

INK SLINGS.

—Loafing is about the hardest job that can be given a person who is accustomed to work.

—Unless the weather gets warm pretty soon the girls won't get any use of their furs at all this summer.

—Old J. Pluvius must be thinking that none of the other gods care to have a hand in weather making any more.

—Congress is kicking our Secretary of the Treasury round like he was only a cow pumpkin and not a good Mellon at all.

—Of course there are a lot of people who think Congress should be abolished, but they comprise only those who think they could run the government better than Congress is doing.

—Now that the Senate has refused to report favorably on the Ford offer for Mussel Shoals we presume Henry will revert to his former political attitude of not knowing to what party he belongs.

—We are consumed with curiosity to see what the trout in our out of doors aquarium will do after the borough has diverted the sewage from the portion of Spring creek that they seem to love best.

—Nobody knows who our nominee for President will be but it proves the democracy of Democracy when, with the National convention only a month off, any one of a score of prospects has a fair chance of being made the standard bearer.

—The farm bloc in Congress threatens to keep that body in session until it does something for the farmer. Better let it adjourn and go home because everything it has done for the farmer in the past has only resulted in doing him more.

—The proposed scheme of colony houses for the inmates of the new western penitentiary might work out very well, but it seems to us that the saving in construction as against the old plan of cells-en-bloc will be consumed many times over by salaries for the extra guards that may be required.

—We used to have a lot of "boys will be boys," but very few of them appear to be now. Not one in a dozen of them knows how to provide a little costless, profitable, recreative entertainment for himself. Nine-tenths of the present generation would die of ennui if father didn't provide the machine and the jack for them to race to every cross-roads where there is a jazz band and a bunch of flappers.

—We hope that this fellow Matthews, who says that he has a "diabolical ray" that will make it impossible for any warning airship to approach nearer than fifty miles of any city or camp protected by it, makes good with his invention. In times of peace there are moments when we'd all like to have just a little "diabolical ray" with which to protect ourselves from some airships that don't fly.

—A story to the effect that Japan had declared war on the United States was picked out of the air by several listeners in here on Sunday night. It created considerable excitement, of course, until it was found to have had no basis in fact. Naturally Japan is sore at the way our Congress acted on the exclusion bill, but she isn't going to fight about it—not, at least until she recovers more from the effects of the last scrap she was in and the effects of the earthquake.

—Again there is prospect of the Presbyterians—North and South—getting together. The moderator of the church (South) is going to pay a friendly visit to the General Assembly of the church (North) now sitting in Grand Rapids. The southern Presbyterians have ever been suspicious of the orthodoxy of their northern brethren so we fear that when they get going right on the Fosdick case out at Grand Rapids good Dr. Whaling will hear more modernism than he has even suspected as existing up here.

—Ohio Republican leaders are taking steps to circumvent the effects of the preferential primary system and get back, in a way, to the old party convention manner of selecting candidates. Insofar as insuring the nomination of better men for office the primary can scarcely be regarded as a success. Pennsylvania and Centre county have seen many men nominated at a primary and later elected, whom neither party's convention would have dared to name in the olden days, but when that "Ohio crowd" begins to knock the primary system we begin to feel that maybe it has more of good in it than we have yet discovered.

—Judge Eugene C. Bonniwell, who was defeated for National committee-man, last week, after he had made the election of Bigelow as state chairman possible and in return was practically double crossed by Guffey, has written the new state chairman offering his services in whatever capacity needed "in building up the party organization." The Judge has made similar offers before, only to be forgotten. If he is in earnest this time, and we hope he is, chairman Bigelow will have the assistance of a clever, resourceful and indefatigable political worker. Politics is the meat and drink of the Judge and if his present determination to throw his undeniable strength to the upbuilding of the party holds he will gain friends in many sections where his past activities have been viewed with suspicion.

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Help Our New Chairman.

The new chairman of the Democratic State committee, John H. Bigelow, has already entered upon the duties of his office in a manner which inspires confidence. His selection has the complete approval of every element in the party and driven out whatever discord disturbed the hopes of the voters. It is early to begin active work but Mr. Bigelow realizes that there is much to do and the sooner it is begun the better. The Republican organization is busy all the time. Of course there is a difference between the parties in this matter. The corporations, the special interests and favored individuals contribute freely to the expenses of the Republican machine and cost is no consideration.

But the Democratic organization is invariably and proverbially "hard up" for funds. There is no highly paid army of office holders to draw from for purposes of campaigning by the Democratic party. There are no predatory corporations offering funds in exchange for favors and the Democratic chairman must rely upon voluntary help from men influenced by public spirit and civic enthusiasm. This is an uncertain source of supply and a long campaign is likely to be a lean one. But if properly guided it will prove effective and chairman Bigelow may be relied upon to give the coming campaign for the Democracy of Pennsylvania the right direction. He is able, earnest and true to the cause.

