

INK SLINGS.

—Don't be too sure about Governor Pinchot's impotence with the next Legislature. He might "settle it" like he did the coal strike.

—If this kind of weather is to keep up until spring there'll be a new national anthem adopted about February and it will be God save the coal pile.

—New York barbers have voted to boycott all of Valentino's pictures because he has grown a beard. Now what do you suppose they'd do to us if we should grow some hair?

—Wouldn't this be the drab, dreary world if it were not for the fellows who buckle the red surcingle about themselves and strut at the head of the parades that some one else's sacrifice or gratuity has called forth.

—There are just thirty-five days left. Of course you'll fool around until there's only one. If you do and can't think of anything else, send them the "Watchman" for a year. It will be the most acceptable present anyway.

—A little red Licker was left in a Los Angeles home the other day and the Prohibition sleuths haven't gotten on the job up to the time of our going to press. There's a reason. The Stork left it in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Licker in that city.

—Yes, dear skeptic, there are a few of the big kind left. On Monday a gentleman walked up High street and, as he was about to pass the room where the Red Cross enrollment is being made, he stopped, voluntarily, and dropped ten iron men into the empty box. Would that there were ninety and nine more men whose satisfaction comes from unostentatiously doing such acts as this.

—What we can't understand is why the government thinks it better to sink the George Washington, for which we have already paid sixteen million dollars, than to give the uncompleted hulk to the soldier boys to knock down and sell as junk. Our friend Nathan would make himself rich out of it and there are plenty of incapacitated service men who are just as smart as Nathan.

—Commenting on the opening of another grocery store in Bellefonte a gentleman remarked to us: "I think we have more now than the town can support." Perhaps we have, but as there will be only fifteen groceries after the new one is opened they will still be four short of the filling stations we boast. And it would be interesting to know which costs the most: The human stomachs or the gas tanks of the motors.

—The Superior court has upheld the sentence of the Quarter Sessions court of Cambria county, Judge Finletter presiding specially, in which fourteen of the K. K. K.s who participated in the fatal riot at Lilly last April were sentenced to two years in prison. We are sorry for the unfortunates, of course, but we're grateful for the lesson that their foolishness should teach those who think they have the right to take the law in their own hands.

—Taking responsibility as it comes we rise to ask who is to blame for freezing the potatoes, celery, hydrants and everything else that had a right to get into their winter flannels? If Cal's election is to be given the glory of making millions already for the "ticker" business men of the country why shouldn't Cal's election step up and admit that it gave the back-yards, truck patches and the water pipes the ice?

—It was to be expected that everybody would have a cure for the sleeping sickness which in the final diagnosis, is what is ailing the Democratic party, but we have no faith in those doctors who want to give it the reorganization panacea. The Pennsylvania Democracy took that dose some years ago and has had one foot in the grave ever since. The party doesn't need any more nostrums. What it needs is a little osteopathy to put something into the back-bones of the young and a monkey-gland infusion for the old Democrats.

—Cheer up, the worst is yet to come! All you Bellefonters who have been abominating the night noises, since obsolence robbed you of the urge to make a lot of them yourselves, had better take residence in the country after April 1st, next. The government has arranged to have two mail planes arrive here just after the last night motor visitor has warmed up his engine, ground his gears and sounded a farewell honk under your windows. They will drone around in the sky hunting the landing field, just long enough to keep your nerves a quiver until it is time to get up for breakfast.

—The Philadelphians who have declined to take a portrait of their niece from an artist whom they had commissioned to paint it are getting the lady into a very embarrassing situation. They refused it because, they say, he made her appear "too fat." He has sued to recover eight hundred dollars for his work and, we think he'll get it out of court. When it comes down to parading nature's endowment before a jury of twelve men we have yet to see the lady who wouldn't rather die than do that. She can turn the portrait to the wall, but she can't suppress newspaper notoriety. Besides, what's eight hundred dollars to a girl who is in danger of having a court reveal that straight-line gowns are only a smoke-screen for obesity.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Cambria County's Congressman.

