

INK SLINGS.

—Have you thanked God for the two refreshing rains we have had this week?

—The Republican elephant read the news of La Follette's death with eyes as dry as punk.

—Lawns in this section looked as brown and dried up prior to the rain as they usually appear in September.

—If it were not for the meal ticket nearly all of us would be only too eager to join the grand army of the unemployed these hot summer days.

—The best bed-time stories we hear are the ones the boys start telling us with the hope that we'll forget to remind them that it's their time to hit the hay.

—Nature seems to have had about as much trouble squeezing rain out of the clouds as the average newspaper man has in squeezing a dollar or so out of his delinquent subscribers.

—New Jersey will certainly elect a Democratic Governor next fall. The Republicans over there have seen to that already by stirring up a fight among themselves that can't be healed ere November.

—Talking about joy killers these night fliers have their classification in our estimation. Tuesday night the drone of a motor wakened us just as we were about to land the biggest trout we ever saw on anybody's hook.

—Any way a war between the bootleggers and the United States would not make a compulsory service Act necessary. It would be a battle of bottles, not bullets and a vast army would volunteer to be hit with a bottle.

—Wouldn't a newspaper man have a fat chance of getting life insurance if he gained a reputation for telling all he knows about some of the leading citizens—and others—in the community for which he chronicles casual events.

—If Judge Dale succeeds in finding two hundred and fifty honest-to-goodness Prohibitionists in Centre county he'll have done something that the election returns of recent years have failed to do. He needs that number to sign his petition in order to get on their ticket.

—The former Kaiser and his wife, Hermine, are said to have had another disagreement. This time it is apparently serious, for she has taken her share of the kids and left Doorn. Running true to form they have probably looked on their marriage contract as "a mere scrap of paper."

—The President having evacuated Washington for the summer and the Governor having flitted west to work off some surplus gas the public is left to go to bed when it pleases and get up when it is ready. Happy days are those when no threats of a governmental spanking come out of Washington or Harrisburg.

—Of course we read every other column in the "Watchman." Because we do we are wondering why George Bush made that long trip from Los Angeles to Ti Juana, Mexico, when Ti Juana, has only—according to his tale published elsewhere in this issue—thirty-three business places and a beer bar one hundred and fifty feet long.

—Of course science will never be at rest until it discovers the why and wherefore of all things, but we can't go into ecstasies over its determined attempt to find a new continent somewhere near the North Pole. What would it be good for other than a bone of contention as to who it belongs to if it is there. If MacMillan finds a piece of ice coated land up there we see "the makings" of a war and that's all.

—When we go to the Legislature we are going to have a law passed that will prohibit any circus aggregation from using the name of Walter L. Main unless it presents a performance as good as Main's was in the days when he was actively in the show business. Last year a very creditable circus exhibited here under the name, but last week one with scarcely a meritorious act drew a tent full by using the Main name.

—When it comes to the impression Bellefonte makes on the outside world the two magnificent maples that stood in front of the old Wilson manse on High street would have continued making favorable ones long after the new "hundred-thousand theatre" becomes common place. Is any one simple enough to imagine they would have kept a single person out of that play house. Do Bellefonters know that "The American City" and other recognized experts in city planning have said that because of its trees, the monument and court house setting, High street, in summer, ranks among the most beautiful in America? We are not informed as to who ordered the cutting of the trees. We do know that it was done surreptitiously.—At an hour when protest was least likely. We also know that the Richelieu enterprise has not done what sound business methods would call for. It seems to us that its objective should be the cultivation of good will rather than the defiance of custom. Bellefonte welcomes everybody, whether as visitors, residents or those looking to business opportunities. But Bellefonte was made long ago. It is only her fame that attracts any one, and how long will her fame draw if the town is to permit the despoliation of what she has been more than a century nursing.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Beware of the Greek, Bearing Gifts.

Word comes from Washington that the House committee on Ways and Means will begin consideration of the proposed new revenue bill about the middle of October, and that the chairman of that committee contemplates a reduction of taxes to the extent of half a billion dollars instead of \$300,000,000 as estimated by Secretary Mellon and President Coolidge. The greater decrease is to be accomplished by cutting out all federal levies on what has come to be known as "death taxes," being taxes on inheritances and estates which the National Chamber of Commerce declared to be "numerous and burdensome," in a recent resolution following a review of the subject.

