

INK SLINGS.

—Glory be! Council is going to fix up Spring street.

—If Trotzky comes back he will prove the accuracy of the adage of the bad penny.

—Spring must be here. Our feet are beginning to feel too large for the shoes that we have been wearing in comfort all winter.

—The more we are invited around to hear high priced radios perform the more convinced we become that the fan with the little three-tube outfit has all there is to it but the static.

—Early gardeners have their onions and lettuce in the ground, but those who wait until the soil gets warmer will find that theirs will come on just about as fast as the seed that is planted when it is really too cold for rapid germination.

—A Lock Haven woman is reported as having dug up forty-nine copper head snakes while hunting rich earth for her flower pots one day last week. Such stories were not unusual in the spring B. V., but we thought the era of "seeing things" past.

—John McGraw admits that "Washington might repeat" as pennant winners in the American league and, as usual, the Philadelphia sports writers insist that this is the year for Mr. Mack to stage a come-back. You can take your choice. We've lost faith in the Philadelphia dopesters.

—Recent events at Harrisburg suggest the thought that Gif. may be a trifle disfigured but he's still in the ring. Vare and Grundy put him down occasionally, but never for the count, and we wouldn't be a bit surprised if he hasn't a k. o. wallop packed away for them before the legislative battle is over.

—The remains of the Ludlow bill, after the Legislature got through with it on Monday night, were so hard to find that even Mrs. John O. Miller, didn't attempt to hold a wake over them. The vote was 170 to 29 against it, principally because the tax collectors and those who expect to succeed them were on the job while the tax payers were asleep at the switch.

—In discussing the new contract for street lighting in Bellefonte the explanation of the proposed advance of \$1522.40 over the price that has prevailed for the past ten year period has been given on the ground that everything has advanced in cost since the original agreement was made. Certainly this is true as to wages, electrical supplies, etc., but is it not just as true that an electrical unit of energy can be bought today for less than half of its cost of ten years ago?

—Former Governor Glasscock, of West Virginia, has essayed the role of political adviser to the South. He advises to keep Washington guessing as to which way it is going to go and is of the opinion that it would be more powerful in the Nation's capital if it were to cast off its Democracy and turn Republican. Mr. Glasscock talks like a fat head. If he knew anything at all about politics he would certainly be awake to the fact that the strength of the South in Washington right now is what is giving his party its uneasiest moments. The South is Democratic in principle and it will never become Republican for expediency.

—Gerald Chapman, bandit extraordinary, has been convicted and sentenced to die for the murder of a New Britain, Conn., policeman. He denies his guilt and will appeal to a higher court against the injustice of hanging him for something he claims not to have done. Chapman escaped from a Federal prison after having been sentenced for the biggest bond robbery of record. He admitted on the stand that he had killed another man—not the one for whose murder he was being tried—and is known in police history as one of the country's most dangerous crooks. Would it be an injustice were he to hang, even though he didn't kill officer Skelly?

—The Elk County Gazette, of St. Mary's, states that "Rev. M. D. Maynard" spoke at the Kiwanis club dinner there last Monday. If the name sounds unfamiliar let us enlighten to the extent of saying that "Rev. M. D. Maynard" is Elk county for Centre's Rev. M. De Pui Maynard. We would not have thought of attempting a paragraph out of this had not the St. Mary's Kiwanian, who was down for the attendance prize, failed to produce when the winner presented his brass ring. It appears he had sent to a mail order house for the prize and it got lost in the mails and now St. Mary's Kiwanians are lost in the deluge of inquiries of local merchants as to what's the big idea, anyhow.

—The miners in the Osceola region met on the first of April and listened to some of their Union officials haranguing them against accepting a reduction of wages. April 1st was the right date for such a meeting. Because that's the day that Central Pennsylvania miners are supposed to be foolish enough to believe that Central Pennsylvania operators can pay them more for mining coal than West Virginia operators are paying their men and still beat West Virginia in price to the buyer. The intriguing part of it to us is why some one in the audience didn't rise up and ask the principal adviser whether his pay is going on or whether he is suffering, like the rest of them, for want of work.

