

INK SLINGS.

—Mr. Coolidge has found out that it is hard to be "an easy boss."

—One Congressman refused to accept the increased salary but "a little heaven" doesn't always "leave the lump."

—Yes, there is sanity somewhere in Harrisburg. Some of the Members are of the opinion that Rockview ought to be finished before the State gets any more penitentiary irons in the fire.

—Astronomers and other scientists are engaged in a squabble as to the weight of the earth. We don't get the big idea. We fail to comprehend what difference it makes. We know of no strong man who is trying to grab the championship belt from Atlas.

—With the passing of Walter Camp there is no one left to pick the all-American football teams. Camp's choice was never unanimously accepted, but the player who hasn't been on one of his teams feels that he never quite got a niche in football's hall of fame.

—We await with interest the vote of our Member of the Legislature on the Ludlow bill. It is a measure that should be made law for it will save the tax payers thousands and thousands of dollars, but Mr. Grundy is against it and we shall be obsessed with curiosity until we know where Mr. Grundy lands on the bill: With Grundy and the tax collectors lobby, or with the people who have the taxes to pay.

—Having specialized in spring snows for the past thirty years we feel competent to officially decide that the one of Tuesday morning was the robin snow. It wasn't heavy enough to bend the saplings so it couldn't have been the saplin bender. There are no onions in the gardens nor daffodils venturing from the ground, so it couldn't have been either the onion or the daffodil snow. Ergo; it was the robin snow.

—Philipsburg had a big public meeting last Friday night to discuss her Pine street bridge problem. The town seems to be in earnest in the demand for a structure to replace the one recently washed away at the foot of Pine street in that place. It will be recalled that they sought aid from the Commissioners of both Centre and Clearfield counties and having been refused are now beginning to demand a reason why.

—Leopold Schepp, rich New Yorker, has given the world a real exemplification of what "the milk in the coconut" means. It isn't merely a conjugal phrase with him. He made a vast fortune out of coconuts and has just set aside two and one-half million dollars of it with which to educate poor boys for any calling they desire. The only condition he imposes is a probation of two years during which they must live clean lives and refrain from drinking.

—Milady's summer clothes are to weigh just two pounds, including her shoes. Her dresses are to be just below the knees, but not to cover them so that when she sits down they will be in full view. The arms are to be covered and the neck dressed high. In the mid-Victorian period there was a periodical descent in feminine investiture. Now the vogue is ascendant and the good Lord only knows whether it will be stopped before the fashion makers issue the edict that ear muffs alone will constitute the summer girls' wardrobe.

—A bill that would put civil service into effect in the various departments of the government of Pennsylvania has been introduced by Senator Snyder, of Blair. It provides for a commission of three persons who would draw an aggregate salary of \$14,000 per year and, if enacted, would amount to a positive waste of that much money. Republicans hold all the jobs in Pennsylvania and probably always will, so we have no personal interest in the matter, further than as a tax payer to protest on a plan to create three more fat ones.

—While we have no desire to enter into a discussion with any one on the merits of the fight between the President and the Senate we can't refrain from expressing the thought that there are a lot among the President's supporters now who were on the Senate side of the argument when Woodrow Wilson was in the White House. Of course it is to be expected that they should be loudest in denouncing partisanship on the part of the Democrats because it is only by throwing up a smoke screen that they think they can conceal their own partisanship of eight years ago.

—The Philadelphia Public Ledger, stronger than most of the metropolitan papers in many of its departments, is more puerile than any we know of on its editorial page. Its fatuous pleading with its readers to believe that the Democrats in the Senate voted against the confirmation of Warren, because he is a Republican, suggests the thought that a commission in lunacy might well be engaged for occasional sittings in the editorial rooms of that journal. The Democrats voted against Warren not because he was a Republican, but because he is not the right kind of a Republican. They were unanimous in their approval of John G. Sargent, an inconspicuous country lawyer from Vermont. Sargent is more of a partisan Republican than Warren, but he's clean.

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United Dry Bill Defeated in the Legislature.

Governor Pinchot lost his fight for dry legislation by a vote of 99 to 107. The call of the bootlegger was louder than the voice of conscience and the practically unanimous vote of the big cities overwhelmed the strength of the divided forces of the rural districts. For many years previous to the enactment of the Volstead law the liquor interests and the Republican machine maintained a partnership. The combination seems to have resumed business with bootleggers providing the capital and the machine managers directing the operations. It is an unholy alliance but for the time being has achieved its purpose.

