

INK SLINGS.

—It is August 1st and but fifty-one days of summer remain.

—Keeping Coolidge cool is going to be some job with LaFollette making it so hot for him.

—The "round the world" flyers will soon be home to tell the rest of us what good was accomplished by their hazardous enterprise.

—Former Secretary of the Interior Fall and ex-Attorney General Daugherty are alike opposed to Davis because he is a corporation lawyer.

—Let us hope that Patten, the wheat speculator, knows what he was talking about when he predicted a price of two dollars a bushel before fall.

—Not having heard anything from them for so long Gifford and Cornelia must have acted on the mandate of the recent primaries to go 'way back and sit down.

—The principal cause of increase in the number of divorces being granted is that too many young folks don't think seriously of marriage until weeks after the knot has been tied.

—The movement of the association against the Volstead act to put all enforcement officers in a distinctive uniform is only another step toward making the way of the bootlegger easier.

—The longer Persia delays making full reparation for the murder of Consul Imbrie the nearer she gets to the position of lying across Uncle Sam's knee with a good, strong hand spanking her.

—The fishing season over we presume there'll come an itch in our palm for a golf stick. Isn't it true? There is always something turning up to make work the thing a fellow wants to do everything but?

—Mayor Kendrick seems to be weakening a bit in his support of Gen. Smedley Butler. The mayor is not wobbling much, but quite enough to give hope to the politicians that they'll "get" "the Fighting Marine" ere long.

—We thought the Flanders Fields were scenes of carnage, and so they were, but twice as many of our people were killed on our own highways, during the last eighteen months, as fell before German guns during the entire period of our participation in the war.

—Thank Heaven, if Centre county is to have a murder trial that might result in a first degree verdict, that there is a place to carry out the mandate of the law other than the county jail yard. And no opportunity for the morbid to make a holiday out of the gruesome spectacle.

—Taxation for the support of the federal government has jumped three hundred and eighty per cent. in the last ten years. One in every twelve workers in the country is on a federal, State or county pay roll and gradually the burden of government is becoming a serious menace to future prosperity.

—The Chicago millionaire youths, Loeb and Leopold, may be thieves and liars, and so mentally abnormal that they are all head and no heart, but they are murderers, just the same. They had the heads to conceive the most diabolical crime that police records and such heads are better off than on.

—No attempt is being made by the opposition to deny that John W. Davis is a great, strong, clean candidate. His record in his profession, in diplomatic work, in business, seldom equalled, is such as to make attack on his ability ridiculous. He is the one candidate of the three who offers the country hope for things it needs most now.

—On the twenty-second of this month Mars will be nearer Earth than she will be again in five centuries. Instead of being her usual distance of from one to two hundred million miles away she will be only thirty-five million miles off on that date. In all probability telescopes all over the world will be searching for Marsians and radio fans will be trying to entertain them—if there are any—with jazz.

—Senator Lodge is ill. Dangerously ill. The many specialists who have been called to consult at the bedside of the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts are at variance as to whether it is his bladder or his gall that is causing the trouble. We all know that Henry's gall has worked over-time for years and exhaustion is natural in a man of seventy-four, but it isn't his bladder or his gall that specialists should look to for the seat of his trouble. It's his exaggerated ego. That's what helped kill Woodrow Wilson and that's what Henry Cabot Lodge is suffering with now in Charlesgate hospital, Boston.

—These are the nights that John Laird Holmes, mayor and "notorious republican" of State College, should be devoting to solitaire. He should brush up in the game because he is the only candidate we have heard of who is pledged to support the policies of Gifford and Cornelia. He started out on a "trust me" platform, but when confronted by the grand inquisition he wilted like the San Jose scale had attacked him, but promised enough at least to secure the announcement that: "Holmes is all right." Of course Laird is all right as a pussy-footer, but Centre county wants a Representative in the Legislature to represent it and not the gentleman and lady who have a temporary residence in Millford, Pike county.

Democrats Need Not Worry.

