

INK SLINGS.

Now that a method has been discovered by which "static" can be eliminated something besides the statements of the "announcer" may be heard distinctly on the radio.

Our Senator, William I. Betts, of Clearfield, is sponsor for a new tax bill that is likely to attract considerable attention in this session of the Legislature. One of its provisions being to include real estate of various public utility corporations in the list of taxables is calculated to draw fire from the railroads and other enterprises of this class.

The Governor and the anti-saloon league have composed their differences on the matter of enforcement legislation to be proposed at this session of the Legislature. Their squabble is said to have ended because both sides agreed to "give and take." That's a surprise to us, for while we have felt that both Gif and Homer Tope are long on the "take" we never dreamed that either one of them had even a speaking acquaintance with the meaning of "give."

Burgess Harry Todd has taken issue with the town council of Philadelphia as to who is boss of the police department over there. At its last meeting council elected a new force which meant the elimination of the old chief, Daniel Brink. The burgess immediately dismissed Council's officers and directed Brink to continue on duty, and so the situation is charged with controversy as to who is boss so strong that an explosion is expected when the council of that borough meets again.

When Bellefonte invested \$20,000 in two modern fire fighting machines one of the strong points in favor of their purchase was that if they didn't reduce insurance rates, they would, at least, be strong arguments against any suggestions of raising them. We have heard that the old line companies have decided to advance rates in Bellefonte by about forty percent. If this is true it would seem that there is little encouragement for municipalities that assume heavy financial burdens for the purpose of minimizing losses by fire.

Any who might be thinking of joining us on the trip we proposed last week are advised to cease the mental process of evolving how it could be done. We're not going to win the grand prize for solving crossword puzzles. We know it. Because we never won, but once in our lives and then the accident of chance was blighted by the evil eye that seems always to have us as its focal point. We might get one of the dollar awards for having nursed a fifteen pound dictionary on our bread-basket for thirty nights in succession, but we won't get the thousand, so what's the use of planning a perigrination into fields we haven't seen since we were credulous enough to believe that two-now four— could live as cheap as one. We wander afield, however. We started to tell of the only time that "lady-luck" ever really played into our hand. It was in April years ago. The late Chas. Cruse was continuing his departed father's well established tobacco store in the Bush house. He had bought heavily of pipes for the Christmas trade, but had most of the costly ones still on his hands when spring came. To convert them into cash he bethought himself of pooling them off to the loafers in the hotel lobby, one of which we were. The night before we had planned a fishing excursion on Logan's branch we bought a dozen numbers on a fifteen dollar meerschaum. Early next morning we walked to the "Blue Spring" and fished with constant hope to the plant of the Nitany Iron company—four miles by the creek. There we met "Donny," rarely known as Mortimer O'Donoghue, superintendent of that since scrapped industry. Footsore and wet, hungry and dry we stated the tale of ill-luck when he announced that we had won the pipe. We never had won anything before so you will understand why we replied that he take his seat by the side of Amias. Then he offered to trade an eighteen inch brook trout—which he didn't own and we knew it, on our equity in the pipe, which we believed we had everything but any. We accepted, stepped into the Company office and put it in writing. After that we were conducted to Jim Miller's spring house where all the trout in Logan's branch and Spring creek seemed to have selected as their safety zone and, sure enough, among them was an eighteen inch brook trout. This piscatorial prodigy we put into a bucket, not in our creel, and started for home where a new porcelain bathtub had just succeeded the one of tin vintage. Filling it with water we dumped the ill-gotten fruit of the expedition and started over town to seek glorifiers of our skill. We found three, but when we got back to prove the verity of our claim that we had caught the daddy of them all there he was, lying dead on the bath room floor. Released from the confines of the bucket he had gotten gay in our absence and raced out over the edge of the top to a death that made thoughts of eating him nauseating. We had won the pipe. "Donny" got it and forthwith presented it to Kelley, his boss-furnace man and Kelley busted it that very night "knocking it out" against the stack, as was his manner of cleaning the old clay boy that was built for furnace men.

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STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

The Cambria County Outrage.

The palpable injustice perpetrated by the court of Cambria county in giving a certificate of election to a candidate shown by judicial investigation to have been defeated is attracting attention and provoking comment outside of Pennsylvania. The Springfield, Massachusetts, Republican expresses amazement that the Supreme court of Pennsylvania should have sanctioned such an outrage upon justice in view of a decision handed down by that tribunal in another case, less than a year ago. "If a return is in such shape either from mistake, ignorance or fraud, that nothing can be predicated upon it," the State Supreme court declared in March last, "it could not properly be determined that the court must find its hand palsied when it would raise the lid of the box."