It is up to the Democrats of the State to give our new chairman such cordial and generous support as will encourage him to the sacrifices which he, as a prominent and successful lawyer, must necessarily make to discharge his official obligations. And in this work there should be no delay. Every Democrat in Centre county can render faithful and effective service. Local organization is the first essential to success and every man and woman may help in this necessary work. Begin now and continue without interruption to the end. Centre county is Democratic now, as it has always been when the full strength of the party is brought to the polls, and we sincerely hope it will be this year.

—A German professor claims that the Garden of Eden was near Berlin. That accounts for some of the mischief perpetrated in the Garden.

Political Corruption Invited.

A complaint made by Mayor Curley, of Boston, the other day, addressed to Senator Walsh, of Massachusetts, reveals the reasons why no effort has been made during the present session of Congress to prevent corruption in elections. In order to promote the interests of the Republican machine the Supreme court practically nullified the existing law on the subject in the Newberry case and every effort to strengthen it has since failed. The reason is that the Republican party expects to prolong its power in the government by corrupt means. With predatory corporations and big business given liberty to contribute to the slush fund at will it becomes an easy matter to buy elections.

The Walworth Manufacturing company, of Boston, has issued a circular letter soliciting contributions to the Massachusetts Calvin Coolidge Finance committee, in which a suggestion to violate the law is plainly expressed. "There is no limit to the amount an individual may give to his committee," the circular states. "Large contributions will be so divided up as to give full observance to the requirements of the statutes." In other words, if millionaire Smith contributes in excess of the legal amount part of the amount will be credited to Jones and if a corporation which has been favored in legislation hands over a big roll it will be credited to individuals. Thus the letter of the law is safely evaded.

After the Newberry episode a promise was given that the loopholes in the law through which the corruptionists escaped punishment would be closed. But the promise has been violated. The election of Harding was accomplished by an unexampled orgy of corruption and it is hoped that this result may be repeated in the coming election. The Mellon tax bill was written as a preparation for this and the opposition of the President to the Bursom pension bill and the soldiers' bonus bill was based upon this political expectation. Big business was willing to contribute to the corruption fund a share of the money saved by legislation in its interest, and the party machine provides the way.

—Of course the President will approve the Democratic tax bill. He may not do it cheerfully but he will do it just the same.

—After all the Senator for Massachusetts may be that "lodge in some vast wilderness."

Senator Reed Threatens Reprisals.

Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, proposes drastic punishment of Republican Congressmen who are unwilling to obey the orders of the machine. He declares that he will not only be read out of the party but deprived of the patronage within their respective districts. The attitude of several Pennsylvania Republican Congressmen on the bonus bill was the cause of the Senator's outburst. His youth, inexperience and enthusiasm are probably his justification. In any event, if he carries out his threat he is likely to find himself lonesome in his partisan camp. Most of the Republican Congressmen of the country voted to override the veto of that measure and few if any of them have since expressed regret.

There are substantial reasons for differences of opinion on the wisdom or even expediency of the bonus bill. Secretary of the Treasury Mellon openly declared that it would bankrupt the treasury and President Coolidge reiterated this gloomy prediction in his veto message. If that were true even the admitted public obligation to the veterans would not justify the enactment of the legislation. But Secretary Mellon has guessed so widely of the mark in other estimates of the resources and requirements of the treasury that his opinions may be overlooked, while the President's views on any question are of little consequence. That being true Representatives in Congress might well be guided by their own judgment or influenced by their consciences on that subject.

But Senator Reed seems to have arrogated to himself the office of "keeper of the conscience" of the Republican Congressmen for Pennsylvania. He commenced dabbling in politics four or five years ago and as the late Senator Quay would say was "catapulted" into the Senate as the representative of the Steel trust a little later. His outburst of indignation because some of his "political wards" manifested a spirit of independence may, therefore, be ascribed to adolescence. But it is not likely to advance him far in his aspirations to leadership. It may provoke resentment rather than compliance. That would be bad for a budding boss. It might be even disastrous to an aspiring fledgling.

—The farm bloc in the Senate has raised the big stick. It has served notice that it will not consent to adjournment until the pending legislation in the interest of agriculture is disposed of.

The Road to Oblivion.