When Republicans profess or pretend that they are pleased because LaFollette is a candidate for President, they are "whistling to keep up courage." The basis for such pretense is that the independent candidate will draw more from the Democratic ranks than from the Republican force. That is simply absurd. Even the wildest conjecture would not venture to believe that LaFollette will get a single electoral vote which in the absence of his candidacy would go to Davis. Mr. LaFollette may get a good many votes in States of large population but that will not impair the strength of Mr. Davis in the electoral college. For example, if he got half the Democratic vote in Pennsylvania they wouldn't hurt Davis.

Mr. LaFollette will carry Wisconsin, but in 1920 that State gave Harding a majority of 305,154. He will probably carry Minnesota, which four years ago gave Harding a majority of 466,427. He is likely to carry North Dakota, which gave Harding 121,650, and South Dakota, which gave Harding 74,654 in 1920. It is possible, though not probable, that he will carry Iowa, which in 1920 gave Harding 406,753 majority, and Montana, where Harding had a majority of 52,058. All the electoral strength of these six States would be drawn from the Republican candidate and that without preventing the election of the Democratic candidate by the electoral college, which is the only menace the LaFollette candidacy carries.

The friends and supporters of LaFollette hope that he will carry Kansas and Nebraska and thus throw the election into the House of Representatives. In that event the various blocs, if they could be combined, would have the balance of power and be able to bargain with one or the other of the parties as Clay did with John Quincy Adams in 1829, and as Mr. LaFollette himself bargained with the Republican machine when his seat in the Senate was in jeopardy on account of his attitude on the world war. But he is likely to split the Republican party and give the electoral votes of both those States to the Democratic candidate. In fact there is no reason for Democrats to worry about LaFollette.

—Big business must have taken chloroform. The Brazilian rebellion has been going on several weeks and we have heard of no raise in the price of coffee.

Needed Comfort for Coolidge.

Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, stalwart and stupid, chairman of the Republican Senatorial campaign committee, called on President Coolidge on Monday, and soothed him with a rainbow colored promise of Republican gains in the Senate at the coming election. A few days earlier a Republican leader in West Virginia flattered his hopes with assurance that he will get 50,000 majority in that State. Senator Spencer, of Missouri, on another occasion, handed him the consoling promise of the electoral vote of Missouri and Senator Cameron, of Arizona, informed him that the small vote of that State would help build the Republican pyramid. These "incense swingers" depend much upon the President's credulity.

In the first place there is no possible chance of increasing the Republican strength in the Senate. There will be thirty-two Senators elected, twelve of whom will be for the Southern States and absolutely certain to be Democrats. There will be an extraordinary effort to defeat Senator Walsh, of Montana, because of his activity in exposing the iniquities of the Harding administration but it will be futile. Both the Democrats and LaFollette forces are supporting Mr. Walsh and his election is as certain as that of Simmons, of North Carolina. Senator Walsh, of Massachusetts, has more than an even chance of re-election and the other sitting Democrats in the north and west are equally "sitting pretty" in the picture.

In Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota and West Virginia the Republican candidates for Senator have stiff fights on their hands with strong odds against them in Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, South Dakota and West Virginia and no better than an even chance in Kansas, New Mexico and South Dakota. Three of the Republican Senatorial nominees, Brookhart, Iowa; Couzens, Michigan, and Norris, of Nebraska, are vigorous opponents of the administration and if elected will be practically certain to line up with the Democrats on every strictly partisan question. In view of these facts Coolidge needs comfort.

—Having ended his brief vacation candidate Davis is now ready for the fray.

Pinchot's Position Secure.

Some of our esteemed contemporaries are indulging in mental speculation as to the course Governor Gifford Pinchot will pursue in the approaching campaign for President. The Governor is strong for prohibition enforcement and he fully understands that the failure of enforcement is largely ascribable to the indifference of President Coolidge in the matter. For this reason some observers of prohibition trend of thought have expressed the hope that he will give his influence to the LaFollette organization. The Republican machine managers are not worried over the question. They understand Mr. Pinchot and rest entirely confident that he will be a willing and earnest supporter of Coolidge.

