

INK SLINGS.

—March, the blustery, dreary, longest month of the year, is almost on us.

—It may be accepted as renewed assurance that the cherry tree was cut down.

—The last salary grab in Congress cost a good many Congressmen's salaries.

—Mr. Coolidge is ready and willing to try any expedient to promote peace but the right one.

—Pinchot might compromise by inviting the Senators and Representatives to lunch in his Washington mansion.

—Sunday was the warmest 22nd of February experienced in some years, and there are a lot of people in Centre county who are giving all the credit to the groundhog.

—February has been a delightful month but blustery March stands between us and garden making time, then instead of shoveling coal it will be pushing the lawn mower—just one darn thing after another all the time.

—The Mitchell episode in Washington is rather paradoxical. If he doesn't know more about the things he has been telling Congress than Secretary Weeks he ought to be fired, yet, if he is, it will be because the Secretary of War believes he doesn't.

—If Leon D. Quick, who was sentenced to jail here last Saturday, was telling the truth it would seem that the W. C. T. U. and the Law and Order League of Clinton county have been taken a lovely little ride. He told the court that they employed him to catch Volstead violators and he spent their money catching chickens.

—We congratulate Harry Keller Esq. on his success as a cross-word puzzle solver. While the dollar that he won last week won't go far toward paying the expenses of a judicial campaign he has probably booked up on a lot of new words which he can spring with elan in his campaign if he isn't anile in the way he goes after votes.

—Of course we don't wish King George any bad luck as a sequence of the influenza that has affected one of his lungs and started him in quest of a milder climate than is England's at this season, but the whole world is curious to see what kind of a King the Prince will make and if he doesn't get a chance soon he'll be too old, entirely, to carry on like his admirers anticipate.

—Will some one tell us why men, who haven't an idea of buying anything, will walk miles over muddy roads, and stand in the cold all day to get the sandwich, cookie and tin of coffee that is handed out at farm sales. They could stay at home, work just one hour, and earn enough to buy three times as much eats as they get at any of them, and, at home, they wouldn't be in the way of people who go to sales to buy.

—Many are discouraged, some are resentful a few disgusted with the results of the Volstead act. All are entitled to their opinions. Ours is that out of the welter of corruption, drunkenness and death that has followed in the wake of the Eighteenth amendment there will come good. The habits of a cosmopolitan people like we are can't be changed over night, and we must wait—possibly until the generation that had been accustomed to its tippie has died off. The great problem of enforcement is, to our mind, not one for the law so much as for the home to see that the coming generation does not take up the bottle that the passing one throws down.

—This paragraph is not placed here as an advertisement. It is a lamentation, verging on infraction of the tenth Commandment, that leads us to grope and hope for the craftiness of Edgar Buzzell, Phillipsburg pharmacist and reader of original creations, in advertising. Edgar was billed for a number at a big function in his home town last week. Just before the event he contracted a hoarseness so hoarse that when he started to give voice to the original things he had created to tickle his audience he had no voice. Nothing but a rasping whisper. When cries of "Louder!" were heard, Edgar explained the cause of his disadvantage, then happily thought of some of "Buzzell's cough drops" that were accidentally (?) in his pocket, chewed two and: Presto! He was right in voice again.

—We are impressed with the unanimity of editorial opinion throughout the country as to the cause of the failure to ratify the child labor amendment to the Federal constitution. Almost without exception the able papers ascribe it to a wholesome public awakening to the dangers of centralization of power and forfeiture of the sovereign rights of the States. Centralization hangs out danger signals all along the line. If you can't see it, look about you. Bellefonte permits a public utility to establish itself here then votes to vest all its inherent rights of regulation in a Public Service Commission at Harrisburg. Centre county, lured by the hope of money from the State for schools and roads, ties its hands so effectually that it can't build a school until some one at Harrisburg has designated the way it must be done. And Pennsylvania, overwhelmed with the burden of cost of it all, has gradually been bartering her rights away to the federal government for relief through the treasury at Washington.

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Governor Pinchot Coming Back.

The rapid progress of Governor Pinchot's "united dry bill" in the Legislature is convincing evidence that before adjournment the Governor will have recovered the full power over legislation that he exercised during last session. At the opening of the present session the Vares-Grundy opposition pranced into the arena and knocked the forces of the executive for what seemed like "the count." But the triumph was of brief duration. The Governor gathered himself together and by skillful appeal to the gallery turned the tide of popular favor in his direction. Since that, one egregious blunder by the opposition has followed another until now it seems certain that the Governor will come into full control.

