

The Loeb and the Leopold boys bungled "the perfect crime," but justice shouldn't bungle its punishment.

A New York judge has decided that when a girl breaks an engagement she must give back the ring. But a girl who breaks an engagement is not likely to respect moral obligations and replevin processes are expensive.

The many attempts at automobile theft in Bellefonte during the fore part of the week were attributed, by some, to escaped prisoners from Rockview. They were not the guilty ones. No prisoners making a get away from the pen would fool around in Bellefonte as long as those fellows stayed here.

Talk about doings! We'll say Wednesday's was some night in Bellefonte. The Penn-Pat orchestra was playing on the terrace of the Y. M. C. A., the band was playing on the County Plaza, Louie Geist, of Johnstown, was singing, and some grand Kleagle or other was talking to a great crowd of Kluxers in the court house, all at the same time.

The more of this moral and social uplift stuff that Dr. Ellie Potter injects into the conduct of prisons the more those who are subjected to it try to escape. They are walking off so fast up at Rockview that it won't be long until Dr. Ellie's prison problem will solve itself—there won't be any prisoners to be coddled.

We saw the makings of a lot of fun this fall, on Monday night. The entire west end of the third floor of the Arcade was lighted up. What for? A meeting of Republican soothsayers. The headquarters of the party that has emptied the dinner pail, stolen the springs off the cots of wounded veterans and denied the postmen wages equal to those of an ordinary mechanic, have been established there.

To the anonymous correspondent who wrote castigating us for our criticism of last week's band concert permit us to say that we have been and are the best newspaper friend the Odd Fellows band has. We have given it more publicity than all the other newspapers of the county combined, we happen to have been the means of dropping as large a sum of money into its treasury as it ever received and we have forgotten more about band music, as it should be selected and derided, than our correspondent will know if he lives to be a centenarian.

It won't be long until the campaign in Centre county opens up in earnest. Before it does there is one little matter that ought to be cleared up, so we start off with some fairly definite idea of where we're going to be at when the smoke of battle has cleared away on the morning of November 5th.

Our friend, John Laird Holmes, started out to run for the Legislature on a platform that practically said: I'll make no promises or pledges to any one. If my name and reputation in this community are not sufficient guarantees that I can be trusted to do the right thing, then I have nothing more to offer. It was a mighty creditable platform at that. But it was not long until John Laird received a visit from a committee of inquiry that demanded something more specific. It wanted to put its high sign on other things besides his good name and reputation. It wanted to know whether he would support any old legislation Governor Pinchot might advocate.

In any event Senator Shields has now been relegated to obscurity by his defeat for renomination and it may be predicted that his retirement is for all time. He is said to be a fine lawyer and as Justice of the Supreme court of Tennessee before his election to the Senate he made a good record. His retirement will leave only one of the four or five Democratic Senators who betrayed the party and the country at that time.

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Davis Accepts the Nomination.

The speech of John W. Davis, delivered at Clarksburg, West Virginia, on Monday evening, accepting the nomination of the Democratic party for President, fulfills the highest expectation of his friends and admirers. It was comparatively brief but so concise and forceful that every topic which may properly be considered as relevant to the campaign was completely covered.

Chairman Butler, of the Republican National committee, said recently that the oil and other scandals of the Harding and Coolidge administrations will be forgotten before election time. Mr. Davis disappoints that expectation or rather hope. "It is the supreme need of the hour," he said, "to bring back to the people confidence in their government," and that may only be achieved by obliterating the crimes and filthily punishing the criminals.

Next to the purification of government the most important question to be determined by the election is that of taxation. Upon that subject Mr. Davis is particularly clear and absolutely right. He will urge further decrease in the income tax but the income tax is not the citadel of iniquity in our tax system. The tax that robs and blisters the poor of the country is the tariff tax.

In the expectation that every voter will read the speech in full it is useless to attempt an epitome in the brief space at our command. The weakness of the Coolidge administration is touched upon lightly in its relation to Congress and the imbecile foreign policy is justly held up to ridicule. "We must face the humiliating fact," he said, "that we have a government that does not dare to speak its mind beyond the three mile limit."

Senator Shields Fittingly Punished.