Democratic Watchman

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Defeat of the Ludlow Bill.

With a practically unanimous support of the newspapers of the State the Ludlow bill, providing for a uniform system of tax levy and collection, was defeated in the House of Representatives in Harrisburg, on Monday evening, by a vote of 170 to 29. During the consideration of the measure it was asserted that the cost of tax collection in some of the counties of Pennsylvania is six times greater than the same service costs in Ohio or Maryland, and that the assessment in adjoining counties varies from forty per cent. in one to ninety in another, thus discriminating in apportioning the burdens of the State government. The bill exempted Philadelphia and Seventh and Eighth class counties.

The author of the bill, Representative Ludlow, of Montgomery county, made a strenuous effort to persuade his associates in the House to save their constituents from a considerable needless expense. He showed that it costs \$237,000 a year to collect the taxes in Luzerne county and upward of a million dollars in Allegheny county. These sums are taken from the revenue due the State as well as the counties, and in the ratio that they are excessive work harm to the other counties. Because of this fact every tax payer in every county in the State has a local interest in the success or failure of the measure. Those Representatives who voted against the bill ought to be called to account.

Early in the season a report was circulated, on the authority of the Women Voters' League, that a lobby was in operation and a big slush fund had been created for the purpose of defeating this bill. The tax collectors who receive the liberal recompense for an easy service were selfishly anxious to perpetuate their "soft snaps." Naturally they have denied any part in corrupt methods to accomplish that purpose and thus far the charge is not supported by substantial proof. But it ought to be pursued by searching investigation. The incentive to fraud is palpable and if the crime has been committed there ought to be prompt and adequate punishment. The Women Voters' League has work cut out for it.

Political conditions change with marvelous frequency in this State. At this moment Gifford Pinchot has the best chance for the Republican nomination for United States Senator.

President Coolidge's Tax Notion.

In addressing a convention of tax experts, held in Washington recently President Coolidge said: "I have often urged economy of out-go of revenue; it is equally as necessary that we establish economy of income of revenue. The burden of taxation is not what the state takes but what the taxpayer gives." This simple truth expressed in a ponderous way appears to have made a strong impression on the minds of certain worshippers of the President. It was "wise and well reasoned counsel," according to one of our esteemed contemporaries. Possibly that is equally true, but in this case it is a lesson by precedent rather than practice. The President does not follow his suggestion.

For example, the tariff tax collected by the government amounts to something like a billion dollars a year, but it costs the consumers of the country in the neighborhood of four billion dollars per annum. The difference between the cost to the people and income to the government is what the people pay in order to multiply the profits of favored individuals. In evidence take the tax on sugar. The tariff commission more than a year ago recommended a cut of half a cent a pound on that necessary food stuff, which would have relieved the tax burdens of the public about a million dollars a year. But Mr. Coolidge not only refused to comply with the suggestion but penalized those who offered it.

Mr. Coolidge's idea of "ill-advised taxation" is any tax taken in the open. Income taxes and inheritance taxes are taken from the taxpayer with his eyes open. He sees the money passing from his hand to that of the tax collector, and it shocks him, more or less. On the other hand, tariff taxes are like taking money from a sleeping baby. The victim misses the money at the end of a settlement period but does not know exactly who got it or where it went to. The political managers understand, however, and the Sugar trust emissaries who sat in the convention that nominated cautious Cal for President appreciated his service to them in refusing to reduce the tariff tax on sugar as recommended by the commission.

Now there is a dispute as to when the reforestation loan may be voted on. The knockers are a resourceful bunch.

Get Local Forces to Work.