The disputed result of the vote for Congressman in the Cambria county district of this State has taken a surprising turn. On the face of the returns the Republican candidate had fifty-eight majority. On motion the computing judges ordered the opening of some of the ballot boxes which developed a majority of fourteen for the Democratic candidate. Thereupon the lawyers for the Republican candidate raised the point that because, under the constitution of the United States, Congress may regulate the election of Congressmen the computing judges had no right to direct the opening of the boxes, they being State officials. Similar action has been taken by the computing judges frequently.

There are two judges in Cambria county and the court is equally divided in politics. Judge Evans is a Republican and Judge McCann a Democrat. They sat on Tuesday to hear argument by counsel of the contestants as to certification of one or the other as the properly elected Congressman from the district. The judges agreed to disagree notwithstanding the fact that Judge Evans had previously joined with Judge McCann in directing the opening of the ballot boxes that resulted in depriving Walters of his majority and giving it to Bailey, the Democratic candidate. Then they asked for a third judge to sit with them to cast the deciding vote. Judge Baldrige, of Blair county, has been chosen and as he is a Republican the political complexion of the court is adverse to Bailey.

In ordering the opening of the ballot boxes the Cambria county judges concurred and the only question before the court on the challenge of jurisdiction is that of affirming or reversing their own decision. In that event, if the Republican judge shall declare for reversal he will stultify himself. Possibly party exigencies may influence him to take that step, but if they do he ought to resign for it will be a confession of incapacity. In any event the matter is interesting. The Democratic candidate, Warren Worth Bailey is a man of marked ability and both have had experience in Congressional legislation. But if the question is determined on its merits and in the interest of honesty, Bailey will win.

—The "strip" political boss must have been out of the city when a Pittsburgh judge decided that the State law for padlocking is valid.

Coolidge Luck Maintained.

Quite naturally the appointment of National chairman William B. Butler to fill the vacancy as Senator in Congress caused by the death of Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, calls to mind the similar incident which followed the election of William McKinley in 1896 when Mark Hanna was appointed Senator for Ohio. Both men were new in politics, considerably advanced in age and eminently successful in business. Each came to the service as "guide, philosopher and friend" of the candidate for President, a rather obscure son of the State in which he lived. Mr. Hanna introduced the expensive methods of campaigning which Mr. Butler developed to perfection and both had personal interest in legislation.

The one striking break in the analogy is characteristic of Mr. Coolidge's luck. Hanna wanted to get into the Senate to promote tariff legislation on iron and steel. But the seats for Ohio were filled, and though Sherman was old, he showed no signs of an early death. Therefore he had to be "bought off" and the lure of a cabinet portfolio was dangled before his eyes. Mr. Sherman imagined that he was a financier and accepted the office. He became one of the most inefficient Secretaries of the Treasury in the history of the country and finally worried himself into the grave. But Hanna became as successful in the Senate as he was in business. No tariff advantage ever escaped his keen eyes.

Mr. Butler is also deeply interested in tariff legislation as a millionaire manufacturer of cotton fabrics and has expressed a desire to operate on the "ground floor." It is generally understood that President Coolidge was in full accord with his ambition, but if Lodge had lived it might have been a difficult matter to arrange. Nothing less than the office of Secretary of State would have induced Lodge to resign from the Senate and his palpable unfitness for that station as well as his obligations to the present incumbent, Mr. Hughes, made the offer of that place practically impossible. But the "Coolidge luck" happily solved the problem and Butler may become as dominant a boss as Hanna was.

—Financial experts are advising investors to be careful, but stock gamblers are not likely to take the advice seriously.

Machine Will Snub the Governor.

Signs that the Republican machine will show scant consideration to the interests and wishes of Governor Pinchot during the coming session of the Legislature are increasing. The Vore influence in Philadelphia and the Max Leslie forces in Pittsburgh appear to be positively hostile and are likely to oppose any proposition, good or bad, which he offers. In the Philadelphia delegation there is but one man independent of the Vore power, while in Pittsburgh there are three groups with Leslie in absolute control of about one-half the delegation. Half of the other half is under control of the Magee-Oliver faction which might be annexed to the Governor and the other half is marked independent.