There are two palpable reasons for the proposed action of the committee on Ways and Means. The first is the hope that early action on tax reduction may help to save the Republican majority in the next Congress, which is perilously small now, and the other—the recent statement of Representative Garner, of Texas, that greater reduction in taxes than had been suggested by Secretary Mellon may safely be made, and that all incomes under \$5,000 should be exempt from taxation entirely. The Republican leaders realize that they must make a better offer than the Democrats present or they will lose out. The defeat of the Mellon bill and adoption of the Garner measure by the last Congress was nearly fatal.

Unless it be admitted that Secretary Mellon is incompetent and unfit for the service of his office the promise of a tax cut of half a billion dollars is dishonest or absurd. It is true that the adjustment of affairs to a peace basis will permit of large economies and considerable decreases in taxation are due. But a half billion cut is certain to result in deficiencies which will have to be made up by future increase if not greater financial troubles. Chairman Greene, of the Ways and Means committee, imagines that it "is a good enough Morgan until after the election," however, and the matter of future troubles does not concern him. "Beware of the Greeks bearing gifts."

—It is worth while to remember that Judge Kennedy, of Wyoming, was appointed to the bench by President Harding and presumably upon the recommendation of Attorney General Daugherty.

Bell Bank Failures in Pittsburgh.

There is an atmosphere of mystery running through the gossip concerning the Bell bank failures in Pittsburgh which invites suspicion. Mr. Bell appears to have been mixing business and politics in a way that disagreed with both. This may not have had anything to do with the failure of his banks. His heavy investments in coal property and association with other ventures might easily have involved him under existing industrial conditions. But the presence among his assets of a lot of notes of politicians, valuable or otherwise, creates doubts.

Mr. Bell has been actively affiliated with the politics of western Pennsylvania for some years, and has aspired to high office on several occasions. When the late Senator Crow was nearing death, some years ago, it was alleged that Mr. Bell agreed to pay his debts, amounting to several hundred thousand dollars and involving other politicians, in consideration of his appointment to the expected vacancy. On another occasion it was widely rumored that he offered to pay large sums of money for the nomination for Governor, and the consummation of the deal was defeated by a premature exposure of the agreement. His name was also closely connected with the Gephart treasury scandal.

In a schedule of his assets, prepared by Mr. Bell himself, there is no excuse for insolvency. He figures up \$4,000,000 worth of property of various kinds and estimates his liabilities at much less. But among the assets are notes of politicians, some of whom are dead, and other notes long overdue, and the outcome of an investigation now in progress is a matter of conjecture. Governor Pinchot promises a thorough inquiry and complete exposure, if the current suspicions are supported by facts, and we have every reason to believe that his promise will be fulfilled.

—Fate seems to be against the Progressive bloc in the Senate. The death of Ladd, of North Dakota, closely following that of LaFollette, of Wisconsin, creates a wide breach in the ranks.

—The voluntary retirement of Judge George B. Orlady from the bench of the Superior court will remove a capable, conscientious, safe and sane jurist from the public service.

Mr. Pinchot's Western Pilgrimage.

Unless his plans are altered overnight Governor Pinchot will be away on his western pilgrimage before this issue of the "Watchman" reaches its destination. His departure is fixed for today and his program provides for speeches in several States during a period of three or four weeks. His theme will be conservation and prohibition enforcement, and it is predicted that he will present a picture of machine politics in Pennsylvania that will be more startling than amusing. He is a recognized authority on both subjects and will discuss them candidly and without mental reservation. It may mark the beginning of a war of extermination with the result of the conflict left to conjecture.

That his political enemies at home are alarmed is apparent on every hand. In the first place they are unable to divine his real purpose. While some believe confidently that his aim is to enlist the conservationists of the West and the Prohibitionists of the South to his support for the Republican nomination for President in 1928, others are equally certain that he hopes to create a pressure from the outside in favor of his nomination for Senator in Congress to succeed George Wharton Pepper. The recent death of Senator LaFollette has caused a vacancy in the office of leader of the Progressive force in Washington, and a considerable number of that contingent imagine Pinchot the fit man for the place.