The plan for organizing the Democratic party of the country proposed by Franklin Roosevelt, of New York, and approved by Senator Walsh, of Montana, is appealing but dangerous. That the party organization ought to be working all the time is self evident. That is one of the potent influences which make for Republican successes. That party is always on the job. With plenty of money, contributed by beneficiaries of vicious legislation and drawn from official salaries, there is no reason why the organization of that party should not function every minute from January 1 to December 31. But there is no good reason, either, why the Democratic organization should not be as active as possible.

The objection raised against the proposition of Mr. Roosevelt, as expressed by several men of wide influence in the party, is that conditions at this time are not auspicious. That is, it is feared that the moving cause of the suggestion is to promote the interests of certain candidates for party favor or factions. It would be better if there were no grounds for such suspicions, and there ought not to be. The Democratic party is the hope of the country, the vehicle of the people and it ought not to be hampered by selfishness or impaired by jealousies. But at this time there appears to be some feeling over the proceedings of the New York convention of last year, and every mention of organization summons it to the front.

However, if the time is not suitable for such a movement as that suggested by Mr. Roosevelt it is peculiarly auspicious for local organization activity, and the local committee in every county, city, ward and township in Pennsylvania should be moving in the direction of better organization. The present condition of the Republican organization invites such activity. There has been no time within the memory of present time voters when the chances of victory in the local elections this year, and the state and Congressional election next year, were as promising. Previous Republican quarrels in Pennsylvania have been easily patched up but this year the chasm is too wide to bridge.

At the same time the "sob stuff" that is being employed to defeat the proposed manufacturers' tax might be urged in behalf of the farmers as well as the manufacturers.

Insincerity of Governor Pinchot.

It is a great pity that Governor Pinchot hasn't a better reputation for sincerity. If the people of Pennsylvania could be persuaded that he is sincere in his contention for generous support of the public schools he could force his enemies in the Legislature entirely off the political map. The stage is set for a complete destruction of the Vare-Grundy machine. It is fully realized the action of the Legislature on the appropriation for schools was not influenced by a desire to impair the educational facilities. The intention was to hit the Governor a fatal blow, but because of the effect on the school system it reacted against those who conceived it.

But whatever the intention, the effect was to open up an improved roadway for Pinchot to "come back," and he promptly availed himself of it. Taking a position behind the aprons of the school mistresses and the bibs of the school children he opened a fire that would have overwhelmed the enemy if it had been taken as an honest expression of sentiment. But his utter disregard of school interests and absolute contempt of school sentiment in the beginning of his administration cast a grave doubt over the purpose of his present attitude on the subject and compelled public opinion to hesitate. Hypocrisy is an odious element in public life and it crops out in every action of Governor Pinchot.

Two years ago Governor Pinchot cut the appropriation to fight the Japanese beetle to a negligible amount. That was a serious crime against the agricultural interests of the State, perpetrated for the selfish purpose of promoting a preposterous political ambition. This year the Vare-Grundy machine in the Legislature cut the same appropriation to the bone with the sordid hope that it would harm Pinchot. That was a crime against the people equally iniquitous. But what right has Pinchot to assume the role of protector of the people? What warrant has Satan to reprove sin? If Pinchot had public confidence behind him the Vare-Grundy machine would be done for.

The attitude of President pro tem. Homsher on the appropriation bill dispute raises a question as to the sentiment of Congressman Greist on the contest for nominations next year.

Pinchot's Hope Will Wither.

Recent incidents at Harrisburg have vastly helped Gifford Pinchot in his ambition for new if not greater honors. The egregious blunders of such bone-head leaders as Vare and Grundy have made thoughtful men of the Republican party willing to join any movement under any leadership that gives promise of better things. But such men are likely to look carefully about them for better material than the Pinchots are able to offer. It requires no great perspicacity to see that the Governor's concern is not the schools, the school children or the school teachers. He adopted that as not only an expedient but a popular issue. But personal ambition is the leading question in his mind.