The defeat of Senator John K. Shields, of Tennessee, for renomination by the Democrats will give pleasure to all the sincere Democrats of the country. During the malignant fight conducted against Woodrow Wilson by Henry Cabot Lodge, Senator Shields was conspicuous among the perfidious Democrats. In his contest for renomination in 1918 he promised to support the policies of the party as expressed by Woodrow Wilson in the future and he was renominated. Afterward he violated his pledge and impudently claimed that his renomination and reelection was a vindication of his course in opposing the ratification of the League of Nations.

Nobody has ever been able to find out why Senator Shields, of Tennessee, joined with the Republican bitterenders in the fight against Woodrow Wilson. The people of the State were strongly in favor of the policies which he fought and his colleague in the Senate, Mr. McKellar, stood in the fore front of the supporters of the President. But Shields invariably joined with the opposition and offered voting for every reservation and finally voted against the ratification of the covenant as amended. It has been intimated that a promise of a seat on the Supreme court bench was dangled before his eyes at regular intervals during the contest in the Senate.

In any event Senator Shields has now been relegated to obscurity by his defeat for renomination and it may be predicted that his retirement is for all time. He is said to be a fine lawyer and as Justice of the Supreme court of Tennessee before his election to the Senate he made a good record. His retirement will leave only one of the four or five Democratic Senators who betrayed the party and the country at that time.

La Follette and Organized Labor.

It may be true that Mr. La Follette has some claim upon the friendship of organized labor. He has always been more or less actively engaged in real or imaginary warfare against such wealth as is represented as employer of labor. It may be true, also, that in his prolonged experience as Senator or Representative in Congress he has favored legislation intended to promote the interests of organized labor. A great many other Senators and Representatives in Congress have made similar honorable records and no doubt the representatives of organized labor feel grateful for the good intentions thus expressed.

On the other hand there are many substantial proofs of real service in the interest of organized labor performed by Mr. John W. Davis, the Democratic candidate for President. During the period of several years when mine owners and mine workers were in desperate warfare in West Virginia Mr. Davis represented the mine workers' labor organization in both the criminal and equity courts, and rendered such valuable service to organized labor as to secure the liberty of the miners. Later he successfully defended the eight hour day in the Supreme court of the United States and defeated the Harvester trust and the Standard Oil Co. in litigation of the gravest importance to organized labor.

Intention is not a safe standard for the measurement of service. Achievement is the only true test and so far as the records show Mr. La Follette has accomplished nothing beyond lip service to the cause of organized labor. But we are not surprised that Mr. Gompers has undertaken to deliver the labor vote of the country to Mr. La Follette. He has always been rather free in the payment of claims in such currency and it is not improbable that the interests of labor have suffered frequently because of such misappropriation of resources. Former Secretary of Labor, W. B. Wilson, thinks more clearly on such questions and Mr. Gompers would better have adopted his suggestion to wait for evidence.

The national defense enterprise seems to promise only disappointment. It was expected to arouse popular enthusiasm but has excited only general apprehension.

An Unusual Tribute to an Unusual Man.

A man's home community is almost always an infallible indicator of his worth. The reactions of the home town to the failures or successes of one of its sons always are in direct proportion to the esteem in which the individual has been held by his neighbors. When eight thousand people gathered in Clarksburg, W. Va., Monday evening and stood two hours in a drenching rain to hear their fellow citizen accept the Democratic nomination for President there was a spectacle such as has rarely, if ever, been witnessed in this country.

Ready with joyful confidence to assume the leadership offered him, John W. Davis stood before those cheering thousands in the face of a driving rain which swept over Goff Plaza and accepted the nomination for President of the United States on the Democratic ticket.

Had there been only the program as originally planned this notification event would have been more memorable than anything of the kind in the history of the nation, but when thousands of admirers of Mr. Davis stood or sat for almost two hours while rain fell and drenched them to the skin, here was a spectacle probably without parallel in the history of politics. Here it was that for the first time a nomination for the Presidency was being tendered a West Virginian; here were all the modern devices of radio and telephony carrying to the millions throughout the nation, as well as those who saw him there upon the platform, the message which he spoke; here as the elements raged was an impressive demonstration of loyalty. How that immense crowd stood fast, almost undiminished of the downpour, as Mr. Davis outlined what he feels are the problems of the hour, this was a thing in the life of man to marvel at.

A few of the epigrams of his speech of acceptance were: "If I become President of the United States, America will sit as an equal among equals whenever she sits at all."

