operated so extensively in various ways during the past two years. He has refused to submit his evidence and the Sinclair case will justify him or send him to jail, for it is a safe bet that he will not speak.

There is a bare possibility that the government at Washington would function even if Andy Mellon should resign.

Probably cautious Cal is afraid the investigations in progress may shake loose his grip on the nomination.

Centre County Bank Case Held Up in the Supreme Court.

Below we publish the full text of the opinion of Mr. Justice Sanford on the Centre County Bank case pending in the United States Supreme court.

As will be discovered from reading it the opinion does not cover the main questions that were before the Court for determination. It is merely on a question that was raised because of the death of John M. Shugert after the argument on the writs of certiorari had been printed.

In accordance with the concluding paragraph of the opinion Geo. H. Shugert is expected to take out letters of administration on his father's estate and will appear in court as his substitute. It is also possible that a petition will be presented requesting permission to have three creditors of the Banking company admitted as parties to the litigation. These papers will all be presented before the expiration of the thirty day time limit, which will be May 7, 1924, and then it is hoped the Supreme Court will hand down its opinion on the original questions raised.

Of course one guess is as good as another, but local lawyers would not be surprised if the ruling were to be to the effect that the company, as an entity, and those who have admitted partnership in it be permitted to go into bankruptcy while those who deny partnership will be dismissed.

The creditors' committee met last Tuesday evening to discuss the opinion, as well as a plan of settlement, but feeling that they have no authority from the creditors to attempt a settlement of the muddle nothing was done.

The Supreme court will adjourn for its summer vacation in May and unless its decision is handed down before that time it may not be filed until it reconvenes early in the fall.

Mr. Justice Sanford delivered the opinion of the Court.

These three cases—which were heard together in the Circuit Court of Appeals and are included here in one record—arose out of a petition in bankruptcy filed by the respondent Shugert in a Federal District Court in Pennsylvania. In this petition he alleged that he and the present petitioners, Meek, Dale and Breeze—hereafter called the defendants—were members of a partnership styled the Centre County Banking Company; that the partnership and each of the defendants were insolvent; and that he and the partnership desired to obtain the benefits of the bankruptcy law. He prayed that the partnership and he and the defendants individually be adjudged bankrupt.

Subpoenas were issued for the defendants. All appeared and resisted the petition in so far as it sought to have the partnership and themselves adjudged bankrupt; and each made a motion to dismiss the petition to that extent upon the grounds, among others, that it was not authorized by the Bankruptcy Act and the court had no jurisdiction under it to adjudge either the partnership or a non-consenting member bankrupt. The District Court, on petitions by the defendants to revise the orders of the District Court denying their motion, the Circuit Court of Appeals, being of opinion that the petition in bankruptcy was maintainable under Section 5 of the Bankruptcy Act and General Order in Bankruptcy No. 8, affirmed the orders of the District Court. 292 Fed. 116. These writs of certiorari were then granted the defendants. 263 U. S.—

Shugert thereafter died. And the defendants have moved that the proceeding in bankruptcy be dismissed as to them, both individually and as members of the partnership, on the ground that to that extent it should abate. This motion has been answered by the attorney who formerly represented Shugert, as now representing his "interests," and by an attorney representing a "Creditors' Committee," who insist that under section 8 of the Bankruptcy Act the proceeding in bankruptcy was not abated by Shugert's death and may be continued without making Shugert's personal representative a party. While neither of these attorneys represents any party now before the court, we treat their answer as the suggestion of amici curiae.

Section 8 of the Bankruptcy Act provides that: "The death * * * of a bankrupt shall not abate the proceedings, but the same shall be conducted and concluded in the same manner, so far as possible, as though he had not died." It is clear, however, that, whatever may be the effect of this provision, when construed in the light of Section 1a (3) of the Act defining the term "bankrupt," it can have no application except to that part of the petition in bankruptcy in which Shugert sought to have himself adjudged a voluntary bankrupt—a matter not in issue under the motions to dismiss and not now before us. Even if one partner may maintain a petition such as this to have the partnership (Continued on page 4, Col. 1.)

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Stockholders of the Sunbury, Milton and Lewisburg electric street railway voted on Monday to abandon its line above Northumberland. Good roads and automobiles have cut patronage.

The State Highway Department has issued orders for contractors to get to work on recently awarded contracts as soon as weather conditions are favorable and they get forces and plants assembled.

The annual distribution of funds provided by the will of the late Mrs. Hannah Ulman Rosenbaum, to needy widows in Williamsport was made Saturday, the anniversary of Mrs. Rosenbaum's birth. About \$2,000 were distributed.

Shot in the abdomen by the accidental discharge of a small rifle in the hands of a companion, while they were playing at the game of "shooting Indians," Kasimir Sockoloski, 14 years old, of Shamokin, was fatally wounded. He died while being removed to the hospital.