The feature of the appropriation bill which set closest to Mr. Pinchot's heart was that which provided half a million dollars for use under his personal supervision in the enforcement of the Volstead law. But nobody seems to have shared in his regret at this personal disappointment. Not a word of protest has been heard from the public press or the people. The cut in the school appropriation created a different impression on the public mind. Objections were made and resentment aroused in every section of the State. The result is that the Governor immediately dropped the enforcement question and concentrated his efforts on the restoration of the school fund.

Of course the Governor will continue to exclaim against the cut in the school appropriation as long as it brings a popular response. It is equally certain that he will keep it alive as long as possible. But the chances are that within a week the Senate amendments to the general appropriation bill which restored the school subsidy to nearly its original proportions will be concurred in by the House and the Pinchot hope of future honors will be reduced to a shadow. The Republican party of Pennsylvania is not rich in material or leadership but it is hardly so poor as to be required to take Gifford Pinchot for the highest honor in its gift at present.

The conference committee of the House and Senate have reached an agreement on the Governor's budget bill and it will be reported to the Assembly next Monday with nearly all the items recently ripped out of it restored in part or in toto. The House had mutilated it badly in a spirit of reprisal, but the Senate re-incorporated all of the Governor's items necessitating a conference. What will become of it when it gets onto the floor will depend very largely on what the Governor does with the 360 separate appropriation bills, now on his desk, which he must act on tomorrow or they will become law without his signature.

The decision of borough council, at a regular meeting on Monday evening, not to undertake the widening of Spring street at this time, complicates the situation at Decker Bros. new garage on the corner of High and Spring streets, where one of their gasoline pumps was located in the middle of the old pavement under the supposition that it would be at the curb line when the street was widened. As the street is not to be widened now it will necessarily mean the removal of the pump from the pavement to a point with the curb line.

As things look from this distance it wasn't necessary for General Hindenburg to give reasons why he shouldn't run for President of Germany. Everybody knew he would run if it could be shown him that his candidacy would be a step in the direction of restoration of the monarchy.

The wheat market has been picking up a bit since the collapse of last week. The tumble of fifty cents a bushel came near sending a lot of us farmers who are still holding on to ours to the bug house.

If the Governor's wishes are consulted there will be no postponement of the day for the final adjournment of the Legislature.

In giving up his fight for a law enforcement appropriation it is suspected that Governor Pinchot has "something up his sleeve."

In less than a month Chas. Snyder's name will be off the State pay roll, a condition that has not existed for many years.

With static and other interferences to bother him the radio operator is "up in the air" at least half the time.

It is conceded that Grundy is a successful political "panhandler" but a mighty poor party leader.

The Slump in Wheat Prices.

The violent collapse in wheat prices in the Chicago market, which has sent them to the lowest figures in several months, has a rather ominous look when considered in connection with business conditions in the Western States. It is hardly necessary to say that it was the low prices of grain that led to the radical movement that swept through the Mississippi valley for several years, and which was mitigated in 1924 only through the unexpected reduction in the Canadian wheat crop. This enabled the American farmer to secure good prices for his grain in foreign markets and was the principal factor in making it possible for thousands of embarrassed merchants and banks to find a solid footing after a long period of trouble.

It seems not unlikely that there may be a recurrence of the depression that rested so long and heavily on the West. The present slump in prices points to the expectation of large crops here, and if Canada and other wheat-producing countries do equally well there is bound to be a general surplus; with the usual consequences. At the close of Chicago's market on Friday, July 1924, (new) wheat was quoted at \$1.29, as against \$1.00-1-8 in 1924, and \$1.23, as against \$1.04 a year ago. When it is remembered that agricultural experts declare that the American farmer should receive \$1.50 a bushel for his wheat in order to be assured of a reasonable profit it can be seen that the outlook for him can hardly be called bright. If the coming crop proves to be a large one, and if due allowance is made for freight charges between the point of production and Chicago, it is by no means improbable that the farmer's revenue from his crop will fall considerably below \$1 a bushel. Such an inadequate yield is not unlikely to lead to a recurrence of the peevish agitation of the past few years.