It seems that the Executive Mansion at Harrisburg has become a sort of way station on the road to oblivion. In 1915 Martin Brumbaugh arrived there under most promising conditions. A schoolman of high attainments and religious training, he was hailed by the people of Harrisburg as a certain "comer." Flattered by the politicians the Presidential bee soon began buzzing in his bonnet and he went to the National convention of 1916 as a favorite son. But before his term had half ended his popularity began to wane and at the expiration of his tenure he had scarcely a friend in the State.

Every one remembers the eclat in which William F. Sproul began his term as Governor in January, 1918. The public was weary of political Governors and Sproul came as a business man to introduce business methods in the administration. Everybody was happy in the confidence of vast improvement and the new Governor became an idol in popular estimation. As in the case of his predecessor, the Presidential bug came pestering and in playing petty politics he alienated the friends who brought him into favor. Then he organized a campaign of profligacy and at the close of his career was almost as completely down and out as Brumbaugh.

The next traveler on this treacherous highway of expectation was our amusing friend Gifford. He came with promises of reform and the Presidential bug fully developed. Like most professional reformers he guaranteed impossibilities and got away with false pretenses for a time by setting up a smoke screen of mystery. He ran with the hare and chased with the hounds until his frauds were revealed and before a year of his tenure had elapsed he was the most despised public man in the Commonwealth. He bargained with Vore and sang psalms with the church people in turn and finally was dropped by all.

—It is safe to say that President Coolidge will gladly trade a bushel of newspaper fulsomeness for a peck of Congressional support.

—Some idiot has been sending obscene letters to Governor Pinchot. He would better have delivered his message in person.

Pepper Halts Progress Toward Peace.

It is eminently fit that the Senator in Congress who cast his first official vote to retain Senator Newberry, of Michigan, in a purchased seat should intervene in an effort to prevent the United States from taking a place in a world court created for the purpose of preventing future wars and promoting permanent peace. Therefore it is not surprising that Senator George Wharton Pepper should come forward at this time with a hypocritical proposition to substitute a scheme of his own creation for the World Court plan prepared by the late President Harding and Secretary Hughes. His scheme is not quite as absurd as that previously offered by Senator Lodge, but equally impossible of adoption.

The Harding court proposition was not a measure of great merit but it gave evidence of a desire for permanent peace. It proposed to make the government of the United States a member of a tribunal created by the covenant of the League of Nations. It provided for reservations that might not be accepted by the signatories of the court of international justice. But the Pepper plan would require all the fifty-one or two members of that court to abandon a tribunal already successfully functioning in order to join one devised by Senator Pepper and conceived in malice against Woodrow Wilson. It is an enterprise as contemptible as it is malignant in spirit.

Of course Mr. Pepper doesn't expect that his absurd proposition will be adopted by the Senate. He doesn't want it adopted for he doesn't want enduring peace. The transportation corporations and the Steel trust, which control the Senatorial activities, make too much profit out of war to give their consent to any movement which might prevent future wars, and he introduced his measure to prevent the adoption of the Harding plan and thus delay until after the next election any step in the direction of permanent peace. But his hypocritical subterfuge will be of little avail. A Democratic President will put us into the League of Nations, where we belong, and where we will lead the world.

—Senator Carter Glass, of Virginia, declares he is in favor of McAdoo for the Democratic nomination, but it is a safe bet that if the lightning should strike him he wouldn't break.

Bellefonte's Big Trout to be Protected.

Three weeks ago the "Watchman" published an item regarding a request of the State Sanitary Water Board that Bellefonte borough council lay a pipe from the falls down stream to a point under the High High street bridge to carry the sewage discharged from the sewer just below the falls down under the bridge. While there hasn't been a meeting of borough council since the request was made the Sanitary and Water committees have joined in notifying the State board that the pipe will be laid, and the members of the latter have expressed their appreciation of the prompt response of the Bellefonte authorities. The real purpose of the demand is to keep the water as pure as possible in this portion of Spring creek for the big trout which inhabit the stream, and which afford so great an attraction to strangers visiting the town.

—A bulletin issued by the State Department of Agriculture states that farm work is late in all parts of the State. In the southern tier counties the weather has delayed planting two weeks. In the middle belt farmers are three weeks behind and in the northern tier they have been delayed a month with their spring sowing. Most of the oats is in in Centre county and we noticed some farmers planting corn last week, but there is still a lot of corn ground to plow and much of the seeding that has already been done was put out on soil that was too wet to work nicely.

—State highway changes in Centre county include the promotion of county highway superintendent W. J. Carroll to assistant district engineer and the appointment of C. W. Roberts, of Berwyn, as superintendent. Thomas McGovern, of Bellefonte, has been appointed a chairman and Harry H. McClellan, of Milesburg, an assistant inspector.

