

INK SLINGS.

Cheer up! There's going to be lots of sunshine to bring the garden and farm products along.

If Congress adjourns tomorrow that'll be that much, at least, by way of getting back to normal.

The impending contest seems to be between President Coolidge and the leaders of his party in Congress.

If winter lingers much longer in the lap of spring we see the bottom of the coal pile we laid in for next winter.

Mr. Vare has had a conference with the President and possibly he has been entrusted with the "Message to Garcia."

If Gen. Dawes should accept the second place on the Coolidge ticket "silent Cal" won't need to say a word. "Hell'n Maria" will do it all.

Those Chicago youth who thought it was no worse for them to murder a fourteen year old boy than it is for a scientist to impale a beetle on a needle are the kind of philosophers that the world is better without.

We'd squeal like a stuck pig at this five mill raise in the tax rate in Bellefonte, if we were not afraid council might forget to devote part of it to fixing up poor, neglected Spring street—and maybe it will at that.

Senator Borah has declined to be the Coolidge running mate; a perfectly natural decision for the stormy petrel from Idaho to have come to. In many respects Borah is a bigger man than Coolidge can ever hope to be. In fact so big that he can't afford to be tail to a kite that will land him on a political shelf.

We are not surprised that Frank Tinney, superb blackface comedian has gotten himself into trouble. His Follies sketch, some years ago, when he was night clerk, porter and telephone operator in an apartment house, revealed that Frank knew far too much about the "Primrose Path" and the "Persian Kittens."

Of the ten minerals that produce the greatest value in the United States most people would say gold is first. Most people would say that because most people always know the least. Gold is tenth in the list. What really surprised us is the discovery that the products of clay are fourth and even sand and stone are ahead of gold and silver in creative values.

My, how times have changed. It seems only yesterday that the village lamp posts were ornamented with souses. Now Kiwanis is going to decorate them with hanging flower baskets. Wouldn't it be nice if Kiwanis would devote one basket to rye, one to corn and one to hops. To the eye the effect might not be so beautiful, but to the memory: Oh, what a sight! When many pass by.

Several months ago when Georges Carpentier announced that he was coming back to America to fight we any stated that it was the dollar not any title that the Frenchman was after. He got seventy-thousand at Michigan City last Saturday and a good beatin', besides, at the hands of Tom Gibbons. Georges, no doubt, is a philosopher of the Bill Hollenback school. It was Bill who told us, some years ago, when he was figuring on the commercial side of becoming "the white hope" that "it's a damned poor carcass that can't take a good beatin' once in a while."

The high court of the Protestant Episcopal church has adjudged the Rt. Rev. William Montgomery Brown, retired Bishop of Arkansas, a heretic. Pretty tough for the Bishop, but when he tries to make the world believe that there is no place for the New Jerusalem except somewhere in space that would take millions of years to reach, even if his statement were true—he seems to be forgetting that millions of years, as related to eternity, are infinitesimal. Our vote's agin the Bishop, too. It matters little to us where the New Jerusalem is, or how long it is going to take to get there. All we want is the pass.

We learn from a report in another column of this issue that the W. C. T. U. has appointed a committee to interrogate Wm. H. Noll Jr. for the purpose of ascertaining whether he is a fit man to represent Centre county in the next session of the Assembly of Pennsylvania, which means: If he is not he isn't fit, and if he is dry he is. Now isn't that a helluaway for a lot of sane people to measure the ability of a man to represent them on the thousand and one questions that are to arise in the next session of the Legislature? Mr. Noll should commit himself to law enforcement, but if he goes any further than that: Well, he won't do it, that's all.

President Coolidge must be given credit for declining to soft pedal or mince words when he has anything to say. His Memorial day address at Arlington wasn't a classic, but it voiced the spirit of a courageous man. When he said: "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain," he was serving notice on the Senate, in general, and Lodge and Pepper, in particular, that he "is one of those who believe we would be safer, and that we would be meeting our duties better by supporting" a World Court under the protocol of the League of Nations. He is going to write his own platform and run the convention in which he is already nominated. The President has nothing to thank the Senatorial oligarchy for and he is to be admired for telling it so in language into which only one meaning can be read.