But the Governor made a gallant fight. His speech before the joint session of the Legislature, on Tuesday, was a masterpiece in force and logic. But his appeal fell upon deaf ears. Political exigencies are of greater consequence than public morals or economic welfare to those who control the Legislature and the source of slush funds more important than the lives sacrificed by thousands to the avarice of the traders in poison. As Governor Pinchot stated "it is not a question of light wine or beer. It is not a question of unadulterated liquor of any kind. It is a question of stopping the flood of poison drink poured out over the State."

The bootleggers may imagine that they won a great victory over the Governor in this contest. One of the speakers in opposition to the measure practically admitted that the fight was against the Governor rather than against the measure. Viewed from that angle it may be said that the machine scored heavily. The Governor is certainly defeated. But it is a defeat that reflects honor instead of humiliation and before another election of Senators and Representatives in the Legislature is held the truth will be revealed and the Governor rather than the machine will have reason to rejoice.

The Vane-Grundy combination in the Legislature is given credit with having defeated the bill. Be that as it may it would have had a better chance of passing had it not been gotten off to a bad start by arousing the disapproval of the Grange and other organizations by incorporating objectionable features that in reality were trifling, and could have been added later, yet sufficed to provide a peg on which to hang considerable opposition.

Mr. Holmes, Centre county's Member, voted for the bill thus better representing the majority of his constituency than he did by his vote for Bluetts for Speaker.

The Ludlow Bill in Danger.

Gossip in the corridors at Harrisburg indicate that the question of the passage of the Ludlow bill, which alters the methods of collecting taxes, has been put up to Mr. Joe Grundy, of the recently formed political firm of Vane & Grundy. It has long been known that Mr. Grundy is deeply interested in tax questions but hitherto he has given more attention to the levying than to the collection of taxes. The current reports convey the idea that he is equally concerned in the levy and collection of taxes and the fact is not encouraging to the hope of tax reform. Mr. Grundy is not much on reform. His aim is to exempt manufacturers from tax, and that result achieved he is satisfied.

It has been shown by supporters of the Ludlow bill that the cost of tax collection in Pennsylvania is more than double that of any other State in the Union, and that more money is paid in this State for the collection of county tax than it costs in some other States for collecting all the taxes. In our tax system there are school, city, borough or county, and in the country districts road and township taxes. The tax collector gets a percentage on each of these several taxes and in some sections the recompense makes the office of tax collector more lucrative than any county or city office within the gift of the voters. It is for this sinister reason that a corrupt lobby has been organized to oppose the passage of the Ludlow bill.

With Mr. Grundy in charge of the matter there is little hope for relief from the unjust burdens incident to the existing system of tax collection, unless the people of the State promptly and vigorously assert an interest in the question. It is said that the lobby is liberally provided with money to influence legislation, but the voice of the people is more potent than money, if it is expressed in the right way. Every citizen in the Commonwealth ought to get busy at once and let it be known to their representatives in the Legislature that this form of graft must stop and that Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly who fail of their duty in this connection will be retired.

Coolidge Determined to Boss.

In pursuance of his purpose to boss the government of the United States President Coolidge has undertaken to deprive the United States Senate of an important constitutional prerogative. In fulfillment of what may have been a pledge of his party managers to reimburse the monopolies for the money they spent in the purchase of his election he nominated an emissary of the Sugar trust for the office of Attorney General. After an exhaustive investigation of the subject the Senate refused to confirm the nomination. Thereupon the President converted the White House into a trading post and began negotiations for votes in favor of ratification. When he thought he had secured enough he renominated the defeated candidate and set up the excuse that the President has the right to name his own cabinet.

In opposing the confirmation of Mr. Warren Senator Walsh, of Montana, showed that in his operations to suppress independent beet sugar manufacturers in Michigan Mr. Warren was not in the capacity of a lawyer. Legal talent wasn't needed for the work. It was the task of a shrewd stock jobber and Warren simply the agent of H. O. Havemeyer, head of the Sugar trust. In that capacity he procured title to nearly a majority of the shares of the several Michigan sugar plants and forwarded the certificates to Mr. Havemeyer to be entered in the books of the trust as property of Mr. Warren, thus making him an influential stockholder in the trust. In a court trial which followed it was judicially decided that the Michigan corporations owned and controlled by Mr. Warren were a part of the trust.

In renominating Mr. Warren, after the Senate had refused to confirm his appointment, the President not only defied the Senate but challenged it in a statement that if confirmation were refused he would, after the adjournment of the Senate, give him a recess appointment. In other words, he has expressed a determination to put Mr. Warren into the office notwithstanding the opposition of the Senate and in spite of the constitution, the laws and the traditions of the government. And he is pursuing this course without the approval of the ablest lawyers and wisest leaders of his party. But it is in line with the commercial methods of Senator Butler and other political parasites who came into prominence with Coolidge's elevation to office. The attempt of Vice President Dawes to boss the Senate was part of the plan but it failed.

