

INK SLINGS.

—Old Jupe Pluvius and Dame Nature seem to be the latest recruits to the dry forces.

—Doubtless there was many a dry eye in the League of Nations when it read of the death of Henry Cabot Lodge.

—Aside from the slight shower on Halloween Centre county hasn't had any rain-fall since October 7th. With such a prolonged drouth it is surprising that the streams have not become lower than they are.

—Most of the lambs who are jumping in to have a "ride" on the present boom in stocks will discover that they have only been paying for the yacht or the Rolls-Royce of the regular manipulator, unless they jump out a few points up and stay out until the manipulation is over.

—Harking back to the unpleasantness of the Tuesday before the last one our greatest disappointment came when there wasn't a leather-lung to careen up against the office window and yell: "Hurrah for Coolidge!" By the way, did any one hear any one bust his throat with a cheer for any one? When we opened the door to let the ladies in it seems that all "the kick" there was in politics sneaked out.

—If, against Penn tomorrow, every man on State's team should play like that boy Watson did against Carnegie Tech, last Saturday, the blue and white will roll up points like the Philadelphia Republicans do majorities. Watson carried the ball like a fellow who knew his destination and had made up his mind that all hell wasn't going to keep him from it. And that's what makes football players and winning teams. And success in every other endeavor.

—While glancing over the proof of a very alluring announcement of what Richard Strauss has done by way of putting Enoch Arden in a musical setting which appears in another column of this issue, we prematurely arrived at the conclusion that it was only a subtle way of leading us on to separation from at least "an iron man." Imagine the shock we got when we read the concluding lines that not even a collection will be lifted for Dick's interpreter or Enoch's delineator.

—So far as Bellefonte and most other towns are concerned in a business way the year is no longer a period of twelve months. Merchants and many of the industries must do enough in nine and one-half months to carry the over-head and salaries for the two and one-half during which not a sale is rung-up or a wheel turned. Counting Sundays, holidays and the Thursday afternoons Bellefonte will have actually produced on only 287 of the 366 days in this year. We're for all the holidays anybody wants to take, so long as they can be afforded, but when they begin to encroach on production no one can afford them, for they make the cost of necessities of life higher.

—Some day we are going to make a martyr of ourselves. We are going to cross a street at the same gait, with the same assurance of safety with which we have approached the crossing. We're going to be maimed, of course. Possibly "bumped off" entirely. If the latter should happen it won't matter much to us and the family can recover more in damages than we're worth hanging around here anyway. The experiment will possibly save posterity from evolving into a duckin', dodgin' genus homo that looks more like it was totin' moonshine or had stolen someone's lamb than the properly poised individual it was created to be. All we ask in return for the great service we are thinking about rendering pedestrian humanity is that there may be some one to carry on until motorists are made to understand that the man afoot has some rights that the one on wheels must respect.

—There's two of us now. Up to Sunday night the "Watchman" was alone in its belief that prohibition is not, and never should have been, a political issue. We are glad to welcome the recruit, especially so since he is a minister of the gospel who is evidently not afraid of his job. Prohibition, used here as it should be, to mean temperance, is a moral issue. One that should be inculcated in the home, but so long as sleek individuals can draw fat salaries for being secretaries of this, that and the other League and various other persons can have their expenses paid while they exploit themselves over the country, the rum question, which was definitely and finally settled when the Eighteenth amendment was ratified, will be kept alive. If the government of the United States isn't strong enough to enforce its laws what justification for existence does it have? It should need no other support than the loyalty of its subjects and that can only be secured through the environment of real Christian homes. If all the money that is being contributed to pay salaries and expense of junkets for those who are at the head of these non essential organizations — and mighty few of them would be on the job ten minutes after they found out there is "nothing in it" — were dumped into the churches of the land, there would be provided the means to get at the root of the question, the wherewithal to do work in the homes and not lobby in Harrisburg or Washington.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Democratic Reorganization Needed.

There is ample cause for the suggestion made by an esteemed contemporary for starting a movement for the recuperation of the Democratic organization in Pennsylvania, and a few speeches on the subject by such a successful Democratic leader as Governor Smith, of New York, might help considerably in the work. We ought to have a much greater vote in the State than was polled at the recent election, and we ought to carry many more local elections than we carried on the 4th instant. The starting of the movement ought not to be delayed, either. It is not a short job nor an easy undertaking, and if we hope to show improvement at the next gubernatorial election we must get busy now.