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Democratic Tax Bill Approved.

President Coolidge has approved the Democratic tax bill with apologies to the disappointed corporations, war profiteers and multi-millionaires who are expected to supply the slush fund for the impending Presidential campaign. In a statement accompanying the return of the measure he declares that he is influenced to approval by the fact that the Democratic bill is an improvement on the existing law in that it reduces taxation to some extent. But in his estimation it fails to reform the tax system of the country because the decreases are on small incomes instead of the larger ones. He extends hope to the "big bugs," however, in an assurance that if he is elected next fall he will serve them.

The President still clings to the illusion that taxation of big incomes drives capital away from industrial enterprises and into tax-exempt securities, which in turn increases the burdens on individuals for State purposes. Senator Couzens, of Michigan, a multi-millionaire, completely refuted this false pretense months ago and practically drove it out of the oratory of the Senate. He proved that there is abundance of capital ready and willing to meet the demands of industrial enterprise and that tax free securities are justified because of advantages they give in municipal improvements and progress. But it seems that his reasoning has failed to reach the brain of the accident in the White House.

Possibly the tax bill enacted by Congress and reluctantly approved by the President falls short of perfection. It leaves a too heavy burden upon the people. The fault is not in the income tax schedules, however. It lies in the taxes that keep the cost of living at an altitude which is intolerable if not actually confiscatory. The tariff tax law which takes from the people four or five billion dollars annually to produce revenues of less than one billion will be the point of attack in future efforts at tax revision, and immediately after the inauguration of a Democratic President next March this reform movement will be set in motion. No slush fund will be able to prevent this result.

Coolidge frankly admits that he doesn't like the Democratic tax bill but the action of Congress on the bonus bill admonished him against using the veto power.

Daugherty Inquiry Ended.

The promise comes from Washington that the Daugherty probe will end this week, probably today, as Congress expects to adjourn tomorrow. It has been a long drawn out inquisition but worth the time and money expended. It has revealed a rotten mess and developed a dangerous condition of affairs. It has resulted in the complete exposure of the iniquities practiced by the "Columbus crowd" and made the reorganization of such a conspiracy of crime utterly impossible for a generation at least, and probably for all time. With the passage of Daugherty and his bunch of crooks the employment of government agencies to protect crime will end. That is a great achievement.

The evidence taken during this inquiry has proved beyond the shadow of doubt that during the period since the inauguration of President Harding the Department of Justice at Washington has been a criminal conspiracy to loot the public in order to enrich a group of political pirates. The laws have been violated not only in the matter of speculating in permits to release whiskey but in every other thing that held out the hope of yielding profits to the gang. The machinery of the Department has been prostituted to frame up charges against innocent men and protect criminals in nefarious enterprises. It may be that Daugherty was not alone to blame for the conditions, but he was the principal.

There was some lofty juggling with facts in the testimony taken by the committee but that was a natural consequence of environment. In fulfillment of his plans Mr. Daugherty had grouped about him an assortment of crooks, each of whom was bent upon his own gain, and in the quarrels which ensued bitter enmities were created. Some of these former employees of the department may have carried these enmities into the witness box and colored their statements more or less. But setting the evidence of such witnesses aside there was enough left to convict Harry M. Daugherty of every charge brought against him and envelope his administration of the office in an atmosphere of crime.

For the first time in a quarter of a century Senator Lodge will be an unimportant figure in a Republican National convention.

In this moist weather there is no necessity for getting up early to catch bait.

Coolidge Rebukes Lodge and Pepper.

In his speech at the Arlington cemetery, on Memorial day, President Coolidge served notice on Senator Pepper, Senator Lodge and the other "bitter-enders" in the Senate, that however much they pretend to be leaders of the Republican party they do not represent him as Republican President or as candidate of the Republican party for President. It was not a suitable occasion for political discussion or declaration but it afforded him opportunity, nevertheless, to express his opinion as to the paramount issue of the coming campaign and to indicate that the Senators in question are following a wrong line. They may represent themselves and a fraction of their party but they don't represent Coolidge.

