Democratic Watchman.

INK SLINGS.

—Isn't it about time to hear something as to the condition of the peach trees in Delaware.

—About every element of the Republican party in the State seems to have taken a crack at the Governor.

—The handle of a lawn mower is productive of quite as good exercise for the muscles of the back as is that of a golf stick.

—The "Afaletics" have started well and we'd be wonderfully encouraged if we could only forget how well they started last spring.

—Of course the Goveronr blames his overwhelming defeat for National delegate to the Republican convention, on everything but himself.

—As long as the water stays high and the weather acts like it was February we have a fairly good alibi to offer when friends inquire as to how many trout we have caught this season.

—The Governor may get some consolation out of his defeat through the blasting of the aspirations of his arch enemy, Charles "Pickle" Snyder to get back to the Senate from Schuylkill county.

—The Hon. Wm. H. Noll will sound very fine after the gentleman who made such an enviable record as County Commissioner goes to Harrisburg to represent Centre county in the General Assembly.

—The Senate has passed the soldiers' bonus bill, 67 to 17, and it is up to the President. The dope is that he will veto it. Senator Pepper voted against it and Senator Reed was absent, but paired against it.

—The Republicans of Delaware county failed to take the "Watchman's" advice. Evidently they didn't want a real Representative in Harrisburg, so they failed to nominate Noah H. Swayne II for that office.

—While it is impossible to state at this time who have been elected delegates-at-large to the Democratic National convention the returns compiled up to noon yesterday indicated that they would be split about even between the organization and Bonniwell forces.

—Seventy-seven per cent. of the farmers of Centre county used commercial fertilizer during 1922. They averaged about two and one-half tons to the farm and paid in all for it $108,241. In the number using it Centre county was five per cent. below the average in the State.

—After doing what they did in the hospital drive all of Centre county can well join Kiwanis in their pet song:

"It isn't any trouble just to smile,
It isn't any trouble just to smile
If ever you're in trouble
It will vanish like a bubble
It you'll only take the trouble
just to smile."

—Out of the thirty-one Republican votes polled at the primaries in the West ward of Bellefonte Mr. Holmes got only fifteen. Neither he nor his friend Pinchot seem to be over popular with the Republicans of the West ward. William H. Noll got over a third as many votes on the Republican ticket as did the gentleman who said he wouldn't make any pledges—then went and made one.

—Only a few years ago all the agricultural land in Russia was divided among the peasants. That was Socialism. Today about twenty-six per cent. of those peasants control their own and all the land that was given to the other seventy-four per cent. That is the survival of the fittest, which, in the last analysis is the bed rock on which all theory of government must be founded.

—If you use soft coal and have the money to do it we'd advise putting in your next winter's supply now. The only things that could make it lower in price are reductions in freight rates and delivery charges. Many operators are selling coal at less than it costs to produce it for the reason that they lose less operating at a loss than they would if their mines were idle altogether. Money invested in your coal bin right now will earn ten per cent. and more before next November.

—The poor turn out of women at the primaries on Tuesday is rather a blast to the hopes of those who advocated suffrage for the gentler sex. The strong point of the argument for suffrage was that the women would do what the better class of men had failed to do—go to the primaries and insure the nomination of only the best men on both tickets. While Tuesday's primary was relatively unimportant there was enough in it to interest more women than went out to vote and the only conclusion to be drawn is that they are content to let the men name the ticket and they will express their opinion of it at the election.

—The Democratic vote in the county was so light on Tuesday as to indicate that there was very little interest. This, of course, can be partially accounted for by the fact that there wasn't a contest for any county office, unless the eleventh hour effort of some friends of Lawrence Redding, of Snow Shoe, to name him as State committeeman might be called one. The party had no nominee for the office, but it was generally understood that county chairman Gray would accept the office if his name were written on the ticket. Mr. Redding's friends sprang their coup late Monday night, and had it not been for the fact that chairman Gray had sent out a few stickers for himself, would have gotten away with it.

THE Democratic Watchman.

