

INK SLINGS.

Probably Pinchot imagines he can force Secretary Mellon into the bootleggers' union.

If the weather and the water continue unpropitious much longer we fear we are in for what might be called a fishless fishing season.

One mysterious thing about President Coolidge is cleared up. He took his family to a circus on Tuesday, so now we know that he is human.

Count Salm got the Rogers girl, but he didn't get any of pop's dough and it looks as though this wonderful international love match is off already.

When the Methodists—North and South—finally get together the hardest pull that has ever been made at hauling the bloody shirt down from the masthead of Republican campaign bunk will have been made.

The late Tammany leader, Charles F. Murphy, couldn't have been so bad as his enemies were wont to paint him, else he would certainly have left more than an estate valued at four hundred and fifty thousand.

Those farmers who have their oats in the ground are worried with fear that it will rot and those who were not forward enough to get their sowed before the wet weather set in are worried lest they won't get it in at all.

If settling a police strike in Boston and beating Hi Johnson in California are super-achievements then we'll have to admit that President Coolidge has two planks on which to stand while asking the country to elect him President.

Judge Quigley is holding court in Pittsburgh this week. Among the cases before him are the murder trials growing out of the recent riot in the western penitentiary and the jury panel having been exhausted the Judge sent officers into the streets to catch the makin' of jurors without regard to whether it suited them or not.

The Bursum omnibus pension bill, which was vetoed by the President came within one vote of being dragged out from under the Presidential ax. Certainly the actions of this Congress are the most inexplicable of any of record. The legislative and executive branches of the government seem to be as far apart as the poles. Nothing the President urges will Congress pass and nothing that Congress passes will the President approve.

Billy Sunday, the evangelist, is on his way to Rochester, Minn., a physical wreck, because, as he says, he "has been driving the old machine hard for thirty years and some of the bearings are hot." The country is full of those who will pray that the Mayos may be able to grind his valves, tune up his ignition and put the old machine in condition for a lot more of the wonderful work it has been doing for the Master ever since it ran off a baseball diamond and stuck in a pulpit.

Last week the fate of Maj. Frederick L. Martin, commander of America's around the world air-flight squadron, seemed hopeless. He had not been heard of for nine days after his hop-off from Chignik, Alaska, and the world was all set to lament the tragedy of another life laid on the altar of pioneering. Out of the frozen North has come word, however, that Martin and his mechanic are both safe after hitting a mountain top because of low visibility, and keen to continue their flight. Of such grit are Americans made and because of it the future will ever point to the past with profound admiration.

Who read Levi A. Miller's "Seashore Philosophy" published in the "Watchman" last week? Those who did must have appreciated greatly the manner in which the sage of Pleasant Gap treated the subject, and those who didn't missed something. Before we fell for that myth that two can live as cheap as one we made frequent excursions to the seashore; always because we imagined that we were all run down and nothing but briny air would recharge the batteries. We recall being able to do work enough for a week ahead before going and we never recall returning with energy enough to do anything but grunt for the week after. So we agree with Levi that so far as we country folks are concerned "going to the seashore" is mainly "beneficial to railroad companies and resort hotels."

Political gossip has it that Vance McCormick, seeing no hope of electing Bruce Sterling national committee man for Pennsylvania, has cast the eye of favor on Harrison Nesbit, president of the Bank of Pittsburgh. Joe Guffey, once so useful to Vance, has fallen from grace and Judge Bonniwell, the original reorganizer, is in just as bad a state that while there is no love lost between them they will probably combine their forces at the State committee meeting next week if by so doing they can defeat Sterling. The injection of Mr. Nesbit looks as though the possibility of the combined Guffey and Bonniwell forces presents a threat that makes Sterling a weak prop for McCormick to build on. Strange as it may seem to some the "Watchman" would regard Mr. Nesbit's election as a very salutary thing for the Democratic party in Pennsylvania, for he is a real Democrat and too big a man to be controlled by either McCormick, Guffey or Bonniwell.

Dastardly Conspiracy Exposed.