Senator Lodge has expressed his opposition to the Harding proposal of entrance into the permanent court of international justice created by the covenant of the League of Nations in an absurd substitute which was literally ridiculed out of existence. Senator Pepper followed with a scheme equally vicious, the purpose of both being to antagonize the League of Nations. The Pepper proposition has been adopted by the Senate committee and is now on the calendar, not for passage but to fool the public. Referring to these makeshifts President Coolidge said: "More than a year ago President Harding proposed that the Senate should authorize our adherence to the protocol of the permanent court of international justice. His suggestion has already had my approval. On that I stand."

In other words he condemns the subterfuges offered by Lodge and Pepper for the reason that they express a purpose to avoid obligations we owe the world. He is not impressed with the arguments of these politicians. "I am one of those who believe we would be safer," he continued, "and that we would be meeting our duties better by supporting it and making every possible use of it. I feel confident that such action would make a greater America; that it would be productive of higher and finer national spirit and of a more complete national life." This is a frank as well as an emphatic rebuke to Lodge and Pepper and a gratifying sign of a tendency toward the ultimate entrance into the League of Nations.

The statements of the A. M. E. Bishops, recently in session, "we cannot forever vote for a party because of its past history," implies a graver danger to the Republican party than any other recent declaration.

Pepper's Moral Measure.

In an article recently written by George Wharton Pepper and published in Collier's the moral measure of the senior Senator for Pennsylvania is clearly revealed. In the beginning he says that "the political party that develops and elects such a man as Calvin Coolidge has the strongest claim on public confidence." Having thus set an hypothesis he cites "the sins of Forbes, the weakness of Fall, and the impaired confidence in Daugherty" as unimportant incidents in the life of the party which may be overlooked because of the superb character and record of Mr. Coolidge.

He admits that the weakness of Secretary Fall "verged on crime," and that the appointment of Daugherty was "a blunder." The weakness of Mr. Fall resulted in the sacrifice of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of property in the oil reserves of the country and a perfidious betrayal of the government to feed the cupidity of a crook. The blunder in the appointment of Daugherty resulted in the prostitution of the police power of the government to protect criminals in office and frame up charges against honest and innocent men for no other reason than that they were striving to expose and force out of office a gang of thieves who were looting the government.

All the time that these criminal conspirators were operating Calvin Coolidge was closely affiliated with them and if he was not cognizant of their operations it was because he was too stupid to understand obvious facts. Even after they were exposed he held them in his confidence and retained them in his official family until an aroused popular indignation compelled him to order them out. It is true that he has taken steps for the recovery of the stolen property but not until after it became necessary to save himself from public condemnation as an accomplice in their crimes.

Former Governor Sproul is going to the convention at Cleveland in the hope, probably, of creating an alibi against the charge that he is a dead one.

We are curious to know why 60,000 Canadians are going to Europe this summer. The Volstead law is not in force in Canada.

Pinchot and the Convention.

According to current gossip in official circles in Harrisburg, Governor Gifford Pinchot and Cornelia Brice Pinchot, his wife, are making elaborate preparations to attend the Republican National convention at Cleveland next week. They will not travel on the "official" train which Chairman Baker, in collaboration with General Atterberry, is taking so much pains to make up. Neither will they sit with the delegation in the convention nor share in the confidences of the hotel headquarters. But they may get a lot of fun and a good deal of satisfaction out of their presence in Cleveland among the highfliers. As a song writer says, "a bed bug has no wings at all, but he gets there just the same."

It may safely be predicted that Gifford and Cornelia are not going to Cleveland at the considerable expense the journey will involve for their health. It is almost as certain that they are not going for the purpose of boosting the ambitions of Andy Mellon's particular friend, Calvin Coolidge. The scenery on the lakeside is lovely but they are not influenced by aesthetic considerations in making this trip to Cleveland. It might be that they are going to Cleveland to help Mr. Mellon dispose of some of the accumulated product of his several distilleries, for it is suspected that there will be a strong demand for such goods among the prohibitionists assembled to nominate a Prohibitionist for President.