Probably the greatest difficulty that will be encountered will be to persuade Democrats throughout the State that it is worthwhile to vote. We all know that Pennsylvania is a Republican State and too many of us feel that it will be impossible to overcome the vast majority of that party, however deserving our candidates are and however unworthy the candidates of the Republican party. This is our fundamental weakness, for nothing is impossible to those who go to their task with spirit and determination. Besides that, sooner or later the Republican party will break under the weight of its own corruption, and if the Democrats are ready and alert when the break comes, they will succeed.

The first duty of Democrats in the circumstances is to appeal to the civic pride of the delinquent voters. Impress upon them the glorious history and the admirable traditions of the party and make them feel that their indifference now is putting a slight upon their forefathers. Then put the fittest men in command of the forces. Of late years the question of fitness has not entered into the selection of high party officials. Men are favored or fought, not because of their capacity or adaptability for the service, but for the reason that they are supported by one faction and opposed by the other. Bury these factional animosities and work together and the result will be honorable anyway.

—The Coolidge courage is increasing. He is not afraid, now that the election is over, to say a good word out loud for the Red Cross.

Apportioning the Prizes.

The prizes of politics in Pennsylvania are now being apportioned by the leaders and according to current gossip the operation is likely to involve some curious combinations. Upon one thing only there appears to be universal agreement. That is that George Wharton Pepper is a misfit in the office of Senator in Congress and will retire as soon as arrangements can be made to transfer him either to a seat in the Cabinet or on the Supreme court bench or in an Embassy. It is hoped that after the inauguration of President Coolidge one of these places will be available. Mr. Pepper would prefer the bench, it is believed, because the tenure is longer and more certain.

In the event that Mr. Pepper is thus disposed of it is understood that former Governor William C. Sproul will succeed him in the Senate. The ex-Governor has long cherished an ambition to sit in the "Millionaires Club" in Washington but adverse conditions have always arisen to prevent the fulfillment of his hope. When Senator Knox died Mr. Sproul was "almost persuaded" to resign the Governorship and accept the appointment as his successor. The death of Senator Penrose brought the temptation again before him. Again when Senator Crow "was summoned to join the majority" he might have carried out the plan, but intimate friends advised him to resist the impulse and "bide his time."

Now they believe the opportunity is present if matters can be arranged for a vacancy. The desire to get rid of Pepper is unanimous and the corporate interests would be more than satisfied with Sproul. But there is "a fly in the ointment." Governor Pinchot is anxious to side-step the yawning jaws of oblivion and a vacancy in the Senate sort of points the way of achievement. If Pepper resigns between sessions of the Legislature the Governor would make the appointment, and it would hardly be Sproul, and without the advantage of possession Sproul lacks the popularity necessary to a successful contest for the office. All in all the "best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-gle."

—It is almost worth the sacrifice involved to learn that Mr. Coolidge can smile if things go his way.

—The next day it snowed in the West but the result of the election had no influence on the weather.

Harvey Wants a Job.

Colonel George Harvey wants a seat in the new Coolidge cabinet and the public will wait with what patience it may command the result of his demand. Usually Colonel Harvey gets what he wants, "or else." He signally failed in an effort to make Woodrow Wilson take his orders and immediately left the party into which he had been born and bred and made himself a willing sluiceway of vicious vituperation. But Woodrow Wilson was elected and re-elected notwithstanding the slanderous tongue of a disappointed political "soldier of fortune." But when Harding was elected Harvey had better luck. Either because he was afraid to refuse or wanted to avoid a fight he made Harvey Ambassador to London.

In the history of party patronage there has never been a more egregious blunder. In London Harvey became an international joke. In his first public appearance he outraged every American at home and abroad by a statement that the United States entered the world war because the government was afraid to remain out while every principle of civilization was being trampled under the feet of German atrocity. The President publicly repudiated his statement but hadn't the courage to dismiss him from office. Finally, after two or three years of continuous offending, he was called home and either asked to resign or dismissed. His conduct had become intolerable even to the Republican party leaders.

So far as the public is informed his only part in the recent campaign was the invention of the party slogan "Coolidge or Chaos." To the average mind that wouldn't seem to be a great service but it is said by some, probably partisans of Harvey, that it "turned the trick." That conclusion pays scant courtesy to the intelligence of the voters, for to reasoning minds it is an absurdity. Coolidge, with his record of listlessness while his associates in Washington were looting the government, offered no better assurance of law and order than John W. Davis gave, and the constitution was as safe in the hands of one party as the other. But Harvey will get into the cabinet or he will smash things.

—Warren Worth Bailey, editor of the Johnstown Democrat, has finally been declared the winner for Congress in the Twentieth district by a majority of 14 votes over Anderson H. Walters, thus breaking the solid Republican delegation and giving Pennsylvania one Democratic Congressman. The total vote in the district was Bailey, 23,524; Walters, 23,510.