The Governor's legislative programme consists of the budget bill, the giant power bill and the united dry bill. He will reveal sympathy on one side or the other for other measures under consideration during the session. But it will be of the languid variety and employed mainly in the interest of the more important legislation in which his heart and hopes are centered. But his programme will be carried out in practically complete form. The blanket appropriation to local charities may be cut out but the other provisions including the funds for Gifford and Cornelia's Washington junket to the inauguration will be agreed to as written by the budget master, Dr. Clyde King, Secretary of State.

There has seldom been so complete a reversal of conditions in the political history of Pennsylvania. At the organization of the General Assembly appearances indicated an utter collapse of the administration. The dominant force didn't even try to conceal their contempt for the Governor. In making the committee lists the wishes of the minority as well as the promises of the majority were flouted. That is the blunder that "was worse than a crime." In packing the Law and Order committee in the interest of booze popular indignation was aroused and the Governor got his first chance for a "come back." Since that he has been gaining every day and unless personal ambition betrays him he will win.

—Senator Borah wants to expose the Senators who voted for the salary grab, which leads to the belief that the Idaho statesman was "agin" the increase.

Lloyd George Right and Wrong.

Former Premier Lloyd George writes entertainingly about present European conditions to the newspapers that were fortunate enough to secure his syndicated letters. In his last contribution he justly declares that "to the friends of world peace the stubborn reluctance of America to take a hand in the disentanglement of the European imbroglio is discouraging. Unless and until the great western Republic, with its prestige and with its detachment from European traditional quarrels, comes effectively and wholeheartedly into the council chamber of the nations, the prospect of peace must continue precarious." In other words, unless we join the League of Nations there is little hope of future peace.

But the British statesman, or politician, is less accurate in his appraisal of the causes of the present attitude of the government of the United States on the subject. He imagines that the people of the United States are in sympathy with the isolation policy of the administration in Washington and that the efforts of the Daves commission and the representatives of the United States in the London and Paris conferences "scared American opinion into reaction." As a matter of fact the results of the Daves commission and the attitude of the unofficial representatives of the United States in the London and Paris conferences were cordially and with practical unanimity approved by American public opinion.

It is not unlikely that President Coolidge was scared by the incidents referred to by Mr. George but the people of the United States did not share in the fright. The President may imagine that the attitude of the United States as expressed in those events may lead to a just and proper condemnation of the late Senator Lodge and those who joined him in his malignant fight against Woodrow Wilson. In justifying this attitude of the administration in Washington Lloyd George is probably trying to curry favor with the Coolidge crowd and may win an invitation to one of the now famous White House breakfasts. But he will not elevate himself in the estimation of the American people as a statesman.

—The LaFollette party is dissolved but there will be another movement of the same kind to help the monopolies at the next Presidential election.

Salary Increase for Congressmen.

The congressional salary bill increasing the government pay roll upward of a million dollars a year, and the salary of each Senator and Representative in Congress from \$7500 to \$10,000 a year, was railroaded through both houses last week without the formality of a roll call. The bill to increase the wages of postoffice employees to a decent living standard is still dragging along with chances of ultimate failure. The number of towels allowed to each wash room in the government buildings has been reduced, and the stationery and lead pencil supply to clerks cut to the limit. Thus the country is presented with a "saving at the spigot and wasting at the bung."

There may be a few Senators and Representatives in Congress worth \$10,000 a year to the country, and it is possible that the cost of living in Washington exceeds the present recompense of a few of the high fliers in the law making department, but those now in commission and those elected to serve in the next Congress are under moral obligation to serve for the salary provided by law at the time of the election and the increase violates their contract. They were not conscripted into the service of the country and are not held in by force. So far as the public is informed any Senator or Representative in Congress may resign at any time and turn his attention to other pursuits.

Near the close of the last Congress a bill increasing the inadequate compensation of postoffice employees was vetoed by President Coolidge on the ground that the treasury couldn't meet the increased drain. It remains to be seen whether he will adopt the same course with respect to the vastly greater and infinitely less meritorious increase in the salaries of Congressmen. The subject also invites conjecture as to what Congress would do with a veto of the bill increasing the compensation of Senators and Representatives. These gentlemen were cajoled or coerced into sustaining the veto of the postoffice employees' bill. Possibly they might prove less tractable in the other salary increase bill.

—Representative Madden, of Illinois, put one over on the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation in the matter of the aviation field, which proves that he "laughs best who laughs last."

First Sign of Protest.