There is some talk and a remote chance of an alliance between the forces friendly to the Governor and the element yielding allegiance to Joe Grundy, the famous "boodle chaser," of Montgomery county. The only barrier to such an alliance is a difference of preference for Governor in 1926. Grundy and Auditor General Lewis have been close friends for many years and if Lewis becomes a candidate for Governor, which is more than likely, Grundy will espouse his cause. That, of course, would conflict with the plans of the Governor because Lewis is his "pet aversion." Two years ago Grundy favored John Fisher, of Indiana, and Pinchot would not object to him. But Lewis was not in the running then.

The first break will be on the Speakership and thus far neither side has expressed a choice. It is believed that the Governor will favor the reelection of Mr. Goodnough, who was so generous to him during the last session, and Grundy has no objection to his choice. Thus far the opposition has gone no further than a declaration of hostility to any candidate the Governor favors. W. Clyde Harter, of Williamsport, is talked of among the leaders. He was a candidate for the honor two years ago but gave way in the interest of harmony and to please the Governor. Representative Marshall, of Beaver, is also mentioned as a possible aspirant but no definite lines have been drawn between them.

—A year ago we acclaimed Mussolini, the iron man of Italy, and predicted that he was riding to his fall. Fall has come and is almost went, but things are beginning to look as though Mussoli will be with the dodos by the time spring arrives.

Sure of a "Bully Time."

The agricultural commission which President Coolidge promised before the election and has appointed since is valuable mostly in the form of evidence that at least some of the campaign pledges are to be redeemed. The promise served the purpose of enlisting most of the farmers of the west and middlewest in support of the Republican ticket. The fulfillment will achieve little beyond that of fooling them for another period of time. No complaint can be found with the personnel of the commission and when that is said about all features of the affair are covered. It is a harmless gesture.

The members of the commission paid their respects to the President on Monday and assembled for organization on Tuesday. They will spend a week or two pleasantly in Washington and talk cautiously on the subject for which they were called together. The two or three measures pending, ostensibly for the benefit of agriculture, will be gone over and the several propositions contained in them compared with the view of reconciling the differences in a compromise bill. But the chances are more than even that they will fail to come to an agreement. They will have, however, what the late Colonel Roosevelt would call "a bully time."

But no member of the commission will point out the real trouble of the farmers and neither the President nor any of his official advisers will suggest it. The excessive tariff tax is the real cause of agricultural depression in this country. It deprives farmers of an abundant and safe market and that is precisely what they need. Europe can't buy the products of American farms for the reason that the products which Europe has to exchange are excluded from our markets by atrocious and absurd tariff levies. A revenue tariff would cure this evil and that, too, without depressing prices to a dangerous level.

—One bootlegger to one-hundred in population is the ratio in Washington, D. C. When Congress is in session the sources of supply will be greater in proportion.

—Pennsylvania has been without representation on the Federal Supreme court a long time but has managed to get along fairly well.

Promise of an Interesting Event.

Senator Couzens, of Michigan, who was elected to a full term the other day, without expense to himself or anybody else, has broadcast information that upon the reassembling of Congress his investigation of the prohibition law enforcement operations of the Treasury Department will be renewed. This is interesting and likely to add considerably to "the gaiety of nations." This purpose of the Senator for Michigan expressed during the last session made history. It defeated Governor Pinchot's ambition to be a delegate-at-large to the Republican National convention and his opportunity to throw a harpoon into somebody. Besides it made an egregious fool of Senator Watson, of Indiana.