Political Women Wrangling.

When Mrs. Cornelia Pinchot projected the Pennsylvania Council of Women into the system of the State, two years ago, she planted seeds of trouble. She meant all right, of course, but miscalculated. It was her purpose to help the Governor when he needed help. But instead of accomplishing that result she stirred up animosities among groups that were friendly before. This was clearly revealed at the annual meeting a year ago when opposition was developed against the Governor's hand-picked candidate for President of the Council who aspired to re-election. A compromise was effected, however, and she was successful.

In preparation for the annual meeting this year the sitting head of the organization and Mrs. Pinchot quietly slated Miss Gertrude McKinney, of Butler county, who served a term in the Legislature, as successor to the throne. This aroused the opposition of those sisters in the faith who are known as "regulars." It seems that Miss McKinney is more or less active in the W. C. T. U., and failed on one or more occasions to approve the methods and operations of the machine, as the Governor himself has been known to do, so an open and vigorous protest was made against her election.

Finally a compromise was reached. Miss McKinney withdrew from the contest and proposed Mrs. J. Willis Martin, of Philadelphia. It cropped out in the canvassing that the principal issue was wet and dry. Miss McKinney is dry and the Republican organization is not willing to be tagged that way. Incidentally the Pinchot personality entered into the equation and worked to the detriment of the slated candidates. The result is significant, moreover, in that it shows how readily the women adapt themselves to machine methods, and serve the interest of the party bosses.

—The mine owners in the far west and the farmers in the near west seem to have pooled their issues to help the Republican machine.

—Probably the Legioners have been converted to the Wall Street notion that the veto of the bonus legislation was wise.

Pinchot a Victim of Bad Method.

Unless the signs are misleading Governor Pinchot will have an unpleasant period during the next session of the Legislature. He has in mind a good deal of legislation along the lines of his notion of reform which he will urge for passage. During the last session he was able to force through most of the measures he desired but he was beginning his season of power and patronage then. Now he has little patronage to trade for favors and his influence will be correspondingly diminished. Two years ago he not only dictated the choice of the Speakership but directed the assignment of committees. He had the whip hand then. Now he has the hot end of the poker. But he made the bed himself.

The Governor has himself to blame for this reversal of conditions. During the last session, while advocating reform legislation, he was constantly trading with the corruptionists in the Senate and House of Representatives with the result that while gaining some support for his measures he also acquired a reputation as a political huckster without either honesty of purpose or sincerity. If he had, as he had promised, laid down the lines of beneficent legislation and demanded acquiescence or a manly appeal to the public conscience, he would now be in position to complete his work and retire at the expiration of his term with his self-esteem preserved and the confidence of the public assured.

But he preferred the easier course of bargain and sale of patronage on one hand and favors on the other, and out of it he got some legislation and a full measure of public contempt. Even the reformers whom he pretended to help were forced to object to his methods and the slight put upon him when he was defeated for delegate to his party convention expressed the indifference to his fate on one side and contempt for his person on the other. Governor Brumbaugh retired from office in bad odor. Governor Sproul took with him into retirement neither good wishes nor popular opinion, but both stood higher in public esteem than Pinchot will unless conditions are vastly changed within a year.

—Secretary Mellon will save enough out of his income tax, if his bill is passed by the next Congress, to finance the next campaign in Pennsylvania alone.

Election Returns Republished.

The table of election returns published in last week's "Watchman" is reprinted on the second page of this week's paper because of an error in the make-up last week which ran through half the edition before it was discovered. In some inexplicable way the three districts of Bellefonte borough were placed at the foot of the column while the figures were at the top, thus throwing every district out of order just three lines. The table as published this week is correctly arranged.

—There is no question but that the Decker Bros. have greatly improved the corner of High and Spring streets by the erection of their new garage but it seems an unwarranted mistake to place their new gasoline pump in on the pavement. Of course they were granted permission to do so by the properly constituted borough authorities on the assumption that Spring street will be widened about three feet from High to Bishop. This will necessitate the removal of all the trees on the west side of the street, at least, and perhaps narrowing the pavement. But this work will probably not be done before next spring and a gasoline pump in the middle of a pavement for six months or more is certain to become considerable of a nuisance.

—Governor Pinchot, on Wednesday, issued his edict declaring the entire State open to hunting, giving as his reason for so doing the various rains in different sections of the State and heavy dews in the mornings.

—Dr. John M. Thomas, president of the Pennsylvania State College, has accepted the chairmanship of the 1924 Christmas seal committee of Pennsylvania.

—Of course there were other reasons for the Democratic defeat but the association of the Bryan name with the campaign didn't help to avert the disaster.