Of course all conjecture on this subject is purely speculative. Gifford and Cornelia may be going to Cleveland at the convention time because there are likely to be a good many others there who share their views upon the wisdom of nominating for President a man who has been intimately related in an official way with such political "mavericks" as Harry Daugherty, Albert Fall, Harry Sinclair, Jess Smith, Doheny, McLean and Burns. Senator Couzens, Senator Johnson, Senator LaFollette, Senator Norris and hosts of others who entertain opinions on politics similar to their own may be there, and it would afford Gifford and Cornelia genuine pleasure to pour into their ears tales of perfidy in Pennsylvania.

Giff may not sit in the convention but if Cornelia is admitted to the councils of the female contingent in Cleveland "we may be happy yet, you bet."

John Saxton, of Unionville, Given Medal for Heroism.

John W. Saxton, the well known Tyrone division operator at Unionville, proved himself a hero at his tower on the 8th of last June, when he snatched a two-year old child from death in the face of the fast approaching Lehigh express at the risk of his own life and limb, and was one of the twenty-seven Pennsylvania railroad system employees to be presented with the performance of extraordinary acts of valor, by president Samuel Rea, at Broad Street station, on Wednesday of last week.

The medal, which is of bronze, is 2 1/2 inches in diameter. On the face of it there is a reproduction of the largest type passenger engine now in service. Under this are the words, "All honor attend you in your valor!" On the reverse side is a large keystone encircled by a laurel wreath. The keystone contains a facsimile of the official seal of the Pennsylvania Railroad company, above which has been inserted the name of the employee to whom the medal is awarded, as well as the date on which the heroic service was performed.

The facts of Saxton's heroic act bear repetition at this time: He heard the Lehigh whistle for the crossing at Unionville station, and at the same time saw little Andrew Jackson Robinson, son of John Robinson, track foreman at Unionville, tumble up on the track and stop. He realized that it was too late to pull the board on the engineer, so he rushed from the tower and snatched little John off the track just a fraction of a second before the heavy express thundered by. It was a deed of pure, unadulterated heroism, and Saxton richly deserves the great honor that has been bestowed upon him.

The Port Allegheny Reporter celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last week by publishing a souvenir edition of fifty pages that would have done credit to a metropolitan newspaper. When the paper was started in 1874 Port Allegheny was a town of only two hundred inhabitants but it has grown to be one of the best towns in McKean county.

In trying to laugh off the LaFollette third party threat esteemed Republican contemporaries are simply revealing their mortal fears.

Subscribe for the "Watchman."

The Augean Stable.

From the Philadelphia Record. As Mr. Coolidge is about as far removed as possible from a Hercules, it is going to take more than one day to clean out the Department of Justice, and it has taken an immense amount of Democratic prodding to get the President to do anything at all.

Gaston B. Means was used by the Department of Justice until very recently as an "investigator," and under the late management of the department the difference between an "investigator" and a blackmailer or a spy is not so very great. Now the department is prosecuting its own agent, and a New York lawyer named Todd has been appointed a special Assistant Attorney General to conduct the prosecution.

Todd says Means is a crook, and he can "nail" him for telling that "fairy story" about being robbed of his note-books by agents of the department. It is an inspiring spectacle to see the department prosecuting one of its own agents as soon as he begins to read from the little black books what miscellaneous information he has picked up about Harry Daugherty and other persons now or recently drawing salaries from the department. Is Means being prosecuted because he is telling too much about Daugherty and others?

And as to the theft of the note books, Mr. Todd says there was no such incident. But Duckstein has testified that he saw his wife, who is a special agent of the department, identify these note books which had been obtained from Means by agents of the department. Is Means to be destroyed to save some fragment of the reputation of Harry Daugherty and his friends? And if Todd can prove Means to be a crook, how does it happen that for a considerable period he was doing "investigation" for Mr. Daugherty and his subordinates?