"There is abroad in the land a feeling too general to be ignored, too deep-seated for any trifling, that men in office can no longer be trusted to keep faith with those who sent them, and that the powers of government are being exercised in the pursuit of gain instead of the common service."

"To bring the government back to the people is and always has been the doctrine of the Democracy."

Absurd Republican Claims.

The absurd claims of the Republican machine managers are revealed in a recent statement made by George S. Graham, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania member of the Republican Congressional committee, in which he declares the party will elect every Congressman this year. Mr. Graham, who lives in New York and knows little if anything about Pennsylvania, is influenced by his opinion by an earlier prediction made by State chairman W. Harry Baker who jokingly made a similar prediction. As a matter of fact it is practically conceded by every well-informed observer that the Democrats will elect each one of the six members now in commission and have more than an even chance of gaining six seats in the delegation.

In the 10th district William H. Griest has already felt the necessity of calling upon President Coolidge to rescue him from disaster and it is estimated that Cal's response will cost the national ticket fifteen thousand votes. In the 11th district Representative Watres is conducting a hopeless fight for re-election while the Republican machine in the 13th district, Schuylkill county, is "shot to pieces" and already lost in despair. In the 18th, the "shoe string" district, Meredith Meyers is making a valiant and more than hopeful fight. In the 20th district Warren Worth Bailey, the capable and popular candidate of the Democrats, is certain to win and Edwin M. Benson is well in the lead in the 23rd district. The 21st district is clearly in doubt.

In claiming the defeat of Representative Frank C. Stites, Democrat in the 19th district, Mr. Graham casts an aspersion on the voters of Cumberland, Dauphin and Lebanon counties. It implies a charge of ingratitude they are likely to resent. Through his interest in and endeavor for a Congressional appropriation to fight the most recent and destructive pest Congressman Stites has saved the farmers of Pennsylvania millions of dollars. Governor Pinchot vetoed or cut down the State appropriation for the purpose and left the State agricultural interests open to attack. Congressman Stites, discerning the danger, persuaded Congress to interpose. It is not likely the voters will penalize him for that service.

Writing from Harrisburg Willis Reed Bierly, a native of Brush valley and now editor of various legal publications at Harrisburg says: "Since my accident at Philadelphia I have not been as agile nor active as heretofore. Am following Senator Jim Reed's (the Missouri Jim) cure—ham, country cured, and eggs. This is no dream. Baby food and baby clinics are all right for the kind they are adapted for, but the real thing is needed for old war horses if they would continue their stride."

Mrs. Mabel Irene Woodward Duff died in Norwich, Conn., the other day, from the effects of an operation to remove a piece of steel which had been lodged near her appendix for twenty years. Poor Mrs. Duff. She might have lived twenty years longer if she had only let well enough alone.

The price of wheat is declining again. It was impossible for the politicians to keep up the fiction until election day. They began too soon.

It is suspected about Harrisburg that Mr. Pinchot is hiding from himself. He has never been known to remain quiet so long a time.

Coolidge may run ahead of La Follette but present indications point to a repetition of the 1912 vote with Cal in the place of Taft.

It may be said that Mr. Gompers is more concerned about his own tenure of office than he is about La Follette's election.

Probably there has never been anything more disappointing than a labor leader's promise to deliver the solid vote.

Every Republican newspaper now writes it "Defense day," but it was originally designated "Mobilization day."

Clarksburg is not only on the map, but on Monday it was the real center of civic activity.

John W. Davis looks like a President, acts like a President and talks like a President.

Those foreigners are likely to make Secretary Hughes think he is of some consequence.

Hell-an-Maria! Mr. Dawes threatens to conduct his campaign by telephone.

Our expectation that Mr. Davis would accept the nomination has been fulfilled.

Honesty as an Issue.

Indulging in sneering comment upon the fact that "John W. Davis, in a speech at Poughkeepsie, declared honesty in government is to be the overshadowing feature of the campaign." The Inquirer observes that Mr. Davis "ought to be manly enough to admit that in this respect the Republican President is standing on solid ground. The personal and political integrity of Calvin Coolidge is unassailable."

As a matter of fact the Republican President is not standing on solid ground, but on a quicksand into which he has already sunk up to his knees. His unchallenged personal and political integrity is entirely irrelevant. But since The Inquirer attempts to introduce it into the testimony, let it stand on the record. The late President Harding's personal and political integrity was also unassailable. Did that fact save the country from the shocking spectacle of Cabinet debauchery, the wounded veterans from shameless plundering, or the navy from the pillage of its means of defense?