—Too many Centre county farmers were busy with their work on election day to harvest the victory they might have had at the polls.

—Only two more weeks until Thanksgiving, and turkeys scarce as hen teeth in Centre county.

The Deflation Myth.

From the Philadelphia Record. The notion that severity can be created by lending money freely at low rates, and that the Money Power can gain wealth by driving a large part of the community into bankruptcy, is closely akin to the idea that wealth can be increased by printing or stamping a great number of cheap dollars.

But it is a tenacious notion, and it is cropping up continually that the Federal Reserve Board raised its discount rate four years ago with the purpose of paralyzing business and causing prices to decline and bring ruin to the West and great losses to the East. The story is not true and is absurd. So far as the Federal Reserve Board represents banking interests and the Money Power that we hear so much about, it would be interested in keeping the country prosperous. Banks don't make money foreclosing mortgages, and they can't increase their business with customers who are insolvent.

The war—as usually, and perhaps inevitably—created a great demand for commodities and the prices rose, and for labor and wages rose. All sorts of operations expanded. Men did big business and got great credits to carry it. The government fixed the price of wheat very high, and it helped maintain hogs at \$17.50, more than twice the price just before the war. Everything was inflated to meet sudden and enormous demands in many directions. The currency increased; men carrying on great business, whether for the war or subject to the competition of war industries, had to have large credits.

Then the war stopped. Liquidation was not forced by the Federal Reserve Board. It came because peace ended great industries. Prices of farm products declined because it was no longer necessary to feed the armies of Europe. When the prices of products came down the value of farm lands came down. Men had bought farm lands in the West in 1918, at prices based upon the farm products at war prices. They bought on mortgages, and five years later the mortgages matured just at a moment when wheat was exceptionally low, so that 1923 was a disastrous year for farmers who had bought land on credit at war prices, and who raised little except wheat, in which the decline was the greatest.

The effects were felt almost as much in the East, but it was not due to a policy of contraction and ruin conducted by the Federal Reserve Board; it was due to the deflation of industry necessary to feed the industries and employments. The Federal Reserve banks didn't bring about the condition, and they did a good deal to mitigate it. Deflation started late in 1919, or early in 1920, and extended over the commercial world; it was not an American phenomenon. The Federal Reserve system did not contract its loans. Its loans expanded until they reached their peak in November, 1920. Then the discount rates began to rise in order to protect the already depleted reserves of the banks. Indeed, it might not unreasonably be charged that the Federal Reserve system deferred increasing its discount rates in order to facilitate the floating of the Victory loan.

The repeated charges that the Federal Reserve Board paralyzed business and ruined the farmers by calling in loans and raising their rates led to the creation of the Joint Commission of Agriculture Inquiry. One of the members was Senator Capper, the leader of the farm bloc in the last Congress. This commission reported that the charges against the Board were untrue; that the deflation was due to natural causes and not to official action, that the discount rates should have been raised sooner than they were, and that if there was any discrimination it was in favor of Western agriculture; that discounts of agricultural and livestock paper were greater than for all other paper and they were liquidated less relatively than other discounts, and that credit was not absorbed by the financial centers at the expense of the rural districts.

Have You a Little Mule Deer in Your Home?

From the Independent. The U. S. Department of Agriculture is giving away mule deer. The herd in the Kaibab national forest in northern Arizona has so increased under government protection that it is now threatened with starvation. Therefore, the Department, if the expense of crating and transportation is paid, will give to any one who guarantees to provide it with a good home, one or more young mule deer. "The estimated weight of one animal crated is 250 pounds."

The time may come when no home will be complete without its deer. One foresees the happy domestic scene of future years: Father, mother, grandma and the kiddies gathered around the fireless heater watching the radio pictures, while on the hearthrug, wagging his tail sleepily, lies man's friend, Fido, the good old mule deer.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Stepping on a nail, Charles McCann, of West Pittston, contracted blood poisoning and it was necessary to amputate the leg at the knee.

—Joseph Ryan, a prominent insurance and real estate man of Girardville, died at the State hospital, the result of falling down stairs and fracturing his skull.

—Operations have been resumed at the Mahoney Valley Coal company washery, near Girardville, following an idleness of three months due to slack demand for the smaller sizes of fuel.

—Frank Breitenbach, aged 23 years, and single, of Bloomsburg, was instantly killed Saturday afternoon when he came in contact with a high-tension line while employed by the Pennsylvania Power and Light company.

—At the annual meeting of the board of trustees of Wilson College on Saturday, it was announced that the assets of the college have now passed the \$1,000,000 mark. The present endowment of the college is now \$424,000, represented by invested funds.