In the case in point both claimants to the election had suspicions of the integrity of the returns in certain election districts and upon motion of counsel of both candidates the judges of the court, one Democrat and the other Republican, decided to recount the ballots in the districts named. The recount showed a majority for the Democratic candidate, Warren Worth Bailey, who in the interest of honesty as well as decency, ought to have been given the certificate of election. But the defeated candidate interposed a claim that the court had no right to open the ballot boxes because the question in dispute was the election of a Congressman rather than an officer of the State or county. Thereupon the Republican judge reversed himself and sustained the point. Another Republican judge was called in and he concurred in the political view expressed by the Republican judge of Cambria county.

An appeal to the State Supreme court failed to correct the injustice because of an equal division of the judges. It is only proper to say that all the judges participating were Republicans but three of them favored a reversal of the lower court while the other three declared "the court must find its hand palsied when it would raise the lid of the box." A subsequent appeal to the Supreme court of the United States was dismissed on the ground that the court had no jurisdiction and thus by the sanction of the highest courts of the country a grave crime is approved and a great wrong perpetrated, for it can hardly be expected that a Congress with a large Republican majority will humiliate the men "in robes" responsible for the outrage.

Senator Wheeler, of Montana, is a modest man but recent events show it is dangerous to monkey with him.

Coolidge Reveals Signs of Program.

Addressing a conference on "the causes and cure of war," at Washington on Saturday, President Coolidge said: "I believe that the next step which we may well take is by participation in the Permanent Court of International Justice. I believe that our adherence to that tribunal, for which I earnestly hope, will become one medium in which may be gradually precipitated and crystallized a body of international law and procedure which, by avoiding the dangers that would attend the establishment of a super-government, will ultimately command the respect and approbation of the world's public opinion and the co-operation of the nations." This is certainly a sign of progress.

The super-government, the shadow of which "strikes terror to the soul" of every "bitter ender" within or without the Senate, to which the President refers, is the League of Nations, which is no super-government at all. An association of governments which requires unanimous consent of all its signatories to any major proposition as the covenant of the League of Nations provides is neither dominant nor dangerous. Viewed from that angle the Permanent Court of International Justice is quite as potential as the League and in supporting one and denouncing the other the President simply reveals a mental weakness that betitles the great office he occupies.

For the reason that adherence to the proposed International court is a step in the direction of Nations it is desirable. The proposed court is a creature of the League. The Hughes reservations cast some doubt upon the sincerity of our participation in the court and the honesty of our purpose in affiliating with it. But notwithstanding this fact adherence to the court is an acknowledgement of the League of Nations and should be encouraged by all thoughtful men and women of the country. In the course of time the malignity which influenced Senator Lodge and others "to fight Wilson" will give way to better impulses.

Paying Political Debts.

There is a good deal of anxiety in official Washington over a recently developed opposition to the confirmation of the appointment of Attorney General Harlan F. Stone to be associate judge of the Supreme court of the United States. At the time he was appointed Attorney General the favor was ascribed to a college friendship. Since his promotion to the higher office it has been alleged that the solicitation of certain trust interests and the college story was a pleasant fiction. It is alleged, moreover, that Mr. Stone was on the legal staff of the Morgan bank, which was declared an unpardonable crime during the recent Presidential campaign.

Whether Mr. Stone was a Morgan attorney or not ought to be of little consequence provided his relations with the firm were legitimate and of a character which a reputable lawyer might espouse. Fairly considered that would mean only that he is a good lawyer, for the Morgan bank can afford to employ the best and usually does so. It is claimed, however, that the case in which Stone represented the Morgan bank was not that kind of a case. An old Colorado pioneer asserts that through Stone the Morgan bank robbed him of a vast estate. This charge is the original cause of the opposition to confirmation. Mr. Stone's connection with the Daugherty "frame-up" against Senator Wheeler is an added cause of objection.

Whether the nomination of Mr. Stone is confirmed or not, and the probabilities are that it will be, is another link in the chain of evidence that Wall street interests are in complete control of the appointing power of the Coolidge administration. Mr. Stone, being a corporation lawyer, and because he was a corporation lawyer, was made Attorney General and subsequently promoted to the bench of the highest court in the country. Because Charles B. Warren, of Michigan, is a corporation lawyer and counsel for the Sugar trust he is nominated to succeed Stone as Attorney General and he also will be confirmed. The obligations to the campaign contributors must be met.

Obviously the President misinterpreted the lesson of the election. The Senate is now pointing out that the big majority didn't mean an absolute boss in the White House.