The Republican managers have not acquired their confidence in Governor Pinchot's fidelity to the machine by any haphazard process. They have had the subject before them for consideration and weighed the chances with great care. Some of the more cautious in the conference even proposed that he be invited to make a speech or two during the campaign. That would flatter his vanity, they reasoned, and when he waked up he would find himself "hog-tied" to the cause. But the bolder bosses, and they were in the majority, protested such a gesture would not be necessary. Ambition and self interest, they openly declared, would influence the Governor and hold him in line however much he might be snubbed.

Governor Pinchot's political action is not based on principle. He is influenced entirely by ambition. If the prohibition party had force enough to put its candidates across he would be a prohibitionist. In fact his inclinations run in that direction. If the Republican machine would adopt him as a favorite he would be the loudest supporter of the machine. In that respect he is precisely like Senator Pepper. But the machine doesn't encourage him. It caught him in a secret act of treachery while it was cordoning him as a candidate for delegate to the National convention. But he will support the machine this year in the hope it will be more kind to him in the future.

—Probably the reason Henry Ford is keeping so quiet now is that he is disappointed because his support of Coolidge failed to get Muscle Shoals.

Treasury Probe to Proceed.

When the Senate committee charged with the investigation of the Treasury Department decided to proceed with the probe at an early date, Senator Watson, of Indiana, resigned the chairmanship. He is not willing to be associated with a movement which must hurt and wreck his party. While the Senate was in session he protested against the inquiry because it was tending to show criminal neglect in the enforcement of the Volstead law. Supporting a protest of President Coolidge against the proceedings of the committee Mr. Watson declared it was never the intention to enforce that Act of Congress. "It was enacted," he inferentially stated, "to fool the public."

The Secretary of the Treasury is the director of the force and manager of the machinery for the enforcement of the Volstead law. The Secretary of the Treasury is the dominant figure in the administration of President Coolidge. The Secretary of the Treasury has had vast sums of money, estimated at millions of dollars, invested in distilleries and breweries. He probably wanted to unload this great burden of contraband property. Popular sentiment appeared to be strongly in favor of enforcement of the prohibition amendment. The Volstead law was enacted to enlist popular sentiment with the administration. It was not enforced because that policy favored the owners of distilleries and breweries.

Senator Watson imagined that resigning the chairmanship of the investigating committee would defeat the purpose to continue the inquiry. But he has been disappointed in this expectation. The majority of the committee elected Senator Couzens, of Michigan, to the chairmanship and declared its intention to proceed with the inquiry on the first of September. This will add much to the interest of the campaign, for it is likely to reveal the fact that Secretary Mellon, the potent force in the administration, is responsible for the delinquency in the enforcement of the prohibition legislation, and that the administration is accessory both before and after the fact.

—The government of the United States, being the biggest corporation on earth, it might be a good idea to elect a capable and honest corporation lawyer as President.

—LaFollette is simply showing the bosses how to boss.

Another Scheme to Deceive.

The fault which finally brought Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty to grief was prostituting the great office he held to personal and political service. Of course little ought to have been expected from Mr. Daugherty in his official capacity. He was not an able lawyer and his conception of moral obligations were circumscribed. His appointment was a reward for political favors rendered, and like most ward politicians, he felt that he had perfect right to use the office for his own advantage. Thus guided he assembled the "Columbus crowd" to loot, and occasionally instituted a suit against somebody for something, to satisfy the party managers that he was working for their party.

His successor in office, Attorney General Stone, is an able corporation lawyer and enjoys a better understanding of the ethics of his profession. For that reason he is not indulging in the practices which require the aid of men of the Jess Smith type in developing shady enterprises of one kind or another. But the fate of Daugherty has not served to admonish him against the practice of degrading the office into an agency for promoting political bunk. In other words, Attorney General Stone is now entering suits against oil conspirators and other malefactors for the sole and other purpose of fooling the public into the belief that the administration is fully determined to bring the swindlers of the Harding administration to justice.