Honesty in government is to be the overshadowing feature of the campaign because of flagrant dishonesty in government on a scale unprecedented in this generation followed the national folly of turning a credulous ear to Republican pledges in 1920. In that year the Republican party leaders were no less prolific in promises of administrative rectitude than they are today. The voters accepted their faith at face value because they trusted the candidate. He was as honest as is Mr. Coolidge; yet under his nose the government was robbed right and left and its property turned over to private interests to the extent of hundreds of millions in value.

Instead of sneering at demands for the punishment of the party that cannot escape responsibility for scandalous abuse of power, The Inquirer ought to be repenting in sackcloth and ashes. Instead of boasting of Mr. Coolidge's "passion for decency and honesty," it ought to be indulging in mournful reflections upon the fact that no Judge upon the bench ever viewed more dispassionately the commission of monumental crimes, or took a more disinterested part in their punishment.

"Passion," forsooth! Does The Inquirer forget that the exposures of official Republican turpitude were brought about by Democratic and insurgent Legislators, in the face of almost insuperable obstacles placed in their way by some of the Executive departments of the government? That the President of the United States never lifted a finger to uncover and punish the rascals until forced to do so by the overwhelming pressure of public opinion? That for months he permitted the Attorney General deliberately to obstruct and hamper the course of the investigations, and to cover up the pollution of justice at its source? That the power of the government was used to blackmail the accusers? That it is due only to the zeal and energy of political opponents of the present administration that belated steps at last were taken to punish the thieves and recover the stolen property?

The indubitable personal probity of President Coolidge will not suffice to cover up the sins of his party or to enable it to escape a responsibility which it must justly bear. His candidly and unquestionably would be in better case today had he in truth exhibited that "passion for decency and honesty" of which The Inquirer prates, and led in person such a vigorous and purposeful charge against the grafters as would have been headed with enthusiasm by a Roosevelt; but we doubt if even then the people would have been willing to condone grossly a betrayal of their confidence.

Honesty indeed will be the overshadowing issue of the campaign, and The Inquirer is destined to hear more of it before the arrival of the November frosts.

They Agreed to Agree.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Summaries of the Anglo-Russian treaties confirm the impression that no real agreement upon vital issues has been reached by the two governments and no basis found upon which the differences that have cut Russia off from the rest of the world can be reconciled. Debt repudiation by the Soviet government stands, and only "by way of exception" will Moscow consider trying to satisfy British bondholders. As for confiscation of British property in Russia, the Bolsheviks will "negotiate" directly with those they have robbed. All this rather vague. No actual amounts to be paid by Moscow are set, but it is unmistakably intimated that there will be turned over not a single penny more than is absolutely necessary to worm out of the British government a guarantee for a loan. As the Labor government is playing frenzied politics with Moscow, the British citizens that lost through the revolution are not likely to get rich from the present transaction. Few other countries will jump at the chance to shake hands with bolshevism on these terms.

Not Quite Wild Enough.

From the Baltimore Sun. Mr. La Follette doesn't seem wild enough to stare one crowd or wild enough to please the other.

It's all in the "Watchman" and it's all true.

SPAWNS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Charging alienation of his wife's affections, Henry T. Ruscher, of Syracuse, N. Y., on Monday filed suit in federal court at Pittsburgh, asking \$75,000 damages from Miss B. Kitts, of Erie, Pa., former mayor of that city. The papers were served upon Kitts while attending a convention in the Smoky city.

Fred Derr, a Benton, Columbia county, farmer, last week solved the mystery of the disappearance of his young turkeys when he killed a blacksnake that measured eight feet, two inches in length, the largest killed in that section in years. Cutting open the reptile's body with an axe he found the snake had swallowed three good sized young turkeys.

Judge Frank E. Reader, of Beaver county, has ruled in the case of an automobile seized in an arrest for transportation of liquor, that the automobile should be condemned by the State and sold, but that enough of the proceeds of the sale, after payment of costs, should be paid by the sheriff to satisfy the claim of an automobile finance company.