Harrisburg Not a Bed of Roses.

A careful survey of the present Legislature involves the proceedings in doubt. The decided defeat administered to the Governor in the selection of the Speaker indicated an overwhelming opposition to his programme for legislation. But a closer inspection of the personnel of both Houses reveals the fact that while the Governor may be disappointed in his expectation with respect to dry legislation those who hope to put over certain measures of a wet character will also fall in their purpose. In the House of Representatives the wets seem to be in the majority but there are enough dry Senators to sustain the veto of any wet legislation they may enact.

It will require thirty-four votes to carry any measure over the Governor's veto in the Senate. It is safe to say that no wet measure vetoed by the Governor will get that many votes. The friends of the Governor boldly and somewhat freely claim that seventeen of the fifty Senators will support the Governor in his veto of any bill, and if that be an accurate estimate, the victory scored by the machine in the organization of the House will degenerate into an unimportant skirmish of doubtful value. Pinchot may be depended upon to keep up his sniping operations and with his appeal to the public, plausibly presented, he may hold his enemies in a state of terror to the end of the session.

Of course this line of procedure will not "bring much bacon" to the Governor's political larder but it may divert a good deal from the path that leads to the pantry of the machine. The managers, who have been conducting a systematic war against the Governor since early last summer, have been making promises rather freely and if they are not fulfilled, at least in considerable measure, they will cause trouble. In any event the outlook is not radiant for either side. The indications point to a life and death struggle between the factions of the party with an indifferent public complacently watching the moves and reflecting that "when rogues fall out honest men come by their own."

The equipment of a Representative in the Legislature this year is a bunch of stationery, a fountain pen, a Small's hand book, a revolver and a stiletto.

Pinchot a Help to the "Wets."

Governor Pinchot is again playing into the hands of the "wet" interests, according to news dispatches from Harrisburg. That is, he is setting up an impracticable line of enforcement legislation which threatens to divide the "dry" forces in the Legislature and thus defeat all legislation on the subject. The Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia Public Ledger writes: "Continued differences of opinion of a grave character between the Pinchot administration and the Anti-Saloon League over supplementary prohibitory legislation are reported here." The result is likely to be a repetition of the Speakership fight. The "wets" will have their way in everything.

This is in the main an expression of the abnormal egoism of Gifford or Cornelia. They insist on creating a court or tribunal consisting of "heads of departments" of the State government. The Governor or Cornelia appoints the heads of the departments in question and by the power of removal. Under the circumstances the Governor could, if so inclined, control the decisions of the tribunal. In other words, he might constitute himself judge, jury and prosecutor. The plan of the Anti-Saloon League is said to be less drastic but more practical. It would amply serve the purpose of enforcing the law but without giving the Governor so much power over the operation.

As a matter of fact Governor Pinchot appears to be absolutely insincere in his pretense of devotion to the cause of prohibition or the enforcement of prohibition legislation. He has by some process of reasoning persuaded himself that it is the popular side of a present controversy, and has espoused it as a medium of promoting his selfish ambitions. If he had acted with even reasonable intelligence in the contest for the Speakership a "dry" man would have been chosen and there would have been no occasion for dispute over the Law and Order committee. If prohibition falls during the present session it may be ascribed to the same cause.

Under date of January 24 the New York papers announce the return from a trip abroad of John W. Davis. Possibly you have forgotten the name. He was our candidate for President in 1924.

Forty-one Below at Clarence.

There can be no questioning of the statement that Wednesday morning was the coldest of the winter, thus far.

In Bellefonte thermometers recorded variously, according to their location and accuracy. Reports came into this office running all the way from 12 to 20 degrees below zero.

Clarence, however, always regarded as the coldest spot in the county, broke all records that we have memory of. On the porch of O. J. Harn's store at that place the thermometer recorded 41 degrees below at 7 o'clock in the morning. An hour later the mercury rose to 39 degrees and at noon it was still 8 degrees below zero.

The trouble with the child labor amendment to the constitution is that at every step in its progress it encounters a memory of the Eighteenth.

Weather prophets last week predicted that the backbone of the winter was broken with the passing of the eclipse, and the warm weather of Sunday and Monday seemed as if such might be the case. But a decided change on Monday night brought another four inch fall of snow and this week has been just as wintry like as any time since the early part of December. In fact we have had a long stretch of cold weather without a general breakup, but next Monday will be groundhog day and let us hope the pesky critter will not be able to see his shadow from morn until night.

Legislatures are in session in forty States and it's small wonder that credulous folk are preparing for the end of the world next month.