The Senate committee which has been investigating the matter of the indictment of Senator Wheeler, of Montana, has about finished its work. A majority of the members of the committee are Republicans and Senator Borah, of Idaho, is its chairman. Upon a charge that Mr. Wheeler had accepted fees for practicing law before the departments of the government at Washington, which is forbidden by statute, he was indicted in a Federal court, of which the district attorney was appointed by President Harding, upon the recommendation of Attorney General Daugherty. The evidence upon which the indictment was obtained was gathered by an agent of the Republican National committee and secret service employees of the Department of Justice and the Postoffice Department.

The Republican National committee and the Attorney General had strong reasons for desiring the arrest, conviction and punishment of Senator Wheeler. The chairman of the National committee and the Attorney General would have been satisfied with the indictment of Senator Wheeler without conviction and punishment if it had accomplished the purpose they hoped for. Their aim was to discredit him in public estimation and thus rob his senatorial activities of their force. He was engaged in the laudable work of exposing corruption in the administration of the Department of Justice and his persecutors expected that his indictment would destroy his influence on the public mind, or force him to curtail his activities as the price of immunity from punishment.

What has been the result of this criminal conspiracy to destroy a useful, capable and conscientious public official? Mr. Doan, the most active agent in the nefarious work, admitted under oath the object of the transaction was to intimidate Senator Wheeler. The federal district attorney who procured the indictment practically confessed that he was forced by Daugherty to prefer the charges because Daugherty "had something on him" and threatened to use it against him. Other witnesses acknowledged participation in the conspiracy and the evidence of all the rest clearly exculpated Senator Wheeler. No greater crime has ever been perpetrated by a civilized government against a citizen and the miscreant responsible will sit in the Republican National convention as a delegate-at-large.

The friends of Governor Pinchot would like to make a howl about Strassburger's sixty thousand dollar expense bill, but the Pinchot profligacy in 1922 is a too recent occurrence.

Mellon Tax Bill Defeated.

The revenue bill which passed the Senate a week ago differs in some important particulars from that which had previously been passed in the House of Representatives. But it differs widely and every essential feature from the measure prepared by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, cordially endorsed by corporations and "big business" and strenuously urged by President Coolidge. By these interested elements among the tax payers of the country it is denounced as unscientific. It places the burden of expense of the government upon those able to bear it. In so far as it was possible it relieves the earners of small incomes of burdens which were growing increasingly hard to carry.

The Mellon bill fixed the tax on very big incomes at twenty-five per cent. and on corporate incomes at twelve and a half per cent. The Senate bill fixes the rate on the big incomes at forty-four per cent. and provides for a graduated tax on corporate incomes so that the small corporation earning a few thousand dollars a year will not have to pay the same rate as the giant concern which earns millions. Of course this is unscientific as the multi-millionaires interpret the term but to the unprejudiced observer it looks fair. The Mellon bill provided a means for tax dodging by corporations by accumulating dividends or paying them in stocks free from taxation. The Senate bill provides for taxing stock dividends.

In the estimation of the Secretary of the Treasury and the President no tax is scientific unless it puts the burden of government on the poor. They imagine that the science of government is to afford opportunities for the rich to grow richer and force the poor into greater depths of poverty. That has been the policy of the Republican party for half a century. Both the tax bills now in conference are in conflict with this policy. It is to be hoped that out of the two Congress will be able to frame one which will be fair and just if not scientific. It is not certain, however, that this will be achieved. The wreckers who favored the Mellon bill will try to prevent an agreement.

Moving Forward to Sacrifice.

The evidence that the Republican machine is setting Calvin Coolidge up for sacrifice continues to accumulate. The machine managers are merrily moving on with the election of delegates to the Cleveland convention, either instructed or pledged to vote for his nomination and the machine managers in Congress are proceeding, with equal enjoyment, to stab him in the back. Every delegation to the convention controlled by the dominant politicians of the party is committed to him and every measure of legislation recommended and urged by him has been defeated in Congress, in which his party is in the majority in both branches. Here is an incongruity for which there is but one explanation.