The first sign of protest against the inauguration junket of Governor and Mrs. Pinchot was expressed in a counter proposition contained in a resolution offered in the State Senate by Mr. Shantz, of Lehigh county, on Monday evening. The resolution provides for a junket of all Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly as well as all employees of both Chambers and the Legislative correspondents. It would be an expensive as well as an imposing enterprise, but it seems to have met with high favor for it was adopted by the Senate without opposition or a roll call. That is, there is no official record as to how any Senator voted. There was no doubt, however, as to the purpose of the proposition.

It seems that President Coolidge has suggested, in the interest of economy of course, that the inauguration ceremonies be conducted on a less ambitious scale than usual, and that instead of the customary pageant the parade be limited to a small representative delegation from each State. In accordance with this suggestion Governor and Mrs. Pinchot took upon themselves the privilege of selecting the delegation and according to popular estimation used it to advantage for political purposes. Each guest would naturally feel under obligation and the selections were made with considerable discretion. It might even be said that the group chosen is composed of men and women representative of the best element.

But as a rule representatives of the people of Pennsylvania are not chosen in the arbitrary manner adopted by Governor and Mrs. Pinchot. The Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly are the official representatives of the people of the State, and if the Governor and Mrs. Pinchot had invited them to the hospitality of their Washington mansion on the occasion of the inauguration, the wishes of the President would have been fulfilled and the proprietaries fully maintained at the expense of the State treasury. But the Governor would have acquired no political capital from such a procedure and the Governor "is sly, devilish sly." Possibly his expectations will be disappointed.

—The aircraft investigation must have been leading close to some one of importance. It was called off under the false pretense that the funds at command of the committee were exhausted.

Lower Pennsvalley Irritated Over Road Conditions.

The Millheim Journal has recently been reflecting the irritation of the people of that section over road conditions in their immediate neighborhood.

Millheim is the terminus of the last two pieces of turnpike, or toll roads, in Centre county. One providing its route to its rail head at Coburn; the other being the only road over in to the Rebersburg section.

Viewers appointed by the court early last year condemned both thoroughfares and later damages were awarded the owners. \$2,000 was awarded as sufficient damages for the Millheim to Coburn road and \$3,000 for the Millheim to Madisonburg piece. To both awards the owners took exception and appealed to court for a revision of the appraisal of the viewers. The case will probably come to trial at the May term.

Since the condemnation proceedings were started very little, if any, work has been done on the pikes notwithstanding they are subjected to very heavy daily traffic. They have fallen into a condition not only irksome to travelers, but dangerous as well, for the reason that at least two bridges are declared to be unsafe. The protest of the people of that section appears wholly justifiable when it is known that toll is still being demanded from those who are forced to travel at least one of the roads. In other words they are being forced to pay for the use of something that is scarcely usable, at the same time taking risks on their own lives and on their vehicles.

It is little wonder that editor Hosterman demands action of some sort for his people. Somebody must surely be responsible for the conditions. The law is a bit vague, as to what the rights of the owners and the county are, respectively, in the circumstances, but it seems to us that since both have been condemned it would be economy for the county to take them over at once and put them in a condition of safety, at least. It would be cheaper to repair a road now than entirely reconstruct it later. The matter of the award to the owners will be settled by the courts anyway. The county would have no more nor less to pay in consequence of taking the roads over and it would be acting in the interest of a large body of its citizens by rendering them relief in some way.

—It looks like spring and feels a good deal like it, but don't shed your winter underwear until the signs are corroborated.

Hot Fight in Washington.

The contest for the Republican nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington is developing some curious angles. In the first place it is a contest between sentiment and service. One of the candidates is a son-in-law of the late Theodore Roosevelt with little else to recommend him. The other is a graduate from the university of Hard Knocks and a product of the slums of Chicago. Both have had long experience in Congress and thoroughly understand the rules of the game. It is universally agreed that Mr. Longworth would make the more dignified Speaker while Madden would be the more practical.

Curiously enough this contest for the Speakership in Washington is causing considerable disturbance among the leaders of the Republican machine of Pennsylvania. At the outset Congressman Vares took it upon himself to pledge the solid vote of the Pennsylvania delegation to Mr. Madden. Thereupon Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, began a canvass for votes for Longworth and secured pledges from some twenty-six of the members. Since that time Vares has been busy and it is now said that Madden will have a majority of the delegation. His canvass shows that most of the veterans in the delegation are among the Madden supporters.

In any event it is said that the fight among the Pennsylvania statesmen will not end at the caucus. It will be brought home and made use of as ammunition in the contest for Senator and Governor next spring. The election of Madden, it is believed, will greatly strengthen Congressman Vares in his aspiration for the Senatorial nomination and increase his power in the contest for Governor, though he has not yet indicated a preference for that nomination. Senator Reed is working in the interest of his colleague, Senator Pepper, who stands in grave danger of a most humiliating defeat.