To the close observer of events this idea looks like "borrowing trouble." Outside pressure is not a potent force in a community so completely dominated by an organization as Pennsylvania has come to be. It might influence a few voters here and there to consult conscience rather than prejudice or greed in casting their ballots. But the servile followers of the machine and the sordid seekers after power will control the vote for the Senatorial nomination unless Pinchot or some one else is able to arouse sufficient opposition at home. The idea that his present pilgrimage is in the interest of a Presidential nomination is much more plausible. Indignation against bootleggers is increasing.

—Amundsen is off and MacMillan on the pursuit of that elusive tract of land about the North Pole, and both have the best wishes of the people of the whole world.

Federal Judges Disagree.

Fortunately there is a tribunal which may review and reverse the decision handed down by Federal Judge Kennedy, in the Teapot Oil case at Cheyenne, Wyoming, the other day. That jurist held that all the evidence of fraud, all the suspicious circumstances and all the admitted incalculating facts revealed during the Senatorial investigation and the subsequent court trial, with respect to the leasing of the naval oil reserves to Harry Sinclair's companies, were imaginary evils and that the lease was a legal and legitimate transaction between well meaning citizens on one side and faithful public officials on the other.

In a trial of a similar case, in which exactly similar leases were made to Mr. Doheny by the same public officials, held in the Federal court at Los Angeles, California, a few days previously, an exactly opposite result was reached. Judge McCormick, of that court, decided that the leases were obtained by fraudulent collusion between the lessee and the public officials and were consequently illegal and void. The validity of both leases rested largely on the order of President Harding shifting control of the property from the Navy Department to the Department of the Interior. Judge McCormick held the order was invalid. Judge Kennedy affirmed its validity.

For many years, in the apportionment of control of affairs in Washington, such property as the oil reserves were vested in the Department of the Interior. During the Wilson administration Congress enacted a law transferring the control to the Navy Department, as being more directly concerned with the oil product. When Doheny, Sinclair and Secretary Fall entered into the alleged conspiracy to rob the government of this valuable asset, Secretary of the Navy Denby asked President Harding to re-transfer the control and the President did so, notwithstanding the act of Congress. The Supreme court will decide between them.

—The Director of Public Safety of Philadelphia has again made up his mind to drive the rain demon out of that city, and this time he means business.

—That New York girl now realizes that a revolver is not a fit instrument for delivering love taps.

Borah's Idea an Old Doctrine.

Senator Borah's curt reply to an inquiry from "an American citizen in the troubled zone" in China, does not express an entirely new policy of Republican statesmen. The inquiry, it may be assumed, touched the question of government protection of citizens located in those sections of China in which disorders imperil the lives of residents. "I see no reason," Senator Borah informs his inquisitive correspondent, "why the United States should be drawn into any controversy or conflict with Chinese authorities or the Chinese people. If an American citizen in the troubled zone is in fear of his life or the destruction of his property he may get out if he can. There is no reason for interference."

This is precisely the idea expressed by a considerable number of Republican Senators and Representatives in Congress in 1917 when they urged legislation forbidding American citizens from traveling aboard ships which Germany had threatened to sink by the employment of submarines. "If American men and women place themselves in such perilous positions," they said in substance, "let them take the responsibility and the punishment." President Wilson adopted a different view of the subject, however. He held that American citizens were entitled to the protection of their government wherever they happened to be and Democrats in Congress and out concurred in that opinion.

We recall another instance in which the Borah idea was expressed by a Republican leader in the Senate and the Republican boss of Pennsylvania. During the consideration of tariff legislation, some years ago, one of the wool manufacturers wrote to Senator Penrose a complaint that discrimination was shown in favor of one kind of wool and against another. The Senator promptly replied to him that "if he couldn't get enough out of his line of business he should get out of it and find some other industry to operate." The kind of wool favored was the kind used by Mr. Penrose's constituents and he had no concern for the men using the other kind. That seems to be the attitude of Borah on the Chinese question.