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Governor Pinchot Humiliated.

The result of the primary vote for delegates-at-large to the Republican national convention surprises no one. Even if Congressman Vare had not issued his manifesto and even if Pinchot's part in the investigation of Secretary Mellon had not been revealed, the result would have been the same. The machine managers had milked the Governor to the full extent of his ability to yield and he had become a damaging liability rather than a valuable asset. The necessity of getting rid of him was generally felt and freely expressed. There was no other way of achieving this result except that adopted. He was placed on the slate for the purpose of humiliating him by defeat.

The chances are that the defeat of the Governor will work his ultimate elimination from the public life of the State. That is what it was intended to achieve. His patronage having been exhausted he is without even the semblance of a magnet to attract followers. During the last session of the Legislature the smaller bosses were glad of a chance to "eat out of his hand." Now they are not willing to sit at the same table with him and they availed themselves of the opportunity his ambition presented to destroy him. Whether they succeed or not is a question the answer to which depends upon himself.

It is true that the patronage of the administration for his term had been practically exhausted. But the tenure of no employee of the State is firmly fixed, and if the Governor chooses to do so he may remove many if not all of the present job holders and appoint others in their places. This will give him a chance to bring the friends of the present job holders as well as those of the expectants to his feet and we shall be greatly surprised if he does not avail himself of it. Pinchot is an. expert trader in politics and dispenser of patronage and he is likely to do his best work in that line in the near future.

——It is true that President Jackson and President Cleveland refused to give information asked for by resolution of the Senate. But they did not accuse the Senate af lawlessness or deny its right to investigate.

True Story of an Important Event.

In the speech in which Senator Watson, of Indiana, threw a monkey wrench into the Republican machine of Pennsylvania the real bugaboo of the Coolidge administration was revealed. A Senate committee of which Watson is chairman had been engaged for some time in an investigation of some alleged irregularities in the internal revenue bureau of the Treasury Department. Little was being accomplished for the reason that the chairman was bent upon concealment, rather than exposure, and the investigator, Senator Couzens, not being a lawyer, is not skilled in questioning. Governor Pinchot, for one reason or another, suggested to Senator Couzens the employment of a capable lawyer and that caused a panic.

So long as the inquiry ran along lines that were fully protected, the administration gave it no concern. Secretary Mellon is a business man of keen intelligence and knew that his books must balance. He had carefully guarded every weak point in the matter of collecting and disbursing the revenues. But he had been more careless or less scrupulous in the administration of the bureau for the enforcement of the Volstead law and Senator Watson dug out of his subconsciousness a suspicion that the lawyer employed would probe into the affairs of that bureau and reveal the fact that there had been no attempt or intention to enforce the Volstead law or the prohibition amendment to the constitution.

Thus there was revealed to an astonished world the spectacle of a great party in control of a great government deliberately deceiving the people upon a question of widespread interest, and Senator Watson hastened to warn the President and the Secretary of the Treasury of an impending calamity. The Secretary wrote the President that it must be stopped and the President ordered the Senate to stop it. Subsequently Senator Watson, speaking for the President, informed the Senate that Congress never intended to enforce the prohibition legislation, which was enacted only to fool the people. This is the true story of the speech that threw a monkey wrench into the machinery of the Republican party.

——Premier McDonald says his government "is doing its best" but that "its tenure is precarious." Strangely enough its greatest danger comes from those responsible for it.

——It speaks well for the Democratic Congressmen for Pennsylvania now in commission that they are all running without opposition for reelection.

Got What Was Coming to Him.

The break in the relations between Governor Pinchot and the Vare machine which occurred last Saturday was inevitable. The friendship between these elements in politics was founded on fraud and maintained in false pretense. Both parties to it were influenced by selfishness. Pinchot covets power and Vare wants patronage and each kept faith with the other just so long as it seemed to be advantageous. In other words, while Mr. Pinchot had patronage to bestow and conferred it on Vare, they worked together amicably. When the supply was practically exhausted Mr. Vare felt free to form other alliances and the Norristown millionaire, Ralph Beaver Strassberger, became a willing instrument to his purpose.