—There will be no monkeying with the "special funds" in the treasury. The administration needs those deposits to meet bills on the sly.

—The mourners over the death of the child labor amendment to the constitution were "few and far between."

The Inheritance Tax Muddle.

From the Philadelphia Record.

President Coolidge's vigorous arraignment of the inheritance tax muddle now existing, and his suggestion that the federal government should surrender this form of taxation and leave it to the individual States, added nothing new to the subject, but gave the authority of his high position to the movement for a reform that is as imperatively needed as is uniformity in the divorce laws of the country. Many magazine articles have been written on this topic and striking examples have been given of the way in which estates are eaten up by the demands of different States for slices of a decedent's property. The withdrawal of the federal government from this unseemly scramble would be a move in the right direction, but it would only be a minor alleviation. A thorough reform demands united action by the States themselves.

The situation is somewhat complicated by the action of Florida in adopting a Constitutional amendment prohibiting forever both income and inheritance taxes or more than a five-mills tax on intangible property. The purpose of this, of course, is to induce wealthy persons to take up their legal residence in Florida and thus escape all sorts of taxes. As one contemporary puts it, "Florida has become a bloodsucker State in this effort to increase its population of legal residents with wealth by tempting them away from other States where taxes are levied on the principle that wealth should bear heavy burdens." This experiment in partisanship, as it has been called, has appealed strongly to some people in Maine, who have suggested that their State, which attracts a large number of summer residents, adopt a similar policy in order to secure such persons as legal residents. It is easy to see how, if this example should prove catching, those States which do not follow it might lose a large revenue which is rightfully theirs.

New that President Coolidge has directed attention to the subject it is likely to receive more of the attention which it deserves. The situation bristles with difficulties, but they are not insuperable. Unless the States decide to reform existing evils, Florida and other Commonwealths may bag a large amount of wealth to which they are not fairly entitled.

French Loans and Debts.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The French government again is coming into the American money market for loans to stabilize its unsteady finances. According to the announcement made in the Chamber of Deputies by Finance Minister Clementel, \$100,000,000 will be borrowed for the treasury and \$35,000,000 for the devastated regions. Undoubtedly there is a sufficient number of Americans ready and willing to take French IO U's to make this flotation as successful as the one of a few months ago. There is a certain sentiment attached to any move to help France in her financial distress. Economically, France is sound and steadily improving. Moreover, it is widely recognized that the period of depreciated currencies, so disruptive of world trade, must be brought to an end.

There is a point about these loans, however, that should also be brought home to the French people. They are recognized in France as commercial debts, while the war obligations are held to be "political." The French people should know that, from the American point of view, there is little or no difference, though lenient terms will be accorded on a war-debt settlement.

Another consideration bears upon the national credit of France. It is good, but it might be much better. France will pay high for these loans; she might obtain them at a lower rate. A settlement of the war accounts would be the best thing that could happen to French credit; and the sooner French credit is brought up to the mark the sooner the present financial stringency will be relieved.

Wheat Price Troubles.

From the Pennsylvania Farmer.

It was but a few months ago that the public was listening sympathetically to the troubles of the wheat growers brought on by the then low price of wheat. Today the papers are carrying the news of troubles caused by the high price of wheat. With the price near two dollars per bushel and May wheat selling in London at two dollars and five cents the English government is considering the question of government control. The world's shortage of wheat has caused keen buying in European countries and the consequent high price strikes hard those countries which are still a long way from pre-war conditions. It is said that in England alone the number of unemployed is yet well over one million. The former supply of cheap Russian wheat is no longer available so that European importations must come largely from the higher priced markets of the United States and Canada.

—Next month will mark the public sale season in Centre county and while quite a number are booked, there are less than a dozen of real big sales scheduled to take place.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Helen Taft Manning, daughter of Chief Justice William Howard Taft, was appointed dean of Bryn Mawr College, on Monday. She will take office next September.

—J. R. Bailey, of Williamsport, temporary receiver, was made permanent receiver of the Columbia and Montour Telephone company at the final hearing on the petition and injunction of the bondholders against the Penn State Telephone company, Lessee, at Danville on Monday.

—Believed to have been asphyxiated by fumes from a gasoline engine he was using in pumping water from a mine near the Summit, in Blair county, David W. Galle, 31 years old, was found dead Sunday morning in the mine. He had started work in the mine on Saturday afternoon.

—Suits were entered in the Cambria county court on Monday by County Treasurer Lester Larimer against Thomas O. Gutelius, delinquent tax collector for the county, to collect \$77,238.38, claimed due from the tax duplicates of 1921 and 1922. Five bondsmen for Gutelius were also named in the suit.