Calvin Coolidge was never a popular figure in his party or out of it. Selfish but persistent he forced himself into small offices from the beginning of his political career and advanced by force of personal plugging until he reached the office of Governor of Massachusetts. During his progress from solicitor in a small town to the attainment of the title of Governor he never did a thing to commend him to public favor except keeping his mouth shut and performing his official duties. While he was Governor the police force of the largest city within his jurisdiction "went on a strike." He took issue with the strikers which met with the favor of big business. He was nominated for Vice President by a western delegate in the 1920 Republican convention, who had never seen him, but had a prejudice against the slated candidate.

If President Harding had lived Mr. Coolidge would have served his term and retired to obscurity, "unhonored and unsung." He had opportunities given to none of his predecessors in the office. He sat in the cabinet sessions and was familiar with all the operations of the administration of which he was a part, including the iniquities which are now being exposed. But he never offered a suggestion nor advanced a proposition of value to his associates or the country. When Harding died, however, Mr. Coolidge suddenly became a superman. The machine managers adopted him as the only man fit to carry out the party policies. Probably they felt that it gave opportunity to protect the crooks.

One of the mayors who attended Pinchot's prohibition conference declares it was a joke. Maybe that is true, for most of the enforcement activities of the Republican party have been of that type.

Pinchot Paying Party Debts.

Governor Pinchot may be buried under a vast adverse majority but he is not silenced. He may not attend the Cleveland convention as a delegate but he is having his fun. The machine politicians have had their season of rejoicing over his defeat but after all "he laughs best who laughs last," and Giff is easily having the time of his life now throwing gaffs into the tender spots of his enemies. Every day presents fresh evidences of his activity. One day it is a friend of Vane and another it is a follower of Beidleman or chairman Baker that is cut off the pay roll. But the result is the same. The process of diminishing the meal ticket goes merrily on and the Giff how-haw is heard in the land.

There are among those who contributed to the punishment of the Governor a few persons who are indifferent to, or independent of, the well known pie counter. But they are not immune from punishment at the hands or tongue of the illustrious dead duck. Among these is Secretary of the Treasury, Andy Mellon. Andy doesn't care much whether a clerk in the Highway Department from his neighborhood is discharged or promoted. But he does care, and it is said he actually squirms, when some of his selfish schemes are exposed and in a speech delivered in Springfield, Massachusetts, the other evening, Mr. Pinchot rubbed salt into the sorest spot on the Mellon anatomy. He actually accused Andy of criminal malfeasance.

The Governor was addressing the general Methodist Episcopal conference, his subject was prohibition enforcement, and he charged Mr. Mellon with direct responsibility for the failure which is apparent to every one with eyes to see and mind to understand. He gave Senator Watson one vicious punch and plastered a coat of black paint on President Coolidge. But he focussed his fire mainly on Secretary Mellon and his language was as vitriolic as it was possible to make it. Of course Mellon will pretend he doesn't care and Coolidge will pretend he never heard of the matter. But Mellon does care, and if half the charges made against him are true the new Attorney General has some important work cut out for him.

Lodge Unanimously Condemned.

Senator Lodge's world court proposition has properly received almost universal popular contempt. It wasn't even a sincere expression of the purposes of the malignant mind of its author. It was presented as an expedient to divert the public mind from a popular demand to consider the world court proposition made by the late President Harding and endorsed by President Coolidge. That was in itself a subterfuge of little merit. But it may be assumed that it was offered in good faith and gave some promise of ultimate association with the League of Nations. Coming as it did from a Republican President to a Republican Congress it was entitled to consideration. Senator Lodge denied it even that courtesy.

The Harding plan contemplated entrance into a tribunal created by the covenant of the League of Nations with certain reservations of doubtful value. The court was already in existence and efficiently functioning. There could have been no objection to the proposition other than that it gave qualified recognition to the League of Nations. But that was enough to incite Lodge's opposition. The League of Nations was to a great extent created by Woodrow Wilson and the malignant Lodge is still "fighting Wilson," though Wilson lies in a martyr's grave. The Lodge proposition is an artifice to avert popular condemnation for his refusal to treat the Harding suggestion with common fairness.