Robert T. Garman celebrated his twenty-fifth year in the jewelry business in Tyrone last week. Starting with a small store his business increased to such an extent that eighteen years ago he purchased the large brick building now known as the Garman block, which he occupies.

What is believed to have been an attempt to rifle the vaults of the Lewisburg National bank was uncovered Sunday morning with the finding of three sticks of dynamite, which was attached a dualin cap and a half-burned fuse, at the rear of the bank building about a foot from the wall.

Extracting \$510 from the pocket of his father, who was asleep on a chair in the kitchen of their home at Connersport, near Shenandoah, on Saturday night, Joseph Zelinsky, 15 years old, and two companions, were apprehended as they were about to board an early morning train for Philadelphia. The money was recovered.

Percy Young disappeared from his boarding house in Clearfield last Thursday and on Monday his dead body was found in the river near the railroad bridge. He was subject to epileptic fits and is supposed to have suffered an attack while crossing the railroad bridge on his way to work and falling into the river lost his life.

Several fractured ribs, a cracked breast bone and several injuries about the head were suffered by H. S. Fague, aged fifty-four years, of Picture Rocks, Lycoming county, when he fell from a manure spreader and was dragged beneath it. The accident occurred on the highway and he was discovered by passing motorists and taken to the Muncy Valley hospital.

The Pennsylvania Glass Sand company has awarded a contract to Alexander Shumway & Utz, of Rochester, N. Y., to erect a new pulverizing plant at Mapleton, Huntingdon county. Work will be started immediately for the erection of the foundation of the building, which will be of steel and concrete. The new plant will be erected on the old Robley estate next to the present plant.

In default of \$5,000 bail, Clifford H. Weise, a Shamokin youth arrested on a technical charge of counterfeiting when caught trying to pass a \$10 Federal reserve note for \$50, having passed the figure five over the first number of the ten, was committed to jail at Sunbury last Friday to await Federal court, which convenes at Harrisburg May 5. Weise pleaded guilty to the charges.

The Millville brick plant, near Berwick, idle for eight years, has been rebuilt with new kilns, engine, boiler and Boss dryer system placed, and was opened on Monday. Thirty-five men will be employed. The John L. Turner Brick company, Inc., purchased the plants and the beds of clay and have been working since September upon repairs and improvements. The output will be twenty to twenty-five thousand bricks daily.

Brownsville turned out en masse on Saturday to see a band of gypsies that passed through Shenandoah. The gypsies halted in the suburb, mixed freely with the residents, and for a time an impromptu carnival was held. Indignation reigned, however, a short time after the gypsies departed when it was found several robberies had occurred. One man reported his pocket had been picked of \$100, while valuable articles were missing from several homes.

John Noble, aged 74 years, of Oil City, one of the oldest prisoners ever confined in the Franklin county jail, and who waived bail that he might enjoy the "comradery of other prisoners," hasn't changed his mind a bit. He isn't worrying at all if he ever gets out. He spends his time writing poems and reading newspapers. Noble is being sued by his 29 year old wife for desertion and non-support. His only worry, he told a reporter, is how soon they are likely to take him away "from these pleasant surroundings."

"I don't know why I married her, she has certainly kept me in hot water and has cost me over \$1000 in three months!" This was the statement made by E. D. Wenrich, aged 65 years, wealthy resident of West Brownsville, in asking the Washington county court to give him some relief from the alleged escapades of his 18 year old wife, Mrs. Margaret Wenrich. Wenrich and his youthful sweetheart were married on January 7, 1924. "She seemed to be the finest girl in the world," said Wenrich, "and I fell head over heels in love with her. But I soon found I couldn't control her, never knew where she was and only saw her when she came to me for money. I have spent over \$1000 on her since we were married, and I'm tired of it." Mrs. Wenrich, on a charge of incorrigibility, was committed to the Girls' Industrial School at Muncy, Pa.

John T. Wilson, district attorney of Mifflin county, will lay an indictment before the grand jury at Lewistown, on May 5, charging Antonio Apostolico now in Italy, with first degree murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Frank Matera, a Burnham store merchant, August 26, last. Apostolico is reported to have loved a young daughter of Matera and requested to marry her and her father refused to give his consent. He shot Matera through the heart after the refusal. Matera died at the Lewistown hospital several days later, and Apostolico fled over the Seven mountains into Pennsylvania, thence to Scranton and then to New York city, from where he escaped by boat to Italy. A few days ago he wrote from Italy, to the Standard Steel works, Burnham, asking payment for wages which were due him when he fled. Apostolico in letters to other friends in Burnham and Yeagertown declares that he shot Matera and claims that the United States government has no power to bring him back to this country to stand trial for murder.