These were more or less important consequences of Senator Couzens' original announcement of a purpose to investigate the Treasury Department activities in the matter of law enforcement. But they are not all. It made Secretary Mellon threaten to resign and forced the President to rebuke the Senate for trying to fulfill its obligations to the public. It almost made the Republican machine organize opposition to the election of Senator Couzens and actually did create a scandal which, if the voters had not been morally palsied, would have driven the Republican party out of existence. Taking one consideration with another this purpose of the Michigan Senator was a striking episode in politics.

But most of these things were only "might-have-beens." It is true that Watson has never recovered his former status in the party, and that Couzens appears to have "compromised with vice" to save his Senatorial bacon. But we sincerely hope he will carry out his present purpose of reopening the question. The Volstead law ought to be enforced or repealed and the investigation which was checked last spring by the illness of Senator Couzens will result in one of these things or the other. If it is proven that the Secretary of the Treasury has been in league with the bootleggers, he is unfit for the high position he occupies in the public life of the country.

—The State is going to provide street markers in cities and towns. After awhile our old friend, Local self-government, will have nothing to do but pretend to exist.

—We are wondering what the Philadelphia sports writers would have said had it been Ernie Couzens and not Ted Artelt who scooped up that fumble and ran sixty yards for a touchdown that was not allowed. We know that the officials for college football games are designated only after notification of acceptance by the contending teams and that Crowell probably did rule the play as he saw it, but we also know that the attitude of Philadelphia newspapers toward State always has and probably always will reflect Penn's patronizing manner toward the Centre county institution, so that had the "break" in last Saturday's game favored the other side there would have been columns claiming victory instead of columns explaining a ruling that needed none, if it was fair. The result of the game was a bitter disappointment to Penn. She wanted to win, for then she could have carried out her contemplated plan of dropping State from her next year's schedule with better face than she will have if she does it now after having been consistently beaten in nearly every contest played since State has developed beyond the practice game class.

—While it is being done very quietly it is true, nevertheless, that men are being laid off from jobs in Bellefonte for some time, which doesn't augur well for the good times promised before the election.

—It is said that von Tirpitz sees no hope for the future. If he had his just dues he would see nothing but hot coals at present and in the future.

—There is some comfort in the practical certainty that LaFollette will not be threatening to run for President in the future.

—The prohibition enforcement officials have their own opinion of Congressman Hill, of Maryland, but that doesn't disturb Hill.

—The lust for spoils is on in full force and the hope is that it will disrupt the Republican party within two years.

—Strange as it may seem Governor Pinchot doesn't know that he is politically dead.

—The turkey that survives today may only strut for another month.

Official Omniscience.

From the Philadelphia Record. There is a story of a girl who listened for some time to her best young man's opinions—he was a sophomore—and finally exclaimed: "It must be true to know everything." And he calmly replied: "It is." It is a very natural thing for every convention to wish to see the President and hear him talk, but it really can't matter much what he says on many occasions. Of course, an earnest and very serious son of Massachusetts must be able at any moment to make an entirely correct address on education and religion and the domestic virtues, and the holy influence of home, and what we owe our mothers. But when he feels it a part of his official duty to instruct bankers in banking, merchants in trade, and farmers in agriculture, the labor is really more than he ought to assume in addition to his strictly official work. Official omniscience is not imposed upon him by the Constitution.

The President has recently been talking to the farmers about the vicissitudes of their occupation since the war. He sees the home demand for food products increasing so fast that within 25 years we shall have to import food, and in the meanwhile he commends co-operative marketing to the farmers. Senator McNary, one of the authors of the McNary-Hauton bill to have the government take charge of agricultural exports and fix their prices, has no faith in co-operative marketing, except for limited special crops, say prunes or olives.

As our birth rate is decreasing and we are shutting out foreigners, our population is not going to increase in the next 25 years as fast as in the last, and we shall not attempt to pass judgment on co-operative marketing. But we invite attention to some of the most obvious vicissitudes of agriculture since the war which hardly seem to admit of governmental control.