Naturally President Coolidge repudiates responsibility for this preposterous enterprise. No man of rational mind influenced by desire to promote the public good could give it approval. It will die in the committee of the Senate to which it was referred. But it may serve the vicious purpose of its author. That is, it will probably prevent for another year, at least, the consideration of the Harding measure. But the triumph of malice will be brief. After the inauguration of a Democratic President in March of next year the United States will take a proper place in the League of Nations and by virtue of that membership become a part of the great court created by it.

During one of last Friday's hard rain storms a young man, fairly well dressed and of rather good appearance, rang the bell of a house on Bishop street and asked permission to stand on the porch until it quit raining. A young lady at the house invited him inside and the young man rather hesitatingly confessed that he hadn't had a bite to eat in twenty-four hours. He also stated that he had no money and was walking to Williamsport where he had an aunt. The lady of the house gave him something to eat and then very generously gave him enough money to pay his fare to the Lumber city. When it stopped raining she directed him how to go to reach the railroad station but on leaving the house he started up Bishop street. Calling to him his benefactress told him he was going the wrong way so he turned around, came down the street and ducked into an alley and disappeared. This aroused the lady's suspicions and she telephoned chief of police Dukeman, who went to the place designated but was unable to find the young man and no trace of him has since been discovered. Just two or three days previous a young man escaped from the Danville asylum and it is just possible it may have been him.

Monday will be circus day and lots of folks who think they can't stay away from their business long enough for two hours of enjoyment under the big top will think nothing of staying away from church to see the show unload Sunday morning.

It appears that Governor Pinchot carried fifty-one of the sixty-seven counties of the State for delegate-at-large to the Cincinnati convention, but he didn't carry them strong enough to win.

Secretary Mellon's wealth may be ascribed in some measure to his thrift, as his friends like to claim, but he owes something to his shrewd and acquisitive father's parsimony.

Poincare will resign because of his defeat in the recent election thus setting a wholesome example for Coolidge and Mellon.

Coolidge beat Hi Johnson to a frazzle in the California primaries but Hi got even on the vote in the Senate on the Mellon tax bill.

An investigation into the political contributions of the "Big Five" packers will probably give Senator Watson another bad spell.

After trying prohibition for eight years the Province of Alberta, Canada, has voted to authorize government sale of liquor.

The Path of Peace.

From the Philadelphia Record. Europe expects us to put up the \$200,000,000 that is to be loaned to Germany as the first step in putting the Dawes plan into operation. It is notorious that we have the money, and Europe probably has not. It says it has not, and it is well known to have incurred very heavy losses in the last decade. Besides this, we furnished General Dawes, and the European idea is that we can do no less than to assume financial responsibility for him.

Mr. J. P. Morgan is by hereditary right the person authorized to speak for us—that is, for our bankers—on this point, and the Reparations Commission has consulted him. His reply was not made to the public, but it is reported to be that the loan could be disposed of in this country if there were assurance of peace. General Dawes' idea is that there will be chaos in Germany if his plan does not go into operation. The Dawes plan, then, must be adopted and set in operation, or American capitalists will not invest in German securities. With the prospects for peace good, however, the German bonds, amounting to less than \$4 per capita, ought to be perfectly safe if made a first lien on the resources of the German government.

France wants the Dawes plan in addition to whatever it has now. It has the Ruhr and the great industries thereof. It does not wish to let go. But French abandonment of the German industries is a part of the Dawes plan; nothing can be done until that is done. Germany insists on more; on the withdrawal of French troops from the Ruhr. The prospect of that is not good, and without it there will not be peace, and Americans will not advance the \$200,000,000 to set the Dawes plan into operation and enable Germany to make a payment on indemnity account the first year.