—Falling from a third-story window of a hotel at Sayre, on Sunday, Alfred Faga, secretary of F. N. Hibbits, superintendent of motive power of the Lehigh Valley railroad, received probably fatal injuries. He is believed to have lost his balance in opening the window.

—Charles S. Messenger, of Columbia county, has brought suit against Jordan township, Lycoming county, for \$100,000 for the death of his wife who died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident when a truck in which he and his wife were riding went into a ditch.

—Charged with arson, A. K. Drum, of Sunbury, is in the Northumberland county jail, following an alleged attempt made by him to burn the building in which his store and apartment are located. Evidence brought in at the hearing before an alderman showed that oil had been noticed on the floor of the store, where the fire started, and that oil soaked material had been picked up by firemen.

—Mrs. Henrietta Shaner, 91 years of age, a cigarmaker until she was 81 year old, died at Boyertown, last Friday. Mrs. Shaner made a practice of smoking seven cigars a day, first cutting them in half. A year ago she started to smoke a pipe, but always refused to smoke cigarettes. She was active in church work and supported her family for many years after becoming a widow fifty years ago. Although urged to vote, she always refused to go to the polls.

—Some one got more than a bargain at a rummage sale conducted for the benefit of a Chester, Pa., church. A few days ago, when church workers called at her home, Mrs. Frank Bartholf gave them a coat belonging to her husband. On Saturday she learned that in the pockets of the coat had been hidden a pocket book containing some cash, old coins and a valuable collection of old stamps. The coat was sold for ten cents and Mrs. Bartholf would not have parted with the coins and other articles for \$50.

—During the month of October Mrs. Frank B. Swartz, of Spring Run, Millifield county, has the record of baking 90 loaves of bread, 26 pies, 6 three-layer cakes, 232 baking powder biscuits and 73 buns. This is quite a record, but in addition to 13 loaves of bakers' bread were consumed by this family, which would prove that they were all in good health even though there were only eleven members in the family, as well as visitors. It would also be certain proof of the culinary skill of Mrs. Swartz.

—David Hill, colored, is in the Chester county prison on the charge of stealing diamonds and other jewelry, valued at more than \$31,000, from Charles Clements, a meat dealer, of near Phoenixville. The stolen property was found in the home of Hill after his arrest when the police made a search. Hill was employed by Ralph G. Smith, of West Chester, to assist in moving the goods of Clements to a new residence near that place, and the jewelry was taken from the drawers in the bureau, where it had been placed for the moving.

—It cost Mike Skibo, of Sykesville, Jefferson county, \$480 to bite Luther Pifer's thumb, and it was not a serious bite at that. Pifer is a watchman along a new piece of concrete road being laid near that town. While the concrete was green Skibo came along and thought he was having a lot of fun leaving his footprints in the concrete. Pifer had to use force to get the trespasser off the new roadway, and during the scuffle Skibo bit Pifer's thumb. Besides paying the \$480 Skibo was compelled to furnish bond to keep the peace for five years to come.

—In an East Scranton bar-room on Monday afternoon, Joseph Setoski, a powerful man weighing more than 200 pounds, looked down upon Anthony Adams, weighing 110 pounds and called him a weakling. Anthony resented this remark and made a bet that he could lift the big man up and set him on his shoulders. Setoski sat on the floor and Adams took a good grip. With every bit of strength and will power Adams lifted with success. He swung the big man above his head. But then he slipped. Setoski came down with a crash and died of a broken neck. Adams is in jail charged with involuntary manslaughter.

—The wave of banditry that has kept Indiana county on the alert for the last few months had another chapter written to it when Miss Mary Woody was attacked when she got off a street car at Josephine late one night recently. A bandit described as "a foreigner," struck her a heavy blow over the arm, grabbed her wristwatch and a handbag containing \$70 in cash, and escaped. After Miss Woody had recovered sufficiently to summon help she was taken to the office of a physician, where it was discovered that the blow upon her arm had badly shattered one of the bones. County police have taken up the case, but have no clues.

—The State Game Commission has mailed to all licensed fur dealers in Pennsylvania a license card that is expected to aid the State in protecting trappers from unscrupulous dealers. A statement says, "Trappers in the past have been cheated by fly-by-night dealers who disposed of raw furs taken by the Pennsylvania trappers and then refused to give the backwoodsman the amount of money really due them." At present there are about 300 licensed fur dealers in the State. All of these will receive the license card. The trappers will then be asked to deal only with the dealers who have been licensed and to require that the men who buy their furs show the State license card. There are a number of trappers in Centre county and all of them should select licensed dealers.