When all Europe was fighting the demand for our food was enormous. When all Europe gave up fighting and returned to farming there was less demand for our food and prices fell. The high prices of wheat and hogs sent up the prices of land, and the peak was reached in 1918, when great numbers of farmers in the Northwest bought additional land on mortgage at the top figures. It was bad enough to have the prices of farm products come down, but the mortgages didn't come down, and many of them matured in 1923. Some mortgages were extended; many were foreclosed. This increased the depression of prices of both land and products.

There were two other contributing causes to the low prices of 1923, when the Canadian crop is an acute issue in politics. One was the Capper-Tincher law, which drove many speculators out of the grain markets. The farmers demanded it, they got it, and it contributed to the low price of wheat. The other was that the Canadian wheat crop was phenomenal; it was 474,000,000 bushels. Wheat in Chicago went below \$1. This year European wheat crops are less than last year, the Canadian crop is 203,000,000 bushels less, and December wheat in Chicago has touched \$1.56.

We do not pretend to have exhausted all the elements of the problem, but we have presented the most striking of the vicissitudes of agriculture since the world war, and unless the Capper-Tincher bill was a mistake—which it probably was—we do not see much here that the action of the government could have prevented.

Problems of the Farmer.

Henry A. Bellevs in The Forum. Fundamentally, the problem of the farm relief can be solved only by the farmers themselves. They must learn to get as much out of their land as it is capable of producing, and they must learn to be business men. Specifically, the wheat farmer must cease trying to make a living out of raising eight or nine bushels of wheat to the acre from land that successive years of wheat cropping have robbed of its fertility. At any price there is no profit in the nine-bushel wheat farm—and the average wheat yield per acre in North Dakota in 1923 was 7.1 bushels. In Western Canada in 1923 the average wheat yield was 22.1 bushels to the acre. Virgin soil, yes, but in France, where every available foot of ground has been made to bear crops for centuries, the wheat yield per acre in 1923 was 21.3 bushels. Eight bushels of wheat to the acre, at one dollar a bushel, means a gross return hardly more than enough to pay interest on the purchase price of \$100 land; 20 bushels an acre, at the same price, yields a fair profit above all expenses. No law can make the farmer rotate his crops so as to increase his yields to a point where they can earn money for him, but the iron rule of economic necessity, supported by education, is actually accomplishing it.

Ought to Have It.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. One familiar with that section of the State can readily understand the desire of the people of Lock Haven and Renovo for a through highway joining those places and going to Driftwood and beyond. Not only should these important communities be linked up by a modern road for purposes of neighborhood communication but for the benefit of the tourist as well. The suggestion that the State Highway be asked to make a survey of the route is in good form.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Two bandits entered the Standard Cigar company offices in Pittsburgh, seized a payroll of \$8000 and escaped in an automobile.

—Five hundred miners of the Pennsylvania Coal company in Pittston, struck because of a dispute over the use of dynamite for blasting.

—Lewistown Eagles purchased the Rafensberger property on West Market street for \$16,000 and will erect a five-story business and club building.

—The third fire of supposed incendiary origin in the Beech Creek section destroyed the hay shed belonging to John H. Hunter, last Friday night. Authorities are investigating.

—York county's oldest resident, Mrs. Casandra Stein, who would have reached the 102nd milestone in life today, died at her residence at Windsor, last Friday, at 1:15 p. m. Mrs. Stein, who was an inveterate user of tobacco, smoking at least one pipeful each day, leaves 137 direct descendants.

—Clinton Diehl, an East Stroudsburg business man who on Saturday night escaped from the Monroe county jail where he was awaiting sentence for a statutory offense, returned to the prison on Sunday and surrendered. He told Sheriff F. A. Bosner that he had just gone out "to see the kiddies and my family."

—The body of Howard Blair, of Williamsport, was found hanging from the Reading Railroad trestle at the foot of Susquehanna street in that city, about 7 o'clock on Sunday morning. He had placed a rope around his neck after fastening it to the trestle and had jumped to his death. He was a man of middle age and married.