Mr. Ramsey MacDonald wants Germany satisfied in regard to the Ruhr, and he also desires as much as Lloyd George and Bonar Law and Stanley Baldwin did to keep on amicable terms with France. They did not succeed, because the only way of maintaining amicable terms with France was to do just what France wanted. If England held back from that, it was endangering the Entente, in French opinion. Mr. MacDonald finds it not so easy to represent his own country and gratify France. He has proposed as a compromise that the evacuation of the Ruhr be deferred until every arrangement is made for putting the Dawes plan into operation. Then on one day the French will retire from the Ruhr and on the day after the Dawes plan will go into effect. But France has protested that it will not leave the Ruhr without its money. Germany says it can't and won't pay till France gets out.

France has a better chance of getting money than it has ever had; a far better chance than it can have so long as it keeps its troops in the Ruhr. It couldn't make anything out of chaos in Germany unless it could annex whatever portions of that country it takes a fancy to and it is quite certain that the rest of Europe will not allow France to do this. And so long as France remains in occupation of the Ruhr there will be no peace, there will be no payments, and there will be a constant danger of war between France and a country with more than 50 per cent. greater population and no certainty at all, and not much probability, that France would get any Allies.

How Canada Helps Its Farmers.

From the Kansas City Star. The Canadian government proposes to do for its farmers one thing the United States long since should have done for the farmers of this country. The Parliament of Ottawa has been asked to cut in half the tariff on all implements and materials used in agriculture, dairying, mining and lumbering. Whatever may be the need or justice of thus helping the mining and lumbering interests of Canada, it is certain the proposed relief for the farmers is about as urgently needed as similar relief is needed in the United States.

Canada recognizes the importance of giving its agricultural business every consistent help that may be given. It recognizes the fundamental nature of farming—its underlying relation to the stability and prosperity of the whole country.

What has the government at Washington done? It has proceeded on the assumption that the farmers can be satisfied so long as they are given a protective tariff on what they sell. That kind of protection has done much more harm than good, for, on the one hand the tariff does not affect the price of any American product, whether agricultural or not, that depends on foreign markets to absorb a large surplus. The price of wheat, for example, is fixed in Liverpool, and by the world market.

But to cut the tariff on what the farmer has to buy means direct and substantial relief. It would cut the cost of all kinds of farm machinery and farm implements, trucks, harness, paint, lumber, shingles, fencing, fertilizers, and so on. It would, in fact, take some of the protection from the interests that really have been protected and give it to the farmer, who has not been protected at all.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

James S. Plummer, crier of the Blair county courts, is 88 years old, and has been crier twenty-eight years. He formerly served two terms as register and recorder of Blair county.

An auto party of four entered the store of Ben Stelzer, at Berwick, on Saturday evening and after an argument over some change, struck Mrs. Stelzer over the head, threw a fish bowl at a daughter and then assaulted Mr. Stelzer, who came running into the store.

A coroner's jury last Friday returned a verdict of accidental death in the case of Mrs. Rose Dedrick, of Oil City, a teacher in the Langeloth public school, near Burgettstown. Mrs. Dedrick's clothing caught fire as she was passing a gas stove, the woman suffering burns which caused her death in a hospital in Pittsburgh.

Charles Donnelly, a victim of pernicious anemia, underwent his forty-ninth blood transfusion Monday in Jefferson hospital, Philadelphia. Donnelly, a former coal miner of Locust Gap, submitted to the first operation in September, 1922, and since then he has had a fresh supply of blood transfused into his veins at intervals of two weeks.

Returning to his home in Scranton after an absence of several weeks, due to a quarrel with his wife, Jerry Walsh, 32 years old, walked into his wife's bedroom and handed her a money bag containing \$170, saying that it was all that he had in the world. He then bade her goodbye and, going to the dining room of the home, ended his life with a bullet.

After they had ransacked the home of Patrick Lynch, of Coatesville, last Friday night and stolen articles of bedding, clothing and a small amount of cash, burglars opened the gas jets on the kitchen range and departed. Fortunately, for the family, an old style quarter meter was in use and the gas was soon exhausted. Two members of the family were slightly affected by the fumes.

