

INK SLINGS.

—Cheer up! Ground hog day approaches and maybe he'll decide that we need six more weeks of winter.

—Wheat is up to two dollars and while we are not advising anybody to sell we do assert that it's a very good price.

—The eclipse will be in first contact at 7:58 tomorrow morning. At 9:11 it will be total and at 10:32 the contact will end.

—President Coolidge thinks it isn't quite so reprehensible to be the man with a little "on the hip" as it is to be the boot-legger who supplies it.

—Congress has been in session since early in December and nobody is pointing with pride to anything it has done, because it has done nothing.

—Surely the women are getting us a place on the map. Since they started to smoke the grand old U. S. A. has climbed to leadership of the nations in the consumption of cigarettes.

—Wheat is still going up, but the administration doesn't have anything to do with the rise. The world crop is short. People must have bread and those who can pay most for it get it.

—The Hon. Holmes didn't get much by way of choice committee assignments for his vote for Bluet, but then new Members, like new councilmen, usually draw little else than nuisance committee assignments.

—The four horsemen of the Legislature—Baker, Vare, Leslie and Grundy, are in a fight to political death among themselves, but before they kill themselves off they'll be sure that Pinchot's ghost stays down.

—The attempt of the Republican Senators to white-wash Fall, Denby, and their fellow conspirators in the Teapot Dome scandal was frustrated when the Insurgents joined with the Democrats and adopted the Walsh report.

—If Vare and Grundy succeed in chasing Harry Baker clear out of the Republican councils in Pennsylvania then, indeed, will the State need to be pitied. Baker is a politician, of course, but he's not of the self-seeking, "public be damned" kind that Grundy and Vare are.

—If any of our friends are thinking of taking a nice long trip and pine for a companionable traveler we invite correspondence. Don't start writing, however, until after you see in this column announcement of the fact that we have won one of the thousand dollar cross-word puzzle contests. We're all ready and set to go somewhere. We've made up the itinerary, stored in the old bean a lot of good smoking compartment stories and all that remains to be done is have our only pair of trousers pressed and win the thousand.

—Take a walk out to the Evangelical church on Willowbank street. Look carefully into what the committee in charge of that work has done for \$24,000 and then wonder, like we do, why the hospital building program can't be carried to completion for three times as much. The church builders had excavation all the way in solid rock and our guess is that they have more cubic feet of building than the hospital enlargement specifies. A comparison of actual cost in the one project with bids made for the other is illuminating, to say the least.

—As a member of the committee on law and order of the Legislature our Member again finds himself between the devil and the deep blue sea. When the Governor's prohibition measures get before the committee Mr. Holmes will have to go on record one way or the other. It is significant that in the first published nose count on the wet or dry complexion of the committee he was listed among those counted "doubtful." Where the Harrisburg correspondents got the inspiration for such a classification we know not, but certainly it couldn't have come from Mr. Holmes, himself.

—The School of Education of The Pennsylvania State College releases, for this week's publicity, this information: "When a large majority of Pennsylvania's public school teachers are not in the class room they spend a good part of their time studying for the improvement of their service to the community." We publish the hopeful information hopelessly. No one will believe that who knows more about the public school teachers than the School of Education at The Pennsylvania State College. Many teachers are spending their time in the class room, and out, hunting for a word of three letters that describes those of them who voted for Pinchot because he was going to keep Finnegon, and the rest are working on other cross-word puzzles.

—Dr. Ellie Potter was probably right when, in defending her regime, she recently stated that State aided hospitals had more money on which to operate in 1924 than they ever had before. She was certainly wrong when she stated that her system of accounting had anything to do with it. That is a drain, not a help, to every small institution in the State, for it costs much and saves little. Furthermore, if any hospitals have had more funds on which to operate since she became the big cheese it hasn't been because she or Pinchot, as representing the State, furnished it. It has been because they have forced local boards of trustees to make private room rates well high prohibitive to any but the very rich and every community to milk itself dry in order to make up deficits.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 70.