Of course both Pinchot and Vare misrepresent the reasons which culminated in the Vare declaration of Saturday. Mr. Vare declares it was because Mr. Pinchot had made "a gratuitous attack upon Secretary Mellon and the Coolidge administration." If he had been truthful and candid he would have said that the Governor, having exhausted his patronage favors, is no longer a political asset and the Vare followers are averse to supporting a lost cause. Mr. Pinchot states that liquor or law enforcement is the issue. "That is what lies under the fine words of Congressman Vare's statement. At the eleventh hour liquor is showing its fangs and demanding the punishment of its enemy," he adds. That is a plain subterfuge. If he had been candid he would have said he was thrown down for the reason that he is a dangerous party liability.

It may safely be said that Governor Pinchot's attitude on the liquor question had little, if anything, to do with his repudiation by the Vare machine. So far as the bootleggers are concerned they are not opposed to Pinchot. He is their best friend. His enforcement policies have created their market. But his demoralization of the State police, his crippling of the hospitals and other public charities and his open traffic in party patronage has alienated so many of the better class of party workers that it seemed a menace to success to present him as a representative of the party in a crucial period like the present. As a matter of fact Mr. Pinchot has just gotten about what was coming to him.

——There were fifty-one investigations of the Wilson administration by the Sixty-fifth Congress and not a dishonest act was revealed. There are a half dozen investigations now in progress and the Republican newspapers refer to them as "an orgie of scandal mongering."

Mellon's Stature Diminishes.

In his great speech delivered in the Senate the other day Carter Glass, of Virginia, stripped off a good deal of the gold braid with which the President and others had been decorating Secretary of the Treasury Mellon. They have been holding him up to popular admiration as a financial wizard who has saved the country vast sums of money by his masterful management of the treasury. The last great achievement with which his eulogists credit him is the conversion of a deficit of $900,000,000 into a surplus of $300,000,000 within a single year, which, if there had been any foundation for the story, would have been "going some."

The trouble with this accomplishment is that "it isn't so." In order to influence Congress to vote against a bonus for the world war soldiers and justify President Harding in vetoing the bill when passed, Mr. Mellon juggled treasury accounts so as to create an apparent deficit for 1923 of $900,000,000. It was a wild guess from a man who either didn't know what he was talking about or was willing to misrepresent in order to compass a sinister result. A year later, for the purpose of justifying his demand for decreasing the income taxes of millionaires, he adopted the same juggling processes to show a treasury surplus of $100,000,000. Both were guesses and the second is no more likely to be accurate than the first.

Senator Glass, who was Secretary of the Treasury during the last year of the Wilson administration, points out that the laws and not the Secretary of the Treasury, are responsible for increases and decreases of revenue. During the last year of the Wilson administration there was a surplus of nearly $300,000,000, and it was during that period that the treasury policies were laid which are still in force. Mr. Mellon has made no changes and whatever has been effected are ascribable to Glass rather than Mellon, if the credit is due to the management of the Treasury. In view of these facts the Mellon superman fades away.

——Don't jump at conclusions. You might light on a tack.

Senator Wheeler Vindicated.

On Thursday last the Senate committee to investigate the charges against Senator Wheeler, of Montana, began taking testimony. A number of citizens of Montana were sworn and copies of all telegrams and letters which passed between Senator Wheeler and those who were his clients before he went to Washington were submitted and examined. Among the witnesses was Senator Wheeler's partner in the practice of law, who offered the books of the firm in evidence. The solicitor of the Department of the Interior at the time the offense is allegd to have been committed was also sworn. Not a scintilla of evidence inculpating Senator Wheeler was given.

This confirms the opinion expressed in these columns last week to the effect that the accusation against Senator Wheeler was a malicious "frame-up" resorted to by former Attorney General Daugherty for the purpose of discrediting Senator Wheeler in public estimation and in the hope of stopping the investigation of Daugherty's administration of the Department of Justice. That is to say, the testimony of the dozen or more witnesses examined plainly revealed the fact that the Department of Justice had been prostituted to the base purpose of protecting criminals at the expense of the reputation of a faithful public official. That was a proceeding as dastardly as it was dangerous.