The attorney of Jacob Sanders, aged 84, a Civil war veteran, of Reading, who died a few days ago at a hospital, last Thursday afternoon visited the aged man's squalid home and looked for hidden treasure according to his death bed directions. In a tin box were found government bonds worth \$30,000, in addition to \$6,500 in cash and other investments, his total wealth aggregating \$50,000.

For many months Charles Washington, of Chester, has been working hard and saving his money. He would not trust the cash to a bank, but stored it in a trunk. Thursday he counted his savings and found that he had accumulated \$848. On Saturday when he went to his room and opened the trunk to deposit part of his week's wages the money was gone. A man who lived in the neighborhood also was missing.

On the hottest day of the summer the boys of Murray, Sullivan county, a soft coal town, engaged a snowball battle. In removing a culm bank which had piled up during mining operations last winter, workmen unearthed a mass of snow which had been protected by the refuse. As soon as the discovery was known, scores of boys gathered at the scene and dividing into groups engaged in a summer snowball fight.

Leo J. Colin, of Kane, is completing arrangements for starting a silver fox farm in the McKean county mountains next month. He was a former resident of Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island, where silver fox farming is common, and he is confident that the foxes with the valuable pelts can be successfully raised in this climate. Capital assembled in his home community will be used to finance the stocking of the farm.

One hundred and ten delegates, representing miners, railroaders, machinists, printers and other labor organizations and granges in the twenty-third congressional district, assembled at Clearfield on Saturday afternoon and formed a congressional district conference for progressive political action, and endorsed the La Follette-Wheeler ticket. John Brophy, of the United Mine Workers, who is a member of the Pennsylvania State committee of the La Follette organization, presided.

Men, women and children who sell articles of food at church bazaars and festivals, including soft drinks, must all have health certificates, the State Board of Health ruled last week. Because of a doubt in the matter and the far-reaching character of the issue, the Pottsville board of health asked for the decision, and health officer Kleckner has been ordered to strictly enforce the ruling. This means that workers at church sales must have the same qualifications as restaurant waiters.

Arresting Clarence Peters, 31 years old, of Ellwood City, Washington county, and Sylvester Reed, aged 27 years, of Pittsburgh, was proceeding in connection with a killing, near Wheeling Sunday afternoon, of cocaine in the clothes of the two men. Peters and Reed were stopped as they attempted to drive through Washington, Pa., in a high-powered motor car. Reed confessed that he was a dope-runner and that Wheeling was the center of a vast drug ring.

Misses Dorothy Howell and Nan Price, of Lewistown, who are now in Sacramento, following a transcontinental hiking trip to the Pacific coast, are about to leave San Francisco for China on a world tour. The two girls, each 21 years old, left Lewistown on May 8th and in uniform courtesy of automobilists permitted them to reach Los Angeles in three weeks. There they obtained positions, and information to their parents is that they have clerical positions aboard a big liner bound for China.

Ephraim F. Slough, a veteran member of the Montgomery county bar, believes in protecting rather than killing blacksnakes. He claims they destroy many farm pests. On his farm, located near Trooper, there are a number of blacksnakes, which he prizes highly. He says they are of insect-eating value as they rid his place of mice and other pests. He does not allow hunters on his farm unless they promise not to molest his blacksnakes. Attorney Slough states he has been within a few feet of many of the larger ones, and that they never attempt to strike or hit at him, but scurrie off in another direction.

Some improvement in the condition of Raymond King, 21 year old newspaper worker, of Franklin, Pa., has been reported this week, but he was still weak to permit removal of the 44 caliber bullet lodged in the spine which has kept him paralyzed since the shooting Saturday. The mystery of the daylight attack is still unsolved, though more than a score of witnesses have been questioned. Who fired the shot may never be known. Local police fear that he was deliberately fired upon and the bullet was not a "spent" one is generally conceded. Even the two young women with him in the car did not see the shot fired.

A star at various branches of athletics, Edgar R. Hecker, aged 17 years, of Canton, lost his life because he had failed to learn to swim. He was a four-year man in the Canton High school, the leading pitcher in the Susquehanna Valley Inter-scholastic league and captain-elect of the 1924 football team. In company with three classmates, he went to Lake Nepawin on Friday evening to attend a dance. While waiting for the dance to begin, the party went paddling on the lake in a canoe. When the canoe upset the other three swam toward shore, not knowing that Hecker could not swim. When they rescued his cries for help, it was too late to help him.