BELLEfonte, PA., JANUARY 23, 1925.

NO. 4.

Chairman Baker Bumped Again.

As might have been expected Republican State chairman W. Harry Baker got another rude bump in the assignment of honors and favors of the Legislature. He asked for the assignment of W. Clyde Harer to the chairmanship of the committee on Ways and Means and the bosses handed the plum to Philip Sterling, of Philadelphia, a follower of Grundy. The Bucks county boss didn't ask for the appointment of Sterling. He urged the selection of Aaron Hess, of Lancaster. But Sterling will serve his purpose quite as well. He will oppose and prevent the effort to levy a tax on manufacturers and thus defeat the movement of the farmers to equalize the burdens of the government.

This issue of a more or less acrimonious conflict between Grundy and Baker is necessarily humiliating to the State chairman but as a matter of fact he is not the principal victim. The country members of the Legislature, who have been cruelly robbed of a just share of the party favors, the farmers who have been striving for years to shift a fair share of taxation from their shoulders to those others much better able to bear them, and the people of the State generally who believe in clean politics and equality in burdens as well as opportunities, are the real victims of the Grundy victory. It may cost Mr. Baker a brief moment of disappointment. It will cost them hard earned money.

Mr. Grundy has no sentimental interest in politics. He serves no party on the basis of principle. He is a Republican because that party indulges him in largesses that no other party will tolerate. His fight against Harer, for chairman of the House committee on Ways and Means, was inspired by Mr. Harer's vote during the last session in favor of a tax on manufacturers. He is a millionaire manufacturer and such a tax would exact from him a considerable sum of money. With an obedient chairman of that committee he may avoid that expense and that is the measure of his obligations as a citizen. His idea is get all he can and keep all he gets. "Every fellow for himself and the devil take the hindmost."

The solution of the problem of the Ways and Means committee is not exceptional. Every step in the organization of the Legislature expressed the selfishness of the bosses. The conquest of Governor Pinchot is final and complete. He is a "dead duck in the pond" and so mutilated as to serve as a deterrent in the future. It was the hope of Vare and Grundy that Baker might be similarly disposed of. He is a Republican and a bitter partisan but not of their type. He would justify his party faith by public service if possible. They have no conception of such conduct. To them party organization is simply a means to accomplish selfish purposes, and a bought majority is as good as an earned one.

In a decision just handed down by Justice Kephart, of the Supreme court of Pennsylvania, we find the following that every motor driver might well ponder over: "Some automobile drivers imagine a 'go' signal gives them a clear right of way" at a street intersection. "The responsibility rests with the automobile drivers so to handle their cars as not to injure those walking across the street."

—When "Ma" Ferguson was inaugurated Governor of Texas, on Tuesday, she wore a gown of black kitten's ear satin. It was fitting that "Ma" should go in in the garb of a kitten because by the time she is ready to go out most of the Texas women will probably be saying: "Ain't she the cat."

—At the annual meeting of the First National bank of Philadelphia, on Tuesday of last week, John E. Fryberger was promoted from the position of cashier to president, while George H. Barnes was elected cashier and John C. Hoffer an assistant cashier.

—Without actual authority to speak for either we feel safe in predicting that the present Governor of Texas will not give Governor Pinchot her hat to throw into the ring.

—The Memorial bridge at Harrisburg, too long delayed, is under discussion in the State capitol, but it will probably have to wait until Pinchot retires.

—The Philadelphia "neck" and the Pittsburgh "strip" are still working in harmony, and law-abiding legislators are getting ready to call the police.

—It is whispered in the "inner circles" that if the Governor would throw his Secretary of the Commonwealth overboard all might be forgiven.

Blame on Pinchot's Head.

If, as now seems probable, the trend of legislation runs in the direction of "wet" interests during the present session of the Legislature, the responsibility will be on the head of Governor Pinchot. The Anti-Prohibition News, a publication recently removed from Shamokin to Harrisburg, in its last issue declares that "Pinchot's defeat in the Speakership fight indicates no more enforcement bills will be passed." In other words, in the opinion of this inspired organ of the bootleggers and rum-runners, the election of Mr. Bluet, of Philadelphia, to the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives marked the end of legislation favoring enforcement of prohibition laws.