The facts of the matter, as we indicated last week, are that previous to his election as Senator in Congress Mr. Wheeler had professionally served a client who is in litigation with the Standard Oil company. After his election to the Senate he notified the client in question that while he could continue to serve him in the State courts he would not be able to appear for him in the federal courts or before any of the departments of the government. A check in payment of services rendered in the State court subsequent to the election of the Senator was made the basis of the prosecution now pending, which was brought by an enemy in a court presided over by a judge appointed by the Attorney General.

——Notwithstanding the fact that Easter was unusually late this year, in fact within three days of being as late as it could possibly be, it was only natural to expect fair weather, but Easter Sunday was just about as disagreeable a day as it was possible to have this time of year. Unusually cool, with numerous showers accompanied by thunder and lightning prevailed from morning until night. Of course the weather didn't prevent the ladies from coming out in their spring finery, but the parade was not as great as it would have been had the day been nice and warm. The Easter showers continued on Monday when flying snow flakes were also in evidence. While the weather may have interfered to a certain extent with the church attendance on Sunday, it did not keep many away, as good congregations were present at the Easter services in all churches.

——A freight wreck near Curtin, on the Bald Eagle Valley railroad on Saturday, necessitated diverting the Pennsylvania-Lehigh train east over the Lewisburg and Tyrone division to Montandon. The wreck was cleared up so as to permit westbound trains getting through, though they were a little late in reaching Bellefonte.

——During the spring months of this year it is the intention of the department of Forests and Waters to distribute nine and a half million trees from the nurseries of the State. The number to be shipped, it is estimated, will reforest 10000 acres of idle land and when grown to maturity will produce 350 million feet of lumber.

——Owing to the indisposition of one borough councilman and the fact that two others were out of town, the regular meeting of council was not held on Monday evening.

——Speaker Gillett admits that a trunk was sent to his office but denies that it contained whiskey. In that event it was probably full of disappointment.

——Of course Coolidge will be nominated and probably on the first ballot. But it is a safe bet that two-thirds of the delegates know he is unfit.

——The experts report that Germany is able to pay the reparations. Nobody ever doubted its ability to pay. It's willingness that's wanted.

——One of the witnesses in the Thaw case said that Harry is "morally insane." In other words he is a moral pervert.

——It is said that electricity travels 11,600,000 miles a minute, and that is certainly going some.

VOICES FROM THE PAST AND A COINCIDENCE.

Several days ago this office received a letter from a very old gentelman who resides in Florida. He was making inquiry as to incidents that occurred in Bellefonte so long ago that we were unable to find any one whose memory carried back to the years he was delving into.

The "Watchman" answered as best it could, considered its duty done, and consigned his letter to the waste basket.

Last Friday we received another letter. This one came from Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is published below. After reading through it we were struck with the recollection that somewhere we had but recently seen the name "Starkey." Then the brain cells opened a bit more and we remembered that the letter from Florida was signed by a Mr. Starkey. And the thought came into our mind that these correspondents, neither of whom we know, though so widely separated in location, might be brothers.

The one in Florida wrote to know some of the very things that the one from New Mexico has stated in his letter. Unfortunately we have lost the former's address but we shall try to get a copy of this edition through to him, for it may be that the strange coincidence will be the means of putting two separated brothers or relatives in contact with each other.

Santa Fe, New Mexico
April 14th, 1924.

Editor "Democratic Watchman,"
Bellefonte, Pa.

Dear Sir:

A copy of your paper of late date came into my hands through Miss Illsworth, of Bellefonte, who is a teacher in the Allison-Jones Presbyterian Mission school, a few days ago, in which there was notice of an old copy of the Democratic Whig of 1858, that some old subscriber found among the relics of the past. He noticed so many names of the principal business men of the little town, especially, who have passed into the beyond and been forgotton.