There is no remedy for this state of affairs, so far as we know. President Coolidge and the American people generally are opposed to anything like price-fixing for the benefit of the farmer, and he must stand the risk of declining prices. The prospect for the Mid-West agriculturist is not rosy, but no way has yet been devised by which he can be positively insured against the liabilities of his occupation.

"Janitors and Millionaires Worked Side by Side."

A Letter from the Kalamazoo Vegetable Products Co.

On the night of March 18th last, Palm Beach was visited by a fire which destroyed property valued at \$5,000,000 or more, and the same night a tornado swept through southern Illinois, and in its wake there were nearly 2,000 dead and twice as many injured.

On the following morning, city papers all over the country displayed in black headlines the caption we have used for this letter, or something similar.

They "worked side by side." In the face of the calamity, human sympathy cut all conventional, social, and financial wires, and so it was that the millionaire and the man who washed the windows or handled the pick, co-operated with soul and with hand in sympathetic aid to those who were suffering and bereft.

Why is it that most of us wait until a man is dead before we say the kind word? Why is it that church organizations quarrel and fight over creeds and rituals with other similar groups, and also quite frequently nowadays, even with themselves?

Why is it that in the industrial world—but why prolong the story? What the world needs today is not more mawkish sentiment, but more genuine human sympathy, more understanding, and less of avoidable misunderstanding.

A Clearfield View of Our Judicial Contest.

From the Clearfield Republican.

Centre county's judicial contest is getting warmer. W. Harrison Walker, Democrat, has announced his candidacy. Mr. Walker was the Democratic candidate for Congress in this district in 1908, opposing Charles F. Barclay, of Cameron county. He made a very good fight and polled a good vote, notwithstanding it was a Presidential year and one of the Bryan campaigns. He will doubtless have Democratic opposition for the nomination, as it is generally understood N. B. Spangler will ask Centre Democrats to consider his claims. Judge Dale is also talked of as likely to seek Democratic support. He was elected District Attorney two years ago as the Democratic candidate, although a life-long Republican. He had been a candidate on both tickets at the primaries, as was his opponent. His opinion is the Republican nomination and Dale the Democratic.

The Republican organization in Centre is decidedly against Dale for the judgeship nomination and will support Harry Keller. The Pinchot Republicans will get behind Dale and, with present throat-cutting leadership in G. O. P. State politics adding strength to the Pinchot cause every minute, may be able to again trim the alleged regulars, as they did in 1922 at the primaries.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—As the fire engines rushed to a blaze near her home, Mrs. Rebecca Gruber, fifty years old, of Harrisburg, fell dead from heart failure, brought on by excitement, according to the coroner.

—Refusal of a wife to occupy the same bedroom with her husband does not constitute desertion and is not sufficient reason for granting a divorce, in the opinion of Judge John R. Henninger, of Butler. Edward K. King, in his divorce petition, said his wife refused to occupy his bedroom, though they have been living under the same roof.

—Four sons of David F. Messner, of Washington county, have met death in coal mine accidents within ten years, and the fifth, the last son, was badly injured in the accident which took the fourth, William Messner, aged forty years, who was killed in an accident at the Black Diamond mine last week, but Joseph, injured while working beside him, will recover.

—John Gregg, of Tyrone, pleaded guilty in the Blair county court at Hollidaysburg, on Monday, to setting fire to a barn on the farm of Ralph Haag, in Snyder township. Gregg, who has previously served time for similar crimes was promptly sentenced to not less than six nor more than twelve years in the penitentiary. He recently finished an eight year term for barn burning.

—Declaring his innocence, in part at least, of the embezzlement of huge sums in Coal township, Northumberland county, Levi Werntz, former secretary of the board of commissioners of the township, filed an answer to the action to recover \$75,000 on his bond, held by the Massachusetts Bond and Security company. Judge Frank H. Strauss is expected to hear the action in the early summer.