If Governor Pinchot had invested all his influence in support of the election of Mr. Bluet to the Speakership some other candidate might have been elected, for the majority of the membership is openly against the Governor. But if he had joined his forces with those of chairman Baker in support of Mr. Harer, of Williamsport, the result could have been different. Mr. Harer is as strongly in favor of prohibition law enforcement as the Governor's candidate, Mr. Goodnough. But the Governor refused to support Harer and insisted on his own candidate, with the result that Bluet was elected, which indicates that "no more enforcement bills will be passed" at this session of the Legislature.

Governor Pinchot pretends and hopes the people will believe that he was influenced to his action by a desire to promote the interests of prohibition legislation. But he will be disappointed in this expectation. If he had been concerned for prohibition law enforcement he would have supported Harer, who had a good chance of election. But his concern was for his own political estate and ambitions. Harer is a good enough "dry" man but not sufficiently servile to Pinchot, and in order to prevent the election of a dry man who was not wholly servile, or as the Governor puts it "loyal to the administration," he split the dry vote and elected a "wet" candidate. It is another expression of hypocrisy.

—Nothing worries the machine managers so much as the seeming unconcern of the Governor. They say Gifford is an accomplished actor or else he knows his defeat is complete.

Warren Worth Bailey's Contest.

At a public meeting held in Philadelphia last Thursday evening, one of the speakers declared that "three of the judges joined hands in the robbery of Bailey because of blind partisanship, if not corruption." He referred to the action of the Supreme court of Pennsylvania in the contested election case of Warren Worth Bailey and Anderson H. Walters, of Johnstown. On the unofficial returns Walters had a majority. In computing the official returns some ballot boxes were opened with the consent of both judges, and the count showed a majority for Bailey. Lawyers for Walters then protested that the court had no right to open the boxes. One of the judges thereupon reversed himself and the count divided.

Another Republican judge was called in who joined with the Republican on the bench and directed the certificate of election be issued to Walters, the defeated candidate. Mr. Bailey appealed to the Supreme court and upon the question of jurisdiction that court split even, thus defeating his purpose. An appeal to the Supreme court of the United States was subsequently dismissed on the ground that it had no jurisdiction. In obedience to the order of the Cambria county court a certificate of election was issued to Walters and on the fourth of March he will take the seat which has been stolen by judicial process from Mr. Bailey. It was against this outrage the Philadelphia speaker protested.

The custom from the beginning of the government of the United States has been to elect Congressmen at regular State elections and with the machinery and by the processes of conducting State elections. The State courts have always had authority to open ballot boxes under certain conditions and the law requires that the certificate shall be issued to the candidate having a majority so determined. In the case in question all these conditions were fulfilled but the certificate was issued, by partisan influence, to the defeated candidate. The only remedy against this outrage is an appeal to Congress and Democratic voters ought to contribute freely to a fund to meet the expenses of such appeal.

—If W. Harry Baker isn't careful he will withdraw himself from public life.

—Read your own "Watchman" and get all the news.

Coolidge Understands Borah.

President Coolidge is not likely to be diverted from his purposes by the rumored opposition of Senator Borah, of Idaho, chairman of the Senate committee on Foreign Relations. The President's mental eye doesn't penetrate a millstone deeper than that of the average man but his experience in official Washington has taught him that Senator Borah's bark is more menacing than his bite. The Idaho statesman is a ponderous person and like our own Governor Pinchot makes loud professions of political independence. But that is the end of his recalculation. After that he "roars as gently as any sucking dove." He fools himself, probably, by this posturing, but deceives nobody else.