In pursuance of this purpose Attorney General Stone has recently proposed the indictment of Harry Sinclair, former Secretary of the Interior, the Doheneys, father and son, and others for conspiracy in leasing the oil reserves. Mr. Stone knows that there can be no hearing in the case until after the election and his palpable purpose is to make the people think that the administration is anxious to punish the miscreants who have been robbing the government of its most important resources. But the average citizen will not be deceived by such jestures. The criminal plans of the accused men were fostered by Coolidge until he was forced to turn against them.

—Two crews of State highway engineers are now making a survey of the Bald Eagle valley road between Snow Shoe Intersection and Bald Eagle and it is stated that the survey is being made preliminary to beginning work early next spring on making that road a State highway to be known as the Bald Eagle trail. The road is now concreted from Milesburg to Snow Shoe Intersection and from Bald Eagle to Tyrone. Just how much of the road will be built next year has not been announced, but the fact that a survey is being made is taken as evidence that it will be the next big stretch of road in Centre county to be improved. The Bald Eagle is a short route between Williamsport, Lock Haven, and points southwest.

—The trout fishing season for 1924 came to a close at twilight yesterday and the speckled beauties will now be able to eat worms and jump at flies without the fear of having a hook and line attached to them. Of course many fishermen aver that it was a poor season for trout, not so much because there are no trout in the streams but for the reason that they were unable to catch the limit every time they went onto a stream. But their ill luck in this respect was good luck for the trout and the result will be that there will be more of them in the stream for next year.

—Lower Nittany valley was favored with a good rain on Tuesday, but not a drop fell in Bellefonte. In fact no rain of any consequence has fallen here in two weeks and the gardens are beginning to show it. But the farmers have rarely been so favored with propitious weather for their haymaking and harvesting. While not exceedingly hot the weather has been ideal and most of the wheat has been put in shock in splendid condition. Lower Nittany had another hard rain Wednesday afternoon and in some parts of the valley hail as large as marbles fell.

—A good many people are waiting anxiously to hear Senator Hiram Johnson's clarion call for action in the Presidential contest.

—The big fight in the Democratic convention didn't hurt the party. It simply revealed the fact that we are in fighting trim.

—Neither the name of the maker nor the price of the car affects the cost of the repair bill after an accident.

—We have suspected for some time that there was something the matter with Senator Lodge's anatomy.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Senatorial Defections.

We have noticed among our Republican contemporaries a loud note of exultation over Senator Wheeler's alignment with the LaFollette movement. "Well may the Democratic leaders," says the New York Herald-Tribune, "take alarm at Wheeler's desertion of the ticket. While his statement regarding Davis is chiefly claptrap and buncombe, his desertion of the ticket is a serious portent."

Our neighbor, The Inquirer, chortles with joy because "Senator Wheeler leads the Democratic bolt," and sees in this a sure indication of President Coolidge's election.

Let us examine this argument a moment. If the defection of one Democratic Senator from the national ticket is such a tremendous matter we presume that the consequences will be equally dire to the Republican cause if a Republican Senator refuses to swear allegiance to President Coolidge. What is to be said, then, when it is stated that a formidable percentage of the Republican Senators are either openly or silently giving their support to LaFollette?

From the North American, which favors Coolidge, we learn that LaFollette will have eight Senators on the stump for him, support from two more, and the prospect of receiving further accessions as the campaign progresses. Borah and Brookhart are with him in spirit, if not openly. As both are candidates for re-election as Republicans, they must exercise some discretion. Senators Frazier and Ladd, of North Dakota; Norbeck, of South Dakota, and Norris, of Nebraska, all classed as Republicans, are out for their fellow-member from Wisconsin, as, of course, are the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Senators, Shipstead and Johnson.

Only the other day Senator Couzens of Michigan, refused to sign in as a loyal adherent of President Coolidge, and in the month that has elapsed since the Cleveland convention has any one heard of "Hi" Johnson, of California, lifting up his voice in loud acclaim of the Republican ticket?