—Wino Davis, 19 years of age, was blown to pieces last Wednesday night when he stumbled over a can of high explosives at the Emery Crum farm at Bessemer, near New Castle, Lawrence county. A large hole was blown in the ground by the explosion and pieces of the body were found a score of feet away. The youth was an inventor and kept the explosives for experimental purposes.

—Two girls, six and seven years old, picked up a "shiny pin" which they found in the street in Philadelphia, on Monday, and later turned it over to the police. It was a diamond brooch, said to be valued at approximately \$5,000. The valuable piece of jewelry was given the chief clerk of the city police department with instructions to see that the children receive any reward offered for its return.

—The body of a colored man was found in the swampy woods at Big Spring hollow, twelve miles west of Lock Haven, by Kingman Johnson, of Farrisandsdale, on Saturday afternoon, while he was looking for the site for a hunting cabin. Investigation showed that the man had been dead for several months, although there was no mark of violence on the body. Investigation is being made by coroner John D. Bailey. The man was 30 or 35 years of age.

—What may have been an attempt at a jail delivery in Lock Haven was frustrated Saturday afternoon when neighbors discovered two men hard at work at the jail wall with a hammer and chisel and notified sheriff Roy M. Hanna. The men escaped but it was found that a good sized stone had been removed. The point where the entry was attempted was on a line with the cell occupied by Dominick Sanzone, held on a charge of attempting to derail trains in the New York Central yards at Avis.

—Despite appeals of the Sanbury chamber of commerce, official announcement was made on Monday that the Sanbury shops will be closed permanently by the Pennsylvania Railroad company on May 1, after nearly a half-century of operation. Approximately 550 men are working there now. Promise was made that all will be given employment in other towns. Business in Sanbury will keenly feel the change, as the closing of the shops will send about one hundred families to other places.

—Henry Stees, 64 years old, sexton of St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal church, at Harrisburg, died on Friday night as the bell in the church steeple, which he had tolled for fifty years, ceased pealing the call for evening services. He served in the Union army during the Lee invasion of Pennsylvania. Becoming sexton of St. Stephen's church in 1865, he tolled the bell when Lee surrendered at Appomattox. Twice afterward, at the close of the Spanish-American war and later at the close of the world war, he tolled the bell for peace.

—Twelve lizards, each more than six inches long, were taken from former sheriff Peter Bonser, of Stroudsburg, on Saturday. He declared they had been alive in his stomach for twenty years. "Twenty years ago I suffered a disturbance in my stomach," Mr. Bonser said. "Eight or ten weeks ago I had an attack of what was taken to be acute indigestion. These attacks I have had every week for eight or ten years. I warn every one not to lie down at a creek to drink. I drank out of creeks where the water was running fast and I could not see what was in it. That's how I drank the lizard eggs. They hatched in me, producing the trouble."

—Taking of testimony in the Twentieth Pennsylvania Congressional election contest was started at Ebensburg, last Thursday. Testimony was presented before Albert W. Stenger, an attorney, at Johnstown, named as the contestant's commissioner by Warren Worth Bailey, Democrat, who has filed a contest in Congress to the seat of Anderson H. Walters, Republican. A certificate of election was issued to Mr. Walters after litigation in the Cambria county, Pennsylvania, Supreme and United States Supreme courts. Under the rules of the proceedings Walters will present his side of the case before a commissioner named by him and the entire record will be forwarded to Congress.

—His feet pinioned by a fall of rock which held him helpless while a slowly moving mass of coal and dirt gradually engulfed him, Thomas Keen, a miner, calmly ordered his helper to safety and met death unflinchingly in a coal mine at Mahanoy City, on Monday. Keen sought to release a mass of coal and rock that had lodged in a chute far underground. Before he could spring to safety a slide pinioned his feet. Lawrence Coulson, heedless of danger, went to the rescue, but told him his efforts would be needless sacrifice of another life. "My time is up!" cried Keen. "Get out, you can't save me!" Coulson crawled to safety and watched the earth pile up until it covered his friend.