It is somewhat surprising that Senator Borah has been able to maintain his pretense of independence so long. During the Taft administration he was always protesting and stood in the Senate as a perennial interrogation point but when Taft was nominated for re-election he promptly leaped into a front seat on the band wagon and rendered yeoman service against his former fellow-protestants, Theodore Roosevelt and Hiram Johnson. In the recent campaign much of the confidence of the LaFollette party was based upon the expectation that Borah would "roar so loud and thunder in the index" as to frighten the Republican machine into a stampede for shelter in the tall timbers.

But nothing of the kind happened. Mr. Borah simply took his accustomed place in the ranks of the expectant place grabbers and even perverted the investigation of the campaign expenses into a praise meeting of chairman Butler's skillful and successful juggling of figures. Mr. Coolidge will not be scared at the shaking of Borah's shaggy mane. He probably understands Borah and will lead him peacefully and in the end contentedly up to the "pie counter" to browse in rich pastures. The majority of Borah's constituents being Mormons, with two or more families to support, a generous supply of public favors will prove helpful, and the Lord helps those who help themselves.

The country members of the Legislature are likely to learn more about running a road roller in Harrisburg than they ever dreamed of on the farm.

Highway Revenues to be Divided.

It may safely be predicted that the Legislature will enact a law dividing the revenues of the State Highway Department with the cities of the Commonwealth. Heretofore the proceeds of automobile licenses and other sources of revenues accruing to the Highway Department have been appropriated to the construction and maintenance of state highways, leaving the cities to take care of their own streets. Four years ago Aaron Hess, Representative for Lancaster, now chairman of the committee on Roads, introduced a bill providing that the Department pay for a highway through Lancaster city. It was defeated by the country members.

But the idea found favor in the eyes of Representatives of the big cities. Two years ago a Philadelphia member offered a bill requiring the Highway Department to contribute to the cost of streets in all cities. That was also defeated by a combination of the country members. But the scheme is still fondly cherished and ever since the election the Representatives of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh have been striving to put such a measure across this year. It is believed that it would be a great boost for Vare and has been cordially endorsed by Grundy since his "unholy alliance" with Vare was consummated.

And it may be added that the machinery to accomplish the result has been set. Mr. Hess has been made chairman of the House committee on Roads and Clarence J. Buckman, of Bucks county, Mr. Grundy's "handy man," holds the same office in the Senate, thus giving Grundy absolute control of legislation affecting the state highways. Grundy made pretense that he wanted Hess as head of the House committee on Ways and Means in order to direct tax legislation. But it is now believed that was only a gesture to mask his real purpose to control highway legislation. Vare's man Willard will take care of Grundy's interests in tax legislation.

—The reply of Secretary Hughes to the complaints of Senator Hiram Johnson is suggestive of a big stick in the White House.

—The combine is working smoothly at Harrisburg now but most of the leaders are trembling for the future.

—There was no fight over dispensing favors in the Senate. All the Senators are under complete subjection.

Bluet Shows His Hand.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
Speaker Bluet, of the State House of Representatives, has lost no time in revealing the purposes for which he was elected. His letter of thanks to the Members is a naive disclosure of a deliberate program to wage factional warfare upon Governor Pinchot from the very beginning of the session. It is also a direct confirmation of the report that it is the intention of the Vare-Grundy-Leslie combination to attempt to take full control of the State budget by ignoring the recommendations of the Administration in the matter of the appropriations to State owned and aided institutions.

This is to be accomplished by reversing the usual legislative procedure with regard to the appropriation bills. These measures have heretofore been left to the end of the session, and then themselves went to the Governor for the pruning process that was inevitable under the old order. The sessions having ended, the Governor had the last word about the allotments to the various institutions. But if the bills are sent to him while the Legislature is in session, he must sign or veto them within ten days, and the Legislature has then the opportunity—if necessary votes can be mustered—to override the Governor's veto, and thus make its own will prevail over that of the Executive in these matters.