When Senator Wheeler was investigating the Department of Justice, Burns, who has followed Daugherty into private life, sent three agents to Montana to find something that would discredit Mr. Wheeler, and the information collected by the three agents of the department was submitted by a District Attorney whom Daugherty had picked out, and who had sought in vain the help of Senator Wheeler in getting a Judgeship, to a grand jury the foreman of which was the principal political antagonist of Senator Wheeler. The result was an indictment of Mr. Wheeler. But a committee of the Senate has investigated the case and has given the Senator a clean bill of health. The only dissenting voice in the committee was that of Mr. Sterling; and after the matter had been debated at some length the Senate voted 56 to 5 that there was no truth in the stories of the agents of the department upon which the indictment rested. This is equivalent to a declaration of the Senate by a vote of 56 to 5 that the special agents of the department and the Montana grand jury, or the District Attorney, or both of them, had brought a false criminal charge against Senator Wheeler in the hope of stopping the investigation of the Department of Justice.

The President has tardily and reluctantly changed the head of the department.

Back on the Main Track.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Gifford Pinchot has been doing much traveling and speaking recently. In the main, his utterances have been a distinct contribution. He is apparently on the main track at last. He is saying the things he should have been saying a year ago. Having apparently given up all idea of riding into power on a prohibition law enforcement program, he is talking about the things that lie close to his heart—things concerning which he can speak as an expert.

Governor Pinchot, during his visit to the Middle West, advocated the construction of inland water ways and the pooling of electric power. Those are two subjects of paramount importance.

A Half Cent Will Do It.

From the Pennsylvania Farmer. The soldiers' bonus bill has become a law, having been passed by both Houses of Congress over the veto of President Coolidge. The next thing is to raise the money. The war profiteers should be made to foot the bill. Unfortunately, there is no way to get the cash from them, so it is up to the taxpayer. It is estimated that more than 2,000 millions of dollars will be required to carry out the provisions of the bonus act. That looks like a pretty big load, but we can shoulder our share more philosophically when we consider that a half cent out of each dollar we spend for luxuries will pay it all during the twenty-year period fixed by the new law.

"Spying is Dirty Work."

From the New Republic. Spying is dirty work. Decent men usually will not enter it, and it debauches them when they do. Its results are always of questionable value and never justify the use of such huge sums, ranging into millions, as are now being spent for detective operations by the treasury, the post-office and the department of justice. With Burns out of the way, we now have the right to hope and to demand that the whole sorry crew of wire-tappers, keyhole watchers, letter stealers and gossip collectors will be dumped out as well.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Joseph A. Campbell, of Danville, fell dead a few feet from his wife's grave while making his annual pilgrimage to decorate the grave on Memorial day. Two neighbors saw the aged man, clamping a spray of flowers, fall, and rushed to his assistance, but he was dead when they reached the spot. He was aged 84 years.

Julia Baker, 4 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George G. Baker, of Lewis-town, fell twenty-five feet off a fire escape at the National apartments, on Saturday and escaped serious injury. She has a bruised leg and hip and is confined to her bed. During her mother's absence she wandered to the fire escape through a third story window.

William Fitz was attacked by his German police dog at his home in Gilberton, Schuylkill county, on Thursday and badly torn about the face and body. It was not until Fitz lay down upon the ground feigning death that the dog desisted from his savage attacks. The dog was brought home by Fitz from Germany at the close of the world war.

The congregation of the St. John's Lutheran church in McCandless township, Allegheny county, discovered on Sunday that vandals had stripped the church bare of furnishings when they arrived for the morning service. The only rug remaining was the one under the piano. A violin placed upon the piano at the conclusion of last Sunday's services, was among the articles stolen.

Lester, aged eight years, and Woodrow, aged 7, sons of Willis Hoke, were drowned in Wildwood Lake, near Harrisburg, on Friday, when the former attempted to rescue his brother, who had stepped into a deep hole while trying to catch a minnow with his hands. Seeing his brother in trouble, Lester tried to reach him, and stepped into the hole. Neither boy was able to swim.