—The life savings of Paul Fronczek, a miner, and his wife, of Windber, amounting to \$4,500, went up in smoke one day last week. The couple hid the money among some old clothes in the cellar. Anna, 18 years old, a daughter, gathered up the clothes not knowing about the money, and burned them.

—Mystery surrounding the disappearance last Thursday of two inmates of the Beaver county poor farm has been cleared up with the finding of the bodies of Stephen Hager and Frank Watson in the silo at the poor farm. Elmer Johnson, farmer at the home, found the bodies on Monday buried under the ensilage in the silo.

—One man is dead and another is in a serious condition in the Columbia hospital as the result of the explosion of a coal pulverizer at the Kennedy plant of the J. E. Baker company near Billmeyer, Lancaster county, late Saturday afternoon. Jacob Garboise, 44, was burned to death. Frank Seravski, 37, is in a serious condition.

—Joseph Parker, 14 years old, was killed when he stepped on the station road bridge at Erie on Monday, just as a pole holding high tension wires over the bridge dropped. Parker, a messenger boy whose home is at Wesleyville, near Erie, was hurled several feet and so badly burned that he died in a few minutes. The pole had been undermined by high waters in the creek.

—Alex Zarembo, of Sugar Notch, Luzerne county, and his pet poodle were smothered to death last week when fire broke out in his room. Zarembo took the dog to bed with him, lit a cigarette and commenced the perusal of a book. Apparently, he fell asleep and the bed clothing caught fire. Firemen found Zarembo's body near the bed with the dog stretched across him.

—Louis Braznik, of Crows Nest, near Greensburg, was wounded seriously, at Jeannette, last Thursday, by two robbers who escaped with \$800. While walking along the street Braznik was accosted by one of the robbers, who forced him to get into an automobile. He was taken to Oak Park, shot, robbed and then thrown from the machine. Braznik went to Jeannette to visit relatives prior to sailing for Europe this week.

—As Mrs. Orrie Leitze, a widow who keeps a small confectionery store, near Lock Haven, opened the cash drawer to make change for two men who were buying cigarettes on Monday, she was told to hand over the ten dollar bill which she had seen in her hand. As she was alone in the store, she complied with their request, and was so frightened she failed to secure the license number of the car in which they fled.

—Frank H. Kone, engineer of the Baltimore-Washington section of the Pennsylvania limited, fell dead of apoplexy in his engine cab at Harrisburg, on Monday, as he was preparing to take his train to Washington. O. E. Quay, fireman, saw Kone keel over as the locomotive was backing into the trainshed of the station. The fireman brought the locomotive to a stop and then summoned aid for the stricken engineer. Kone piloted a train there Monday morning from Baltimore. He was 55 years old and lived in Baltimore.

—The Teagarden Gas company last week drilled a natural gas gusher on the John McKerrihan land in Wind Ridge township, Greene county, with a daily production of 4,500,000 cubic feet. The well is one of the largest ever drilled in the district and has caused a rush on the part of promoters to lease and take option on available land in the section. With the coming of spring the Charleroi and Pigeon Creek valley districts promise to enjoy the most extensive drilling boom in their history as a result of recent strikes.

—With their last few dollars, which they had saved through years of hard work at the shoemaker's bench, gone, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Honck, deaf mutes, of Gettysburg, made a vow last week that they would meet death together by starvation rather than tell of their plight. This became known on Saturday after a subscription had been started for their relief when it was learned that the Red Cross had given them assistance. Visitors at their home discovered that they were without coal, had eaten no solid food for several days, and that both were on the verge of collapse.

—Miss Betty Deem, of Reading, although in splendid health and working regularly, on Saturday gave a dinner at her home to six male friends whom she has selected to be pallbearers at her funeral, "if anything happens." The men are: William Custer, Monroe P. Long, Howard Manwiller, Harvey Gift, William A. Specht and George M. Yocum. The six men work in the cigar factory where Miss Deem is employed. Recently her mother died and she said she decided to make arrangements for her own funeral. She has bought a burial lot, selected a tombstone and made her will.

—George Dobbs, a brakeman on the Pennsylvania railroad, escaped death near Pottsville, on Saturday, even though a whole train of cars ran over him. When Dobbs fell directly between cars of a moving coal train he grasped the air compressor hose and swung himself away from the wheels and lay between the rails and cills. The train passed on and his fellow crew members thought he had been cut in twain. Instead he stood up after the train passed, almost unharmed. He was somewhat bruised and suffered severely from the great shock of facing a horrible death, but was able to work again on Monday.