—On the 4th of March President Coolidge solemnly swore that he would "preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States," and ever since that he has been trying to violate it.

An Absurd Claim.

The most absurd claim that has recently been alleged in connection with public service is that offered in support of President Coolidge's efforts to usurp the right to appoint an Attorney General without the consent of the Senate. Other Presidents have nominated men for cabinet offices which were not confirmed, but Mr. Coolidge is the first to defy the Senate and renominate a man who has been rejected after due deliberation upon the ground that "it is customary" and that he is responsible for the actions of his so called "constitutional advisers," and "it is nobody's business but his own."

The constitution of the United States in Article 2, Section 2, paragraph 2, declares that "he (the President) shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for and shall be established by law; but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of Departments."

There is neither uncertainty nor ambiguity in that language and there is not much doubt as to the reason it was put in the fundamental law. In fact recent experience proves the value of it. If the Senate had exercised its best judgment the scandals incident to the oil leases and the administration, would never have been heard of. A number of Senators realized that Fall, Daugherty and Denby were unfit for the offices to which they were appointed, but because Mr. Harding had been a Senator and was personally popular they were confirmed.

Real or Imaginary Reason.

The office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction is "going begging" according to news dispatches from Harrisburg. It is not because the salary is inadequate that none of the prominent and capable educators of the country decline to accept it. The salary is \$12,000 a year, and \$1,000 a month is generous reward for even a high order of talent. But for some reason the educators refuse to "sign up." It was tendered to a Massachusetts man some time ago and following his refusal was offered to a Maryland teacher who also declined. Next a California man, Dr. Will C. Wood, was importuned to come and "shake the plum tree," but after deliberation he said "nay nay, dear Alphonso."

Some of our esteemed contemporaries attribute this curious situation to the Finegan incident which occurred two years ago. During the gubernatorial campaign the friends of Dr. Finegan, then holding down the job, exacted, or say they did, a promise from Mr. Pinchot that in the event of his election he would reappoint Dr. Finegan. But after the induction into office Mrs. Pinchot changed his mind on that subject and he tendered the favor with a reservation which he knew Dr. Finegan would not allow. Then he appointed Dr. Becht with or without embarrassing conditions. Now Dr. Becht is in bad health and wants to resign as soon as the Legislature provides for a pension.

It is said that Dr. Wood declined the office because he was informed that "acceptance would be regarded as a breach of ethics" by his professional brethren in Pennsylvania. There may be some foundation for this rumor, for the executive council of the State Educational Association held a session in Harrisburg early last week and the subject was discussed. But there is another theory that is more or less plausible. It is said that Mrs. Pinchot has some peculiar ideas on the subject of public schools and insists that they be adopted, or at least recommended, by the superintendent. Most educators are averse to this sort of amateur superintendence, and possible that is the "nigger in the woodpile."

—The Senate on Tuesday passed the Betts bill validating the official acts of justice of the peace S. A. Robinson, of Snow Shoe, who failed to qualify for office following his re-election in the fall of 1921. The bill now goes to the House for concurrence. The Senate also passed the Quigley bill increasing the minimum salary of county school superintendents.

—Secretary Mellon denied Gov. Pinchot's inferential charge that he had instructed his workers in the Legislature to kill the United Dry bill. Mr. Mellon wired the Governor that he had formed no opinion in the matter. It is significant, however, that most of the Secretary's followers in the Legislature had, for they all voted to defeat it.

—Some ten or a dozen business men met together at dinner at the Brockerhoff house, last Friday evening, and discussed the advisability of reviving and reorganizing the old Business Men's association. No definite conclusion was reached.

—Chairman Madden, of the House committee on Appropriations, thinks the time for tax reductions are over. But the Republican managers will find some way to fool the people in 1927.

—The hunters of the State are not likely to approve the proposition to put upon them the entire burden of reforestation. They only get a share of the expected benefits.

—Now that Coolidge and Dawes have both been rebuked the government at Washington may "resume business at the old stand."

—Maybe those friends who prevailed on Pinchot to address the Legislature on his pet bill simply wanted to flatter the Governor.

—Don't waste sympathy on President Coolidge or chairman Butler. It is the Sugar trust that "got the worst of it" in the struggle.

—To revive the old song it may be said that Coolidge is the guy who tried to put the Sugar trust in the cabinet.

—If it is true that man was originally a fish it is natural that there should be a good many suckers now.

—The bossing program has been recommitted to the committee on rules of the Senate for revision.