It is plain, therefore, that when Mr. Bluet calls upon the members of the House to hurry up with their requests for State money for hospitals and other State-aided institutions he is counting on the ability of the Vare-Grundy-Leslie coalition to command a majority sufficient to override a veto. And, of course, in asking the members to perform a duty which the law specifically imposes upon the budget officer in the preparation of the budget, he also has in contemplation the passage of the supply bills in advance of the day of adjournment so that opposition from the Governor can be nullified.

It is plainly the purpose of Mr. Bluet and those for whom he speaks to ignore the recommendations of the Executive concerning the charity appropriations. If this means anything at all, it signifies a return to the old vicious log-rolling system by which appropriations went by favor regardless of actual need and when the allowances were granted or withheld as a weapon over the heads of members who showed any inclination toward independence and judgment.

The success of this scheme depends upon the power of the combine to muster the necessary two-thirds to override a gubernatorial veto. Whether they possess this power is still doubtful. The budget principle is involved, as well as the immediate interests of the tax-payers, who must pay when extravagance is the guiding motive of legislation.

Show It in Worth While Results.

From the Pittsburgh Post.
The news that State Senator M. G. Leslie, of Allegheny county, expects to be an extraordinary figure in this session of the Legislature will, of course, set his opponents to renewed efforts to thwart him. Irrespective of factional or other political considerations, however, it may be set down now that leadership shows itself only in the accomplishment of worth while results. Mere bossism goes no further than the attainment of selfish ends.

Allegheny county today presents many opportunities for the members of its legislative delegation to distinguish themselves. There are such prospective measures as those providing a jury system for this community in keeping with its size and to do away with duplication of work in the assessment of taxes. If there is leadership in the delegation it will show itself in getting behind these measures. If there is no leadership mere questions of patronage or matters of factional prestige will be the main consideration.

Whether it should be Mr. Leslie or one of his opponents who furnishes such a leadership, the one able to bring about worth while results from the public standpoint will be assured of proper recognition.

Let such results settle the question of leadership.

Arms Parley Not Viewed with Favor.

From the Philadelphia Record.
President Coolidge very naturally feels that the European situation is not favorable for an arms parley. If any is called it could be called more appropriately and with better prospect of success by the League of Nations than by a nation that would not join the League. And Europe must compose itself to a more pacific state of mind before it will give much attention to a reduction of international trade or the prohibition of international trade in munitions. While the Allies remain in possession of German soil, especially a part that the Versailles treaty promised should be restored January 10, and Russia's hand is against every nation, and political conditions are unsettled in Germany and Hungary, and Rumania and Hungary are at odds over Transylvania, the composition of quarrels as they occur is the most that could be hoped for. Even partial disarmament is not likely to receive general and serious consideration.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Mayor Allen Sterner, of Lock Haven, is under arrest for allowing gambling devices on his property.

—The grocery store of Frank Hatko, of Wilkes-Barre, was entered by burglars and a 400-pound safe containing cash, jewelry and checks amounting to \$300 was removed.

—On day after attending the funeral of her son, Guy Ritchey, at Duncansville, Cambria county, Mrs. Elizabeth Ritchey, aged 75 years, of Blueknob, was found dead in bed.

—His abdomen pierced by a protruding pipe while he was riding on a motor in the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company's No. 12 shaft at Tamaqua, Wallace Sneddon, aged 26 years, was instantly killed.

—James C. Dunsart, Hollidaysburg philanthropist, has given \$67,500 to the Presbyterian Home for Aged Women in Hollidaysburg, to complete the first unit of the home, which will be named in his honor.

—John Dobson, of Mount Carmel, who languidly admits that he is the laziest man in the world, toiled this week. He was sent to the Northumberland county jail for failure to send his two boys to school, and warden Reitz put him on the boiler firing squad. Dobson and his family were found quartered in an abandoned coal mine near Mount Carmel.

—M. F. Hamill, 75 years old, cashier of the Parkersburg National bank, which closed its doors October 3, after an alleged shortage approximating \$100,000 had been discovered, was arrested on Monday at the home of his son-in-law at Wayne, Pa., a Philadelphia suburb. The charge preferred, at the instance of the Parkersburg school board, was misappropriation of more than \$5,500 of the funds of that body.