In view of this impressive showing of G. O. P. defection, we fail to see why any excessive importance should be attached to Senator Wheeler's assertion of independence.

Labor's Path as Seen in Wisconsin.

Out of the wisdom of his years, Frank J. Weber pleaded in vain with the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor not to endorse any Presidential candidate. Mr. Weber, "father" of the State organization, personally favors Senator LaFollette. But experience has taught him the jeopardy to labor's interests when it officially, as an organization, casts its lot with the personal fortunes of any individual. Mr. Weber would not permit labor to endorse him in other years, when he himself was seeking public office.

In this attitude Mr. Weber is supported by the record of Samuel Gompers. These men have lived with labor for many years, shared its sorrows and joys. They went through another period when labor tied up with political organization. And when the Knights of Labor went to Washington in behalf of desired legislation, they had to accept political standing and were told they could have nothing; they had supported a candidacy that would defeat Mr. Weber and Mr. Gompers have not forgotten.

Indorsement by labor as an organization will not bring to favored candidates any support that labor unofficially can not give them. The union movement is economic. If labor loses sight of that fact and becomes embroiled in partisan politics it stands to lose much. For it should be remembered that laboring men differ in political opinions, and it is only on an economic basis that they can be held together.

Labor can not afford to go chasing after will-o'-wisps, such as the dream of a great Labor party, modeled upon the British Labor party. It should not be forgotten that Ramsay MacDonald remains in power only by the sufferance of the British old line parties, who could turn him out of office today if they wished. Labor leaders in this country have seen too much of the way class domination works in government to adopt it as their policy.

Not a Bad Omen.

The deadlock which grips the allied reparations conference over the weekend was inevitable. Fundamental French interests have clashed with fundamental British interests. For the moment France stands pat on the Versailles Treaty and Britain takes the position that the conferees may have to go outside the treaty to get the Dawes plan into effect. As the deadlock had to come, it is just as well that it came quickly.

This week should open with a determined search for a compromise. All the precedents provide ample ground for pessimism. More than a dozen times since the armistice the Allies have taken part in this same searching party, and there have been a baker's dozen of failures.

It will not be forgotten, however, that there was little optimism that the experts' committees which met last January would succeed in their task. It was considered a bare possibility that there would be unanimous agreement upon any program. Yet the Dawes report was signed and sealed.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—State Troopers of Muncy detail, are searching for Robert Stahl, 11, of Danville, who disappeared from his home, on Wednesday.

—Mrs. Nannie Estep, 53 years old, wife of Harry Estep, died on Saturday at her home at Sharon, of myodema. Mrs. Estep, who weighed approximately 500 pounds, had been unable to leave her home for a year. She formerly lived in Altoona.

—The finding of a man's skeleton in the basement of the First Presbyterian church, Northumberland, on Sunday, caused considerable excitement. It is believed that the man was buried there before the original church was erected, more than seventy years ago. Dr. Joseph K. Fisher, coroner, said he would take no action.

—John Hellott, a lion tamer, suffered severe lacerations about the chest and arms last Friday when a lion attacked him during a performance of the Hagenback and Wallace circus at Bedford. His life was probably saved when another lion—a pet of the trainer, made a furious onslaught on the attacking beast and enabled Hellott to make his escape.

—The boulder for the Doctor Rothrock memorial to be placed on the public square in the native village of the father of forestry, McVeytown, was taken from Stony Point in the Seven Mountains last week and hauled to its new location, a distance of thirty miles on a truck of the National Limestone company. A bronze plate commemorating the work of Doctor Rothrock will be placed on the face of the boulder.

—Before Mrs. Nellie Shuler, of Williamsport, who tied herself to a gas stove in her third attempt at suicide, took her life, she planned a note to her dress which read: "I bequeath to Mary Koch all my earthly possessions." This note was accepted by the register of wills of Lycoming county last week as Mrs. Shuler's last testament after her signature had been sworn to by two employees of a bank where she had a deposit.