As I read it I remembered an old copy of the Centre Democrat that I had carefully put away in a large envelope for many years. The date of this copy is April 28th, 1852. It contains a notice of my mother's death:

"Died—In Bellefonte, on the morning of the 20th ult., Mrs. Sophia Starkey, consort of Warren Starkey, in the 37th year of her age."

Her body lies under a large, flat marble slab laid on marble sides completely covering the grave. I was in Bellefonte in 1885 and found the grave in fine condition, showing good care of the cemetery. I hope it is so today.

Looking over the pages I find many names that I well remember, that I knew as a boy. A. G. Curtin, afterwards War Governor of the State; Col. James Burnside, H. N. McAllister, Jas. T. Hale, Samuel Linn, Esq., among the members of the bar, which had the reputation, at that time, of being the best lawyers in the State outside of Philadelphia. At that time the father of Col. James Burnside, was Judge in the Supreme Court of the State. Among the business mens' ads. I find Daniel Derr and John Brachbill, as overseer of the poor. George Livingstone, book store; Lambert & Kulp, plasterers; S. T. Shugert, appointed an auditor by the Court of Common Pleas; John Montgomery, the city tailor; Wm. J. Stein, in Brockerhoff row, with a complete stock of watches, clocks and jewelry; James H. Rankin, attorney at law, and Martin Stones Cheap Store at Graffin's old stand, Allegheny street.

Many other names are there of men who passed into the great beyond many years ago. The paper was printed 72 years ago. I was not quite twelve years old at that time.

There is an article from the State Central committee appealing to the people to support James Buchannan for the Presidency.

I believe Buchannan was defeated and Franklin Pierce became President.

I was born in New York but my father moved to Bellefonte in 1844, when I was not quite four years old, and left there in 1853, but the nine years that I spent as a boy in the little town endeared it to me, and it has, ever since been my "home town." A few days ago I learned of another citizen living here who could tell me many things about Old Bellefonte; Rev. Mr. Riter, Presbyterian minister of Santa Fe.

We have the healthiest climate in the world, right here in this Santa Fe valley, and the purest water—excepting the big spring at the foot of Academy hill. We can discount you in every other respect. We are rapidly losing one of the old attractions. The old adobe city is fast disappearing and large brick buildings, plastered with adobe are replacing them, the little mud palaces.

Come out and see the oldest city in America, and the oldest government palace in America, before Yankee push destroys them.

C. H. STARKEY,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

——The people are not getting tired of investigations as Republican contemporaries allege. That which looks like the "tired feeling" is disgust at the rottenness in Washington.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—With the injunction to "get a man's job, cut out the sissy employment of a soda clerk, and keep away from the girls," Judge Miller, of Norristown, suspended sentence on Frederick McClenahan Jr., for rifling a baby's bank and stealing furs and other things from his own family at Wyndmoor.

—While the family of B. F. Ruble, a merchant of Lewistown, was crossing the Seven mountains, Saturday, Mr. Ruble was compelled to leave his car and chase away a herd of five deer lying upon the roadway. The deer were so tame that they did not budge as the automobile approached them.

—When Mrs. William Anderson, of Allentown, was unable to find the key to her home upon her return late Sunday night from the hospital, where her husband is in a serious condition, she tried to climb in a window. The sash fell, breaking her back and causing almost instant death, according to Dr. Fred R. Bausch, the coroner, who made an investigation.

—After compelling Lawrence Johnson, manager of a gasoline service station, at Chester, to turn over $95, a roughly dressed white man forced Johnson into a closet and locked the door. The bandit, armed, then fled from the scene. Johnson pounded on the door of the closet, and the noise attracted Edward S. Fry, who resides opposite the place, who released him.

—Mrs. Sallie Deily, of Bethlehem, who can still recall hearing her forebears talk of Washington and the Revolutionary war, celebrated her 102nd birthday on Saturday. She is the oldest person in that city. Her infirmities are few despite her years, poor eye sight being her only handicap. She attributes her long life to hard work. She had eight children, six of whom are still living.