—Get your job work done here.

Airships and Battleships.

From the Philadelphia Record.
There has been unnecessary heat in the investigation of General Mitchell's opinion of the relative value of airships and battleships, an opinion supported by some naval officers and antagonized by others. But before any consideration is given to the relative merits of various fighting machines the imposition of any restraint upon the expression of opinions by officers of the army and navy ought to be repudiated. Neither Congress nor the President can possibly know anything about the value of military and naval machines. They must get their information entirely from men in the two services. They ought not to be restricted to the information that comes through all the official channels and is finally sanctioned by the Secretary of War or of the Navy. There should be the fullest possible disclosure of opinions.

This is not in accordance with military and naval routine, in which no one has any opinion except the highest officer. That may be necessary in warfare, but in peace, in the preparation for war, all sorts of opinions ought to be encouraged. The War Department denies censorship upon officers, but the prediction that General Mitchell would be relieved of his position has been verified. He has been punished for expressing opinions that are not those of the general staff or of his immediate superior. That will make it more difficult for the President and Congress to get full and honest information from officers of both services.

In regard to the opinions themselves, the discord between them is not more important than that between army officers regarding the relative value of the several arms of the service. Officers of the infantry, cavalry and artillery very naturally, properly and advantageously believe that the service to which they are attached is the most important. They would not be very valuable officers if they did not believe that. In the world war which was almost entirely a matter of trenches and fortifications, cavalry officers had to admit that there was not much room for them. There was never a war in which artillery played so great a part, and officers of that arm are more excusable if they believe that theirs is the most potent arm of the service, and that they should be the most important.

And yet, in spite of the unprecedented use of artillery, which was able to fire at unseen targets, fortified positions were carried by infantry. The general judgment of military authorities is that the foot soldier with his rifle is still the most vital element in an armed force. The cavalry and even the artillery are still adjuncts to the infantry.

We do not know whether airships can destroy battleships. Of course they can if they can score enough hits with big enough bombs, but there are always going to be large chances of missing. Before the world war Admiral Scott, of England, declared that the submarine had put the battleship out of service. Yet after the war was over the highest naval authorities of all nations declared that the battleship was the determining factor in naval warfare. Doubtless a battleship may be destroyed by a submarine or an airplane, just as a soldier may be destroyed by a bullet. Yet the soldier is the determining factor.

We need cavalry and artillery as well as infantry. We need battleships, and we also need submarines and airplanes. The conditions of warfare are changing constantly, and it is essential that we should have a reasonable amount of all the arms and weapons and appliances sanctioned by experience. It would be the height of folly to discard all but one because that one has shown extraordinary efficiency on some occasion.

Prisoners' Indigent Dependents.

From the Pittsburgh Post.
An incident occurred in McKean county Saturday which directs attention to the need of a reform in our penal system. The wife of a farmer convicted of violating the liquor law and sentenced to serve six months in jail brought her eight children, ranging in age from 14 years to twins 18 months old, to the County Commissioners' office and gave them to understand that since the family had been deprived of the support of the breadwinner the county would have to maintain them.

Situations like this arise frequently. One of the commonest excuses given for asking clemency for a convicted criminal is that his family will be reduced to destitution if he is sent to prison or if he is not forthwith released. The courts properly should not take cognizance of such a plea; yet the judges, being human and compassionate, often are thereby influenced to be lenient to offenders who are not entitled to lenience and would not receive it if there were no danger of their dependents suffering.

Trout Fishermen Growing Uneasy.

From the Altoona Tribune.
Now doth the trout fishermen grow more uneasy. Many a stream is calling. April 15 is the time in Pennsylvania. Just about a month. Between this time and the opening date, however, the angler will get a lot of pleasure out of life by going over the fishing kit.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Titusville citizens will vote April 7 on a proposal to issue bonds in the amount of \$140,000 for street improvement.

James Foust, for twenty-five years head of pure food law enforcement in Pennsylvania and since 1907 director of the Bureau of Foods in the State Department of Agriculture, will retire in June.

A decision handed down at Pittsburgh on Monday by the State Supreme court upholds the constitutionality of the act passed by the 1923 Legislature placing county officials on a salary basis instead of the fee system as in vogue heretofore.

Clarence R. Sanford, well known Erie undertaker, died last Thursday, a victim of his profession. A week previous Sanford prepared for burial a woman who had died of smallpox. He refused to be vaccinated before taking charge of the body. Three days later he was seized with the disease.

Dr. Charles B. Rowan, a prominent physician of East End, Pittsburgh, and son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Rowan, of Hollidaysburg, was drowned near Cape Hatteras, off the coast of North Carolina, last Wednesday. Dr. Rowan was swept overboard from the steamer City of Rome while en route to Jacksonville, Fla. The body was not recovered. The physician was thrown overboard by a lurch of the ship during a storm.