—Edmund L. Chiech, aged 50 years, of Williamsport, died on Sunday from carbon monoxide gas poisoning. Mr. Chiech had spent the most of the morning in the garage working on his car. He left the house for that purpose about 9 o'clock. He was able to go to the house and met his wife at the door when she returned home from Sunday school about 11 o'clock. He informed her he was sick. He died about 1:30.

—Willis C. Smith, 19 years old, of Williamsport, was arrested last week on charges of wholesale coal thefts. Smith was taken into custody while delivering the coal in the motor truck owned by the company from which he was stealing the coal. He is said to have "borrowed" the truck nightly to make his deliveries and had a large "order list" on his person when taken into custody.

—The State Supreme court last week refused to grant a petition of a number of defendants convicted in connection with a fatal riot at Lilly, Pa., during a Ku Klux Klan demonstration, for an appeal from the decision of the Superior court. The defendants were sentenced to two years imprisonment each, by Judge Finletter of Philadelphia, specially assigned to preside at their trial in the Cambria county court at Johnstown.

—Falling from the cage as he was coming out of the mine at the close of the day's work, John M. Antella, of Cresson, dropped 300 feet to his death on Saturday evening at No. 9 shaft of the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke company's workings. Four other workmen made the trip upward with Antella. They did not know of the accident until they had gained the surface and discovered Antella was not in the cage. Investigating they found his mangled body at the bottom of the shaft.

—Major David B. Simpson, a former Philadelphia newspaper man, has taken up his duties as the new commander of the soldiers' home at Erie, succeeding Captain A. W. Anderson. The new commander of the home saw plenty of action with the Twenty-eighth division overseas, being a captain and earning promotion in rank by reason of his service. The first big task confronting him in Erie is the reorganization of the system under which the home has been conducted. Present facilities there are not modern.

—Burglars early on Monday broke into the store of Paul Rupert, at Bloomsburg, wheeled a safe out of the front door, loaded it on a truck and made their escape. The safe contained \$100 in cash, a gold watch, deeds and insurance policies. It was the tenth time in the past several years that the store has been burglarized. Special officer Trump on his way home at 5 o'clock, reported seeing a truck drive away from the place, but was too far away to identify the occupants. He thought nothing of the incident and did not learn of the burglary until later.

—Pleading guilty to embezzling more than \$12,000 from six building and loan associations, Thomas B. J. Kenny, 35 years old, of Philadelphia, through counsel, contended in quarter sessions court that he had thereby done them a favor. Speculation with the embezzled funds, his counsel stated, had turned out successfully and Kenny had repaid the entire sum together with a bonus which the funds would otherwise have never earned. Sentence was deferred. In addition to his building and loan association work, Kenny was a mail carrier.

—While intently pouring over a crossword puzzle on Monday night, Miss Virginia Martinette, 20 years old, of Charlestown, met her death when a pistol in the hand of William Pehl, 28 years old, accidentally exploded, according to police to whom Pehl surrendered. Miss Martinette had been visiting at the Pehl home and in company with Mrs. Pehl, the arrested man's wife, had been engaged in working the puzzle. Pehl returned home during the evening and, according to the story he told police, he was twirling the pistol in his finger when it discharged. The bullet severed Miss Martinette's jugular vein and she died instantly. Pehl is being held by the police pending an investigation.

—An old lawsuit was directed non-suited by the Northumberland county court on Saturday. Ten years ago Mrs. Preston N. Seyler disappeared from a Reading Railroad train near Saydettown while traveling from Centre county to Pottstown. She was last seen alive approaching a vestibule of a day coach and later her body was found along the tracks. Suit for \$25,000 damages was instituted and the case dragged in the courts for a tenth of a century. The conductor of the train has since died and the court refused to admit a conversation between the conductor and a brakeman relative to a vestibule having been left open. Without this testimony the case fell and a non-suit was entered, as no evidence existed as to the cause of the accident.