—The State printing office at Harrisburg is only two years behind time, but so long as the public printer is in the favor of the administration a thing of that kind doesn't matter.

—The fact that the Democratic National convention will sit in New York is unimportant so long as the candidate is not under the shadow of Wall Street.

Big Conservation Meeting at State College Last Week.

Dr. Edwin Earle Sparks, president emeritus of the Pennsylvania State College, was elected president of the Centre County Conservation Association at a meeting held at State College last Friday. Prof. J. A. Ferguson was chosen secretary and Charles B. Steel treasurer, all other officers being re-elected. The officers elected will hold their positions temporarily until a general conservation meeting can be held when a permanent organization will be perfected. It is hoped that all parts of the county will be represented at the next meeting.

There are now fourteen organizations enrolled in the new Conservation Council, which is to be a federation of all organizations in the county interested in conservation. The State Conservation council includes not only the large sportsmen's organizations but the State Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania State Grange, Federation of Pennsylvania Women, Audubon societies and botanical associations. Two new committees were formed in the State Council meeting, one on farming and one on civics. The Centre county Council should include not only hunting and fishing clubs, although the members of these organizations are usually the most active in conservation work, but also local Granges, Chambers of Commerce, Women's clubs, etc.

There are now nine organizations affiliated with the Centre County Conservation Council. The dues for each organization are \$2.00 a year. All members of the organizations become automatically members of the association. A series of conservation meetings will be held next fall in different parts of the county, as a means of effecting a strong Council that will knit together all agencies looking for the betterment of conditions in this section of the State.

MEETING OF STATE COUNCIL.

At the annual meeting of the State Council, also held at State College on Friday, officers were elected as follows: President, Dr. Henry S. Drinkwater, Merion Station, president emeritus Lehigh University, past president American Forestry Association and president of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association; first vice president, William W. Evans, Bloomsburg; second vice president, John M. Phillips, Pittsburgh; third vice president, Fred Brenkman, Harrisburg, secretary of the State Grange; secretary, S. N. Keefe, Philadelphia, and treasurer, Major M. I. McCreight, DuBois.

The following were elected chairmen of the following committees: Forestry, J. A. Ferguson, State College; fish, J. Q. Creveling, Wilkes-Barre; birds, Mrs. H. F. Coffin, Scranton; wild flowers, Dr. E. M. Gress, Harrisburg; education, Dr. J. George Becht, Harrisburg, and Walter L. M. Otto, Williamsport. The Council went on record as approving a bond issue of \$25,000,000 for the purchase of State forest lands, and favored legislation to curb the indiscriminate use of Christmas trees. The game committee recommended that no change be made in the present game laws at the next session of the Legislature. A civic committee was created to consider particularly the billboard nuisance along highways. The employment of a special publicity director was also advocated.

Sixty-five Plus.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. When Auditor General Samuel S. Lewis announced the other day that the State revenue for the first half of the present biennium had gone beyond \$65,000,000 he was not only able to substantiate claims made by him, and which some folk doubted, but to indicate that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is getting along very well on its ordinary sources of income. Mr. Lewis did some predicting last spring about this time which in the excitement of the legislative session was not very closely followed, but it came true within a few months and now he has made good on another financial forecast.

In view of these facts it is worthwhile observing that when Mr. Lewis said he did not think the State would need the emergency taxes after the slate was cleaned next year he probably knew what he was talking about. And yet there are reports a responsible State official recently said in an address to a State body that in spite of economy measures there would be some millions needed beyond what the present normal taxes would produce.

Sixty-five million dollars ought to be a pretty fair sum to travel on as a yearly income, especially when it is a fair assumption that the natural growth of business will bring increases and the construction of roads is cared for by a bond issue. Why the emergency taxes should be continued or new ones levied to take their place is hard to understand when we read about \$65,000,000 plus.

—Having been appointed vice-moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly it is to be hoped Mr. Bryan will direct all his activities to religious discussions in the future.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—A jury at Greensburg acquitted William Hinton of wife murder after deliberating 149 hours.

—John Quinn, of Johnstown, has brought suit against Allison Pringle, of Ferndale, to recover \$20,000 damages for injuries sustained when Pringle is alleged to have run into and injured Quinn, in his automobile.

—Every house in Hazleton and West Hazleton, about 6500 dwellings, will be visited on June 1st by the Boy Scouts to deliver free fly swatters and State Health Department literature urging that flies be combated in the interest of baby welfare and general health.

—Beryl Sparr, 8 month-old daughter of Harry Sparr, of Temple, died in the hospital at Reading as the result of inhaling talcum powder. While playing with a box of powder she inhaled a large quantity, congestion of the lungs followed and pneumonia developed.