—"If the Judge won't take it out of you, I will," was the comment of Mrs. Earl V. Moyer, of Allentown, as she began to belabor her husband with a handbag in the corridor of the court house on Saturday, after Judge Reno had reduced her allowance in domestic relations court from $50 to $30 a month. Moyer fled, as did his attorney, and the woman was not molested by the court officers.

—Having refused to pay a fine of $5 imposed on him at the last meeting of West Hazleton borough council by acting president Schneider, because it is claimed he became disorderly in a debate over the water question, councilman John Gatski was barred from last Friday's session. Council adopted a resolution that he shall not be permitted to take part in any deliberations of the body until he has satisfied the penalty.

—Tax collector C. A. Goodhart, of Shippensburg, has opened a drive on all delinquent taxables in the borough, both men and women. Pay tax or go to jail is the collector's order to all delinquents. He has taken 109 delinquents before justices of the peace during the past week and forced them to pay their taxes and plans to do the same with 50 more this week. He has received many letters threatening his life, damage to his property and bodily harm, but he is not discouraged, declaring that he will see the job through.

—Commissioners of Northumberland, Union and Snyder counties, at a meeting on Saturday voted down a proposition to assume $38,000 of the cost of the erection of a $400,000 bridge across the Susquehanna between Northumberland and Blue Hill. The State has appropriated $350,000, but the bid is $38,000 in excess of the appropriation. The commissioners asserted that they were willing to assume the indebtedness, but they did not know if they would be sustained by the courts. The old structure was burned and a new bridge is badly needed.

—An appeal to the Supreme court from the plan of distribution by Judge Biddle, of Carlisle, specially presiding in Berks county, of the reward for the capture of the Wyomissing bank bandits two years ago was withdrawn on Monday when it was due to be heard. An appeal was filed by John J. Moyer, of New York, where several of the six bandits were captured and much of the loot recovered. The awards totaled nearly $6500. Helen Davis, a stenographer, and police detective Geo. Kemp will receive the larger share among the twenty-one claimants recognized.

—Bob-haired school teachers are not desired in the public schools of New Castle. Contracts to be submitted to school teachers for the next term have incorporated in them this clause: "The teacher who wears her hair up will be given the usual $100 increase in salary. The teacher who bobs her hair will be paid on the same basis as during the past year." The petition will result in the elimination of bob-haired teachers in the New Castle schools. During the present term many teachers wore bobbed-hair and numerous complaints have been registered with the school board.

—Two boys playing on a raft in the Delaware river in the northwestern section of Philadelphia, lost their lives on Tuesday night when the waves from a passing tug upset the raft and after a rowboat which had picked up the lads also had been capsized. The victims were James A. McDonald, 12 and William Brown, 15 years old. Emanuel Tramm and William Burns, who manned the rowboat, also were thrown into the river, and were rescued with difficulty. They were taken to a hospital where physicians said their condition was critical as a result of exposure.

—The Mifflin county commissioners at their meeting Saturday decided to sell the old bridge structure now used as a temporary crossing over the Juniata river at Lewistown, while the new $300,000 bridge was being erected. The new structure will be completed within the next few days and then the dismantling of the old iron bridge weighing about 300 tons will be begun. The officials of the Lewistown & Reedsville Electric Railway company and the county commissioners have not yet reached a compromise on trolley franchise privileges over the new bridge, although the negotiations have been in progress for almost a year.

—Governor and Mrs. Gifford Pinchot had a close call from possible injury late Tuesday afternoon while passing through Allentown en route from Milford, where they had voted, to Harrisburg. While the machine bearing the gubernatorial party was threading its way through the business section the top of one of the large boulevard lamps along the street was blown off by the heavy wind. The globe, with part of its metal base, landed alongside the Pinchot car, which was showered with the splintered glass. The chauffeur hesitated but a moment, and when he realized the occupants of the car were unharmed he continued driving westward.