The President is opposed to the elevation of warship guns. He probably wants to show respect for the twelve mile limit.

Governor Pinchot appears determined to enforce prohibition in his own way or prevent its enforcement in any way.

Attorney General Stone now realizes that butting into other people's business is a dangerous thing.

The eclipse is over and the country safe, but the 6th of February is yet to come.

Poland and France.

From the Philadelphia Record. There was an interesting contrast on Friday between the Polish Diet and the French Chamber of Deputies. After the war we supplied Poland with food, and the credit given to the new nation was \$178,000,000. The agreement for the funding of this sum was passed by the Diet unanimously, and speeches of gratitude to the United States were interrupted by tumultuous applause for this country.

While the war was going on, and when France was showing signs of exhaustion, the army was mutinous and the "defeatists" were trying to arrange a peace on German terms, we entered the conflict, put 2,000,000 soldiers in France, incurred a debt of \$15,000,000,000 on our own account, besides about \$10,000,000,000 loaned to the Allies, of which France got nearly \$4,000,000,000, and we saved that nation. On Friday the Chamber of Deputies experienced its most disorderly session because a large proportion of the members were wroth at the Government for refusing to adopt as its own the preposterous speech of Louis Marin repudiating all obligations to the United States and insisting that we were indebted to France for beginning the war when it was invaded by Germany.

At the previous session Premier Herriot made a speech supporting Marin's repudiation, but later it is evident that the French Government realized that this sort of thing would not do at all, the Government refused on sober second thought to make Marin's speech its own, and it was supported by a majority of 60 in a vote. But the opponents were able to make the session of Friday the most riotous in its history.

It is hardly necessary to comment upon the gratitude of Poland for a piece of bread and the attitude of a great part of the Chamber of Deputies toward the United States which saved the life of France.

But there is another contrast which it is worth while to note. France loaned a great deal of money to the Czar's Government, much of which was spent in a criminal war with Japan over some corrupt bribe concessions in Korea. Later the French bankers brought the war to an end by refusing to lend any more money to Russia unless the war was closed. Japan also was unable to borrow abroad, and the nations had to make peace.

The Czar's Government was assuredly not a Government of the Russian people, and it has been destroyed by a revolution, yet France insists that the Soviet shall pay the Czar's debts. It has refused until recently to recognize the Soviet because it denies its obligation to do so, but a few weeks ago it gave diplomatic recognition in the belief that the Soviet had consented to its liability. Some doubt about this has arisen.

Here are the illuminating contrasts between France and Poland, and between the French attitude toward the Russian debt and toward its own debt to the United States. We have our full quota of fools, and we do not hold all France responsible for Louis Marin. But the applause of the Chamber of Deputies at Marin's speech, and the disorder resulting from the Government's refusal to adopt this speech as its own sentiment, indicates a good deal of French sentiment for repudiation. Any other program will meet with the degree and kind of disapproval it will merit.

Will Hear From the People.

From the Connellsville Courier. If members of the General Assembly do not now realize the fact, they will very probably learn later, that the people of Pennsylvania are in no mood to sit complacently by and watch the spectacle of our state legislative body wasting time in struggles and wrangles over "wet and dry" or other issues which will prevent the business of the session being disposed of as expeditiously as possible.

Everywhere throughout the State the sentiment has prevailed that the present session of the General Assembly should promptly get down to business, enact only such legislation as imperatively needed, then adjourn. Any other program will meet with the degree and kind of disapproval it will merit.

Scandals in Government.

From the DuBois Express. Considering the number of revelations during the past year of crime and shady dealings in the Federal government and in the governments of various States, the average close readers of the newspapers probably believe that crookedness in public life is more prevalent today than at any other time in the history of the country. Frank R. Kent says that is not a fair conclusion. In the past there may have been just as many unwholesome persons administering the affairs of the community, but they were not caught in their criminal actions. Mr. Kent thinks crooked public officials have been either more clumsy or more unlucky this year than were their prototypes in other years.

If you see it in the "Watchman" you know it's true.

Joseph Wychanis, 50 years old, and his son, 22, of Shanandoah, were seriously burned about the head, face, chest and hands in a gas explosion at Maple Hill Colliery.

Charged with the embezzlement of \$4334.51 of the funds of the Shamokin State Hospital, Marlin W. Kaseman, 21, chief clerk, was committed to the Northumberland county jail.

A safe containing between \$800 and \$1,000 was missing from Walter Spinecker's market in Pittsburgh, when he went to work on Monday morning. A rear window had been broken and the safe, which was found open several blocks away had been carried out.