Plans are nearing completion for the annual State encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Wilkes-Barre the early part of June. The money needed to defray the expenses of the gathering has been raised through committees of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, which assumed charge of the preliminary arrangements at the request of the Wilkes-Barre post of the G. A. R.

Harold Howard, 21 years old, employed as a shooter by the American glycerine company, at Bradford, of which his father, William M. Howard, is manager, was blown to atoms when eighty quarts of nitro glycerine on a truck he was driving to West Branch, exploded. Only minute pieces of the body and of the automobile truck were found after the explosion, which rocked the countryside for miles around.

After confessing to the Lancaster police on Saturday night that he had robbed John Moore, proprietor of the Exchange Hotel, in the city, of about \$1,500 in bills and checks, Patrick Devlin, 21 years old, told them to look into the waste paper basket to find the money. The basket had been emptied into a pile of rubbish in the station house yard and a stray hound had slept there the early part of the day, but in the center of the heap of paper were found \$600 in bills and additional checks.

Twenty-two years ago, away back in 1902, Jewett Dyer, a Wilkes-Barre business man, had a gold watch stolen from him in Baltimore. The watch was valued at \$200. He reported the theft to the police, but never heard of it again. Recently he received a letter through the Wilkes-Barre police from the chief of police in Baltimore, saying that he had recovered his watch and asking him to identify it. Dyer did so and has become an enthusiastic booster for all police departments and their efficiency.

A heavy production of gas in a new shallow field near Eldersville, Hanover township, Washington county, has caused a rush for leases and general excitement among oil and gas producers. The gas, gushing at the rate of 1,500,000 feet per day, was struck on the farm of Mrs. Mary Lockhart, in the salt sand. The strike was unexpected, and the drillers were unprepared. Tools were blown from the casing. The flow was finally placed under control. Deeper drilling is expected to increase the production.

A fire that destroyed two barns at Bloomsburg early on Saturday was the direct cause of the death of Mrs. W. J. Shutt, one of the town's best-known women, and serious injury to Harry Johnson. Seeing the flames from her bedroom window, Mrs. Shutt awakened her husband and collapsed, dying before a doctor could reach her. Shock and excitement were said to have induced a heart attack. Johnson, owner of the burned barns and of a brooder house in which the fire started, was badly burned attempting to save a neighbor's automobile.

Entering the home of Bert Anderson, at West Pittston early on Saturday morning shortly after Anderson had gone to his work as a railroad engineer, a burglar completely ransacked the house, visiting every room except one in which Mrs. Anderson barricaded herself and two children. The prowler remained for fully three hours while the mother and children remained in their place of refuge. Finally gathering up courage the woman opened a second-story window, slid down a rain pipe to the ground and summoned aid, but the intruder had fled. Nothing of value was taken.

To begin work as an apprentice in the foundry of Slaymaker & Durkee, at York, Pa., June 1, 1882, and to retire as superintendent of the same foundry, now Eyster & Weiser, June 1, 1924, thus completing 72 years of service, is the record established by John Strickler, who was 84 years old on Sunday. On the day he became 12 years of age he began his career and has been ill but twice, once about 12 years ago, and he now is recovering from an attack of pneumonia which has confined him to his home for the past several weeks. In 1861 he served in the Union army for three months. This was his longest time away from the foundry.

Mrs. Charles Frederick, of Millburg, plaintiff in the case of Frederick vs. Pennsylvania Railroad company, in which damages were sought for the death of Mrs. Frederick's husband in a grade crossing accident last fall, was awarded a verdict of \$1,200 in the Union county court after the case had been on trial two weeks. Frederick was killed with Dr. O. K. Pellman, also of Millburg, in whose automobile he was riding. The train demolished the car on a crossing near Millburg. Negotiation to settle the case out of court were said to have been ignored by the widow of Frederick, who, it was said, was offered \$3,500 by the Pennsylvania company before suit was filed.