—Secretary of Public Welfare Dr. Ellen Potter, in her annual report to the Governor, advises that the Rockview penitentiary be completed as rapidly as possible as "the State has now too much money tied up in it to do otherwise." While her reason is a very potent one the greatest reason should be the fact that Rockview, with its thousands of acres, its high altitude and healthful surroundings, offers more as the site for a model prison than most any other location in the State.

Important Borough Offices to Fill This Year.

Up to this time the judicial campaign in Centre county has been the chief topic discussed, politically, and most everybody seems to have lost sight of the fact that some very important offices in Bellefonte will have to be filled at the coming election. These include a Burgess, tax collector, six councilmen and two school directors, as well as minor offices.

W. Harrison Walker is completing his third consecutive term as Burgess and inasmuch as he is now in the thick of the judicial campaign it is hardly likely that he will aspire to another term as Burgess. This will leave an opening for other aspirants to that honor.

Herbert Auman will be a candidate on the Republican ticket to succeed himself as tax collector and up to this time no others, either Republicans or Democrats, have come out into the open.

The councilmen whose terms will expire with this year are W. J. Emerick and Benjamin Bradley, in the North ward; Thomas S. Hazel, in the South ward, and W. H. Brouse and J. M. Cunningham in the West ward. But an entire representation will have to be elected from the latter ward as no one was ever appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late John L. Dunlap over a year ago.

The school directors whose terms will expire are Mrs. M. E. Brouse and Mrs. Caroline Gilmour. So far as these ladies are concerned we have not heard either one express herself one way or the other, so do not know whether they aspire to another six years term or not.

The first day for circulating nomination papers for borough and township offices is Thursday, July 9th, and the last day for filing same with the county commissioners is August 18th.

The Non-Existent Oil Scandal.

From the Philadelphia Record. Recent telegraphic advices from Cheyenne, Wyoming, indicate that "The Record" and certain other newspapers owe an abject apology to a number of former government officials who have been cruelly maligned.

Ex-Secretary of the Interior Fall, for instance, appears to have been a very estimable gentleman whose personal financial transactions with oil magnates seeking official favors at his hands were falsely construed. The payments—"loans" or otherwise—made to him by people to whom he turned over valuable government property were made in pursuance of private arrangements which had nothing to do with government business. There was no secrecy about the oil leases he executed, except in so far as he or his subordinates took great pains to keep from the public and other parties concerned information about them. The court in Wyoming gives him a clean bill of health. We are glad to know that he served the government so faithfully, and with such scrupulous regard for its interests, and that in his official conduct he always avoided even the appearance of evil.

Then there is former Attorney General Harry Daugherty. His name is not mentioned in the Cheyenne dispatches, but by inference he also is vindicated. An angry but misguided public, seeking a sacrificial victim, connected him with the alleged and rumored, but apparently non-existent, oil scandal, and felt that he was engaged in the task, now demonstrated to have been needless, of covering up and protecting some of the persons involved. There were other matters, it is true, that engendered distrust of his single-hearted devotion to justice, but his associations misled people into imagining that he was incapable of prosecuting the supposed oil conspirators with vigor, and as a consequence other counsel were employed to represent the government in the prosecution—or shall we say persecution?—of the accused, and finally Mr. Daugherty's resignation was requested. Mr. Coolidge can now do no less than invite him to rejoin the official family.

If Fall is guiltless, Daugherty also comes through clean. How basely these patriots have been dealt with! Of Denby nothing was said but that he was stupid, and the court of Wyoming has not attempted to correct the popular judgment in that particular. It must be highly gratifying to every honest citizen to learn that there is no oil scandal, never was an oil scandal, and never could be an oil scandal with such men as Fall, Daugherty and Denby to watch over the government's interests. We feel, rather ashamed that the government should have permitted its legal representatives to say such unkind things about Sinclair and his official friends in their bills of complaint.

What a blessing it is that unjustly accused persons in this free country can always have recourse to our upright and honorable courts to set themselves right in the public estimation!

Quarter Century of Pure Food.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

James Foust retired last week under the State Pension act after twenty-two years as an officer of the State Bureau of Foods at Harrisburg. Formerly chief of police in Altoona and later a