—A verdict of \$4000 in favor of Charles W. Steese, of Millinburg, against Millinburg borough was returned by a Union county jury for damage sustained by water being diverted from the head of his dam for the operation of the town's hydro-electric plant. One thousand dollars of the verdict was for accrued interest on the amount of alleged loss.

—The body of George W. Reed Jr., aged 27 years, of Danville, missing since May 10, when he went to Scranton to work with a repair crew for the Bell Telephone company, was taken to his parents' home in that city and buried on Sunday. It was found early Saturday morning in a creek near Scranton. The man was a veteran of the world war. It is thought he ended his own life.

—Very considerate were two highwaymen who last Friday night held up J. Z. Born, an Altoona furniture agent, just after he put his automobile away. With his hands in the air, they carefully examined and replaced papers taken from his pocket. Then they took \$9, looked at his watch to see what time it was, replaced the watch in his pocket and told him not to look back.

—A thief stole the corner stone of the Mount Zion Methodist church, about three miles from Stroudsburg, and destroyed it after extracting \$17 in gold and silver coins. The coins, with a list of donors, papers and other valuable documents were put into the stone in 1890. Charles Hellett, one of the oldest inhabitants, recalls the laying of the stone. It was found in a thicket, broken open.

—James Lewis, of Milton, Pa., who describes himself as a home-loving man, has written to Mayor E. S. Hugentugler, of York, asking his aid in getting a wife. The letter contained a \$1 bill, and a promise of \$5 more if the executive succeeds in finding the proper helpmate for the Milton writer. Lewis wants a wife between 35 and 40 years old, and says he has a nice home, too, for her.

—More than 10,000 of the 100,000 licensed hunters who have filed reports for the 1923 hunting season with the Board of Game Commissioners killed no game of any kind. It is estimated approximately 400,000 reports remain to be filed by June 1st, for the time for filing. Seth E. Gordon, secretary of the commission has announced the board will consider county closing petitions at its June meeting.

—A verdict of \$75,000, one of the largest ever made in Philadelphia for personal injuries was awarded Nathan Lerner last Thursday by a jury in Common Pleas court. The suit was brought against the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company for damages in a trolley accident as a result of which the plaintiff was said to have become insane. Physicians testified that he would never regain his mental faculties.

—Shortly after 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon Mrs. Alice Fitzgerald, of Williamsport, was admitted to the hospital in that city, burned from head to foot so severely that the skin peeled off when touched. She was ironing clothes when a quantity of gasoline ignited and set fire to her clothing. She ran out of the house before she could be reached and was so severely burned her recovery is extremely doubtful.

—Sophia Bilkiewicz and Joe Somake, of Philadelphia, went to Pittsburgh last week to get married. While the arrangements were being made, they went to a Mulberry Way boarding house, where, according to the woman, Somake suggested that she place \$1400, her life savings, under her pillow. He volunteered to watch it. When Sophia arose on Saturday morning, she told the police, Somake was not to be found and the \$1400 was missing.

—Fred S. Winter, of Williamsport, was attacked and gored by a bull Saturday while he was attempting to tie the animal in its stall in his father's barn, near Montoursville. Both collar bones were broken, both shoulders dislocated and several ribs fractured. The bull knocked him down and rolled him into a corner where he was helpless. His father heard his cries and drove the animal off. The injured man could not be taken to the hospital because of his condition.

—A contract for more than \$1,000,000 for the electrification equipment of a new steel mill being built at Pittsburgh by the Carnegie Steel company has been awarded the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company. The awarding of the contract was in line with the company's recent announcement of its plan to dismantle three of its older structural mills operated by steam-drive and replace them with two electrified mills. The company in its announcement termed steam-drive in steel mills as obsolete.

—Marko Lacoovich, 35 years of age, was shot and killed at the home of George Derich, in Claysburg, Blair county, with whom he boarded, on Sunday night, and the state police are looking for Joseph Flynn, colored, who disappeared after the shooting. Lacoovich and Flynn had an argument over the use of English a short time before, which ended in an exchange of blows. Flynn left the home, while Lacoovich was washing the blood off his face, some one came to the door and shot him, and Flynn is suspected of having committed the crime.

—Stanley Cole, of Watrous, is the champion rodless, lineless and baitless fisherman of the northern tier of counties. Standing on the bank of a branch of Pine creek, in Tioga county, Cole watched a big fish hawk circle over the stream and as it dived to the water he gave a terrific yell, at the same time throwing a stone which hit the water just as the hawk seized the fish. In its fright the bird flew directly at Cole and dropped the fish at his feet. An examination of the trout disclosed three deep holes in its back, placed there by the hawk talons.