Five young men, masked and armed, held up the Germantown office of the Yellow Cab company late last Friday night and escaped with the day's receipts amounting to about \$6,200. Three employees were in the office when the robbers entered with drawn pistols. Commanding the employees to throw up their hands, the intruders snatched the cash box and sped away in a waiting automobile. Another cash box containing \$3,000 was overlooked by the robbers.

Clinton E. Cole, for five years supervising principal of the Birdsboro schools, has resigned to take charge of the schools at Muhlenberg, the only third-class school district in Berks county. He is a graduate of the Keystone State Normal school, Muhlenberg College, and took special courses at The Pennsylvania State College and Teachers' College, Columbia University. He has been teaching for twenty-two years, at Northampton, Myerstown, Palmerton and Birdsboro.

Daniel J. Shields, of Johnstown, Pa., was indicted at Washington, D. C., on Monday by a federal grand jury charged with having bribed a woman stenographer in the prohibition unit to give him confidential information from government files concerning reports of alleged violations of the prohibition law by breweries in Pennsylvania. He was charged with having paid Della M. Hayes, an employee of the internal revenue bureau, a total of \$3,400 during the years 1922, 1923 and 1924 for the information.

Yeggs, who spent several days last week at a Clearfield hotel in order to make a study of the surroundings of the local postoffice and the various avenues affording a hurried escape from town, blew the safe in the new postoffice on Friday morning, stole stamps and cash to the value of at least \$800, and departed in an automobile. The total amount of cash and useable stamps, exceeded \$500 in value. Pre-cancelled stamps valued at \$500 to postmaster Hoesberry, but not worth a cent outside of Clearfield, were taken also.

The sum of \$10,000 has been paid to the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania hospital, for the endowment of a free bed for the ailing of Emporium, as a result of the provisions of the will of Mrs. Ella A. Parson, of that place. This gift is only one of the many provided by the will of Mrs. Parson. Several scholarships for various colleges were started and other charitable institutions were benefited. After the estate was turned into cash, it amounted to about \$67,000, of which amount \$30,000 went to charity.

The temporary bridge across the Kish-neoquillas creek in Mann's Narrows was thrown open to vehicular travel of ten tons or less last Wednesday afternoon. The bridge collapsed the night of March 2, dropping a furniture van from Philadelphia, into the creek. The rigging gang of the Standard Steel works removed the truck Friday night and J. C. McCarrell, of the State Highway Department, with twenty men, rebuilt the structure in four and one-half days. The detour via. Mill Creek, fifty miles, has been cancelled.

A Corry man, through a newspaper, has offered "to sell himself" for 30 months for \$1,250. The man, who requests \$300 be paid at once, and \$700 more in 30 days, declares that "he must have work, and will do anything honest" so he can "repay friends who have trusted him." The man states in his appeal that he has been able to earn \$110 to \$175 a month, and he believes this is a good chance for some person to "double their money." To protect his employer against loss, should he die during the 30 months of voluntary service, he is ready to assign a life insurance policy amounting to \$3,000.

The claim of Mrs. Ella Backus Christopoulos against Mr. and Mrs. Constantine E. Contos, of Reading, for a wedding dowry of \$10,000, was dismissed by Judge Thompson, in the United States District court at Philadelphia, last Thursday. Christopoulos charged her aunt and uncle brought her from Greece on the promise of finding her a husband and giving her a dowry. She said she found a husband for herself, and after she did domestic chores in the Contos home for several years her aunt and uncle repudiated her. Judge Thompson said she suffered no financial loss, because her husband would have received the money had it been paid.

Mrs. Kathryn Cummings, of Erie, the wife of one man and the "dancer" of another, was awarded \$4000 life insurance on Monday in a decision by the United States circuit court of appeals. The insurance was taken out in her behalf by Jesse J. Freeman, of Erie, whom she had promised to marry as soon as she became divorced from her husband. Freeman died July 11, 1921, after he had named Mrs. Cummings as his "fiancee and beneficiary" in two policies for \$2000 each. After Freeman's death his brother, Alfred J. Freeman, an auctioneer for the government, and Mrs. Cummings made demands on the insurance company for the money. The company filed a suit in the United States district court at Pittsburgh, and Judges Schoonmaker and Thompson decided the case in favor of the woman. The circuit court upheld the decision of the lower court after the insurance company had taken an appeal. It was pointed out in the decision that although Mrs. Cummings' husband was alive, it did not have any bearing on the case.