Attempting to scale an eight foot fence in search of a deck of playing cards, Melvin Park, of Juniata, at 11:15 Saturday night was instantly electrocuted when he came in contact with Penn Central transformer connections at the rear of the Juniata silk mill. He was only eighteen years old and the sole support of his widowed mother.

A petition with approximately 100 names has been presented to the Huntingdon county court for the parole of William Filson, of Yeagertown, whose automobile collided with that of the Rev. Bell near Mill Creek last summer which resulted in the death of the minister. Filson was sentenced to six months and has served about half of the sentence.

Mrs. Mary Zuganda, who died in a private hospital at Pottsville on Saturday, is said to have been the largest woman in Schuylkill county, if not in the State. She stood six feet two inches in her stockings and weighed 515 pounds. Mrs. Zuganda was 48 years old when she died in the east end of that county. A specially prepared coffin was built for her and the body shipped to Tamaqua for burial.

Reading health officials are preparing for the departure of the woman afflicted with leprosy whose case was discovered there recently. According to word from Washington, she will not be removed to the government institution at Carville, La. Officials of the public health service at Washington have been informed by health authorities of Pennsylvania that the woman will be returned to Greece, the country of her birth.

Her clothing entirely burned from her body, Mrs. Anna M. Cogan, 89 years old, was found dead sitting in a chair in the kitchen of her home in Juniata Gap shortly after noon, Saturday by her husband, C. S. Cogan. The aged woman's clothing had apparently caught fire from the stove in the kitchen near which she was sitting. Apparently she had been unable to beat out the flames or rise from her chair and was burned to death with but little struggle.

Fire originating from a defective fuse destroyed the Browns Mills hotel at Reedsville early on Sunday. The building was owned by the Spanogle and Yeager Milling company, now in the hands of a receiver. It was built more than a century ago and was popular in the social circles of the Kishacoquillas valley in stage coach days. The building was used as an apartment house and the occupants escaped in their night clothing.

Tony Bertullo, 14, was rescued from an abandoned mine in Mount Washington on Sunday after having been imprisoned for 20 hours by a cave-in. The boy was exploring the mine on Saturday when a portion of the roof fell, confining him in a space about five feet square. He was rescued by his father and a neighbor after an all-night search had led them to the abandoned mine. With the exception of being hungry the boy showed no ill effects of his experience.

Attacked by three yeggmans, whom he surprised while they were blowing a safe in the office of George H. Phillips and company, wholesale jewelers in the heart of the business district of Scranton, at 8 o'clock Sunday morning, Patrolman Wesley Kresky, 55, was relieved of his revolver, beaten into unconsciousness, and handcuffed to the piping of a steam radiator in a nearby office. The safe-crackers, however, got no loot, having made their get-away. It is thought, immediately after trying the officer to the radiator.

Thomas B. Bookhamer, of Roaring Springs, and John W. Bookhamer, of Tyrone, two of the oldest twins in central Pennsylvania, recently celebrated their eighty-second birthday. They were soldiers in the Civil war and are both Methodists, active in religious circles, and members of the Odd Fellows fraternity. The father of the Bookhamers was one of twins, as was the mother. Thomas is the father of twins and several other sets have been born on both sides of the family.

The place where Tom Mix, of movie fame, learned to "ride the range" has been purchased by the State Game Commission as a game refuge. It is a tract of land containing 8500 acres at the headwaters of Mosquito creek, Mix run and Madix run, in Elk and Clearfield counties, was purchased for \$26,400, the game commission announced. Mix run derived its name from Tom Mix's father, who was a horseman of note in the region where Tom Mix roamed as a boy.

With a population of 800 the village of Ringtown, Schuylkill county, reported only eight deaths during 1924, and those were of persons with an average age of 80 years and 3 months, the state department of health announced recently. The youngest of the eight was 58 and the oldest 95, and all the deaths were of diseases common to old age. Six were women and two men and all were native Pennsylvanians. There were seventeen births in the village during the year with no deaths among the infants.

The barn of Millard Swope, in Hill Valley, several miles from Mount Union, was destroyed by fire last Thursday evening, although the Mount Union fire company responded to the call and everything possible was done to save the building. There was a high wind and the weather was bitter cold and the fire had gained a great headway before being discovered. Fourteen head of cattle, including one horse, were burned in the fire. Two miles were gotten out but it was impossible to reach the other livestock. The barn was insured for \$500 but the loss will exceed several thousand dollars. Mrs. Swope was helping a neighbor woman do some work and saw the fire from her neighbor's home. It is believed that the fire was the work of incendiaries.