—Mrs. Kinley Tener, wife of the nephew of former Governor John K. Tener, lost \$10,000 in jewelry and toilet articles last Thursday when a bag was stolen from her car near Trinity Court, Boston, Mass. She reported to the police Saturday. The theft was discovered when Mr. and Mrs. Tener reached their home, in Sewickley, Pa., after motoring from Gloucester. The car had been left unguarded during a brief stop in Boston.

—New York State authorities have no sympathy for bridegrooms. Brooks Swartz, of Beech Creek, returned last Thursday from his honeymoon by motor through New York State with the story that twice he and his bride were held up by New York police and fined for violations of the traffic laws. At Hamlet, N. Y., the fine and costs for speeding amounted to \$40 and at another place a justice asked \$16.25, also for driving too fast.

—Albert Hess, a Mountain Grove farmer, was held up on Saturday by a stranger who asked him for a ride and robbed him of \$123. Hess was returning home after selling a load of produce at Berwick, and about two miles from Nescopeck was accosted by the stranger, who asked for a ride. They had gone only a short distance when the stranger put a revolver against Hess' head and forced him to turn over his money. The holdup man then fled into the bushes along the road.

—Harry Reese and his wife, of Columbia, owe their lives to a pet dog that awakened them by scratching on a screen door when flood waters, following the heavy rain last week, surrounded their home. Reese swam to his stable to rescue his horse and found the animal standing in water up to its neck. Catching the halter strap, Reese drew the horse's head through a window and then climbed to the roof, where he held the animal's head out of the water for two hours to prevent drowning.

—Federal officers are investigating the case of former principal of the Tionesta High school, J. Paul Charles, who is alleged to have run away with a 17 year old pupil in June. The girl, Myra Hood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Hood, was taken into custody in Erie and the man is being held on an open charge at Tionesta awaiting the arrival of the federal men. The girl is with her parents. They are alleged to have crossed over the Pennsylvania State line in their travels. Charles is 27 years old and married.

—Sixty thousand cottontails will be imported into Pennsylvania to afford good rabbit hunting for Pennsylvania sportsmen, the State Game Commission announces. The Commission has been doing more extensive restocking during the last two years than ever before. Included in the other game which the Commission will purchase for restocking are 2000 hares, commonly known as Snowshoe hares, 1000 ruffed grouse, 10,000 ringneck pheasants, 10,000 bobwhite quail, 1000 Hungarian partridges and 3000 quail.

—A drinking glass, upset by Mary Woodward, of Tamaqua, as she cautiously descended a ladder to the porch of her home where her lover awaited to flee with her, upset Mary's beautiful dream of a romantic midnight elopement and forced her to spend the night under the parental roof. Woodward Sr. heard the tinkle of the falling glass, leaped to the chase and overtook the crestfallen Mary and her young suitor, Walter Brode, before they reached the railroad station. The trip to Elkton, Md., where the knot was to be tied, was abruptly called off.

—Arthur Lyons, assistant postmaster at Elgin, Pa., for twelve years, and journal clerk in the Pennsylvania State Senate, was arrested in a store at Buffalo, N. Y., on Saturday, on the charge of attempting to cash a government money order for \$27.40. He is said to have made a full confession that he stole forty four blanks from the Elgin postoffice and cashed them in Erie and Buffalo. Lyons had a general store at Elgin and went bankrupt. He blamed liquor. He had obtained the appointment of a woman as postmaster and was made her assistant two years ago. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Corry postmastership.

—When a check protector salesman extended his hand through the window of the cashier's cage at the Farmers' bank, Red Lion, last Thursday, the cashier, C. E. Smith, was of the impression that he was facing a bank robber. The bank officials, it is said, had received a tip that an effort was to be made to rob the bank. The cashier ordered the man away, and when he saw him enter a bank across the street, he felt certain his first impression was right, and he called the police. The check protector salesman and a companion were arrested and taken to York, but were released following an investigation by a local detective agency.