Mrs. Donald Charles and her fourteen months old baby were badly burned at Berwick, Monday, when sparks from a passing locomotive set fire to the robes in which the infant was wrapped in his carriage. The baby buggy was parked outside a store near the railroad tracks and the sparks ignited the blanket. The mother rushed out in time to save the child, but was badly burned. The infant was only slightly injured.

With the arrest of Walter Smith and Mrs. Eva Long, a 20 year old blond, both formerly of Williamsport, Pa., now living in Philadelphia, following complaint by two customers in a Market street store that their handbags had been opened and \$32 taken, it was brought out that Smith had left a wife and a 2 day old infant in Williamsport in January, when he induced Mrs. Long to leave there with him. The prisoners were held in \$1000 bail each for court. The police notified the Williamsport authorities of the arrest of the pair.

R. C. Edelstine, a lawyer, residing in Carbon county, was robbed Tuesday night by two bandits to whom he had kindly consented to give a "lift" on the highway above Pottsville. When the strangers departed, Edelstine started his auto, but the car was wrecked in turning a curve and Edelstine was buried beneath it. It was impossible to get his full story after he was taken to the Pottsville hospital, but he alleges that a \$750 diamond ring, \$150 in cash and his watch and chain were taken from him by the bandits. State police are working on the case.

William Decker, a prominent manufacturer of Montgomery, was killed Thursday night when he was caught between the gate of a freight elevator and the top of the doorway in the Montgomery Table and Desk factory. His neck was broken. In addition to his manufacturing interests, he was president of the Montgomery National bank, chairman of the executive committee of Susquehanna University and a director of Dickinson Seminary. The World Sunday School association and the State Sabbath School association. He was quite well known in Centre county.

The \$17,000 Houston National Bank robbery in Washington county in 1916 was recalled last week when Mrs. Julia Dillon, wife of James F. Dillon, one of the robbers, filed suit for a divorce, charging desertion. Dillon was known as a prosperous Chartiers farmer until his arrest in connection with the robbery. Later it was shown that he had escaped from the Colorado penitentiary, while serving a life term. He is now in prison there. Mrs. Dillon, in her suit, claimed she married Dillon in 1915, believing him to be a respectable farmer. He deserted her, she charged, a few days before the bank robbery.

Two masked men, who apparently had hidden in the Penn Traffic Company store at Johnstown, before it closed Saturday night, at four o'clock Sunday morning attacked watchman James A. Skelly, alone at the time, because the other watchman was sick, beat him with the butt end of a revolver, handcuffed and gagged him and placed him in a vault and then proceeded to drill open the money safe on the fourth floor and the jewelry safe on the first floor, securing loot estimated at \$30,000 in cash, checks and jewelry, making their escape without being seen by anybody. The greater part of the loss is covered by burglar insurance.

Arrest of Clarence Welsh, 22 years old, for larceny and highway robbery in Johnstown last Friday may clear up the hold-up of paymaster F. E. Pratt, of Sylvania Hills, Altoona, on October 26. Welsh was picked up following a visit to his home in Ashville, Cambria county, which place he left shortly after the hold-up, and is now in the Cambria county jail. Mr. and Mrs. Pratt were driving to Dexcar mines near Ashville, on the afternoon of October 26, when two men leaped on the running board of their automobile along a lonely stretch of road, ordered the couple to leave the car, then drove off with \$2000 in currency, which made up the payroll.

Al Kline, former Clearfield county treasurer, sustained a double fracture of the jaw in a peculiar accident one day last week. He was walking toward his home in Clearfield and was about to cross a street as a bicycle upon which two boys were riding approached. Seeing its curb rising, he stepped back upon the way to permit the machine to pass when it swerved, and the head of a boy who was riding the handlebars clipped him fairly upon the chin, knocking him to his knees. The boys upon the bicycle were knocked sprawling, but recovered themselves and their vehicle and scampered away. Meanwhile, Mr. Kline was assisted to his home, where it was found necessary to take X-ray pictures of his jaws that showed fractures near the joints on both sides.