—Because a payroll bandit was foiled a night or two ago in his efforts to rob paymaster J. W. Scureman, of the Burns Brothers Coal company of Grantman, of \$4,000, the same man early on Monday morning set fire to a number of poultry houses on Mr. Scureman's chicken farm and besides destroying the building burned about 500 chickens.

—Joseph Guinter, who was born in Platt township, Lycoming county, in 1854, holds an unique record. He is a tenor and has sung in the Pine Street Methodist church, in Williamsport for thirty-seven years. Prior to that he was a member of the choir of the church at Larrsville for eighteen years, making fifty-five years in consecutive service singing in two choirs.

—Sixty-five pouches of second-class mail, twenty-two parcel post packages and twenty-three reels of moving picture films were destroyed when a freight car of the York Railways company was set on fire on Monday at Blair's station, York county. The freight car was ignited by a broken trolley wire. It was entirely consumed by the flames. The damage is estimated at \$20,000.

—Seventy persons were arrested in a raid by state police on an alleged gambling house at McKees Rocks, a suburb of Pittsburgh, early Sunday morning. According to the raiders, thousands of dollars were in play at various tables when they entered, but much of the money was snatched up by players during the excitement. The state police said \$1,965 was left on the tables. It was seized for evidence.

—Becoming hysterical when she discovered that she had burned her husband's pay envelope with an old pair of trousers, Mrs. Edward J. Dougherty, of Catawauqua, took poison. She is in the Allentown hospital and will recover. During the excitement Homer McHose, who recently moved to Catawauqua from Port Jervis, N. J., and who is suffering from a nervous breakdown, drank some of the same poison. He, too, is expected to recover.

—Free on parole for the last five years, after having served ten years of a twenty-five-year sentence in the western penitentiary for complicity in the kidnaping of Willie Whitta, wealthy Sharon, Pa., boy, Helen Boyle, now of Chicago, is seeking absolute freedom. Formal application for release from her parole, in effect a pardon, has been made to the State, Warden Ashe announced on Monday. The Boyle woman's husband, Jimmy Boyle, who died in prison a few years ago, was given a life term.

—The old covered bridge near Beech Creek is to be extensively repaired, following a conference of the commissioners of Centre and Clinton counties. This bridge is an old landmark, and one of the few covered bridges left in that section. Several hundred persons use it each day, and motor traffic will be heavy over it since it is in the direct route to the new Pennsylvania Railroad station being constructed at Eagleview, to which place the agency will be moved from Beech Creek the first of the year.

—The Pennsylvania Realty Investment company, of Allentown, has taken title to a tract of land along the west side of the Susquehanna river, at Shamokin dam, for \$20,000. This is the holding company of the Pennsylvania Power and Light company, which controls all of the lighting corporations in the northeastern part of the State. Upon the newly acquired site a \$7,000,000 super-power plant will be built. Due to the almost inexhaustible supply of river water the corporation plans to make this one of the biggest plants in the east. It was said.

—A strange case of mistaken identity was revealed at Pittsburgh, last Friday, when Patrick J. McDonough returned to his home after a week's absence, to find his family mourning him as dead and gathered about the body of a stranger. The body had been identified as that of McDonough at the city morgue Thursday by the Rev. B. McDonough, a son, and also by a nephew. The body is now believed to be that of James Jones, a resident of a local hotel. The man had died of heart disease last Thursday at the hospital. After McDonough's joyous reunion with his family, the body of the stranger was again removed to the morgue.

—After a chase of seven years by postal detectives Edward Bowers was arrested on Thursday at his home in Lajosse, Clearfield county, on a charge of having robbed the postoffice at Winslow, Jefferson county, in August, 1917. At the time of the robbery \$142.20 was taken from the postoffice. Three men were implicated, two of whom, Edward Reebarger and James Smith, were arrested at the time. Bowers escaped. He was known to have spent some time in Chicago and other western points. Some time ago he returned to Lajosse and secured work in the mines. Upon learning this fact postal authorities soon located and arrested him. He was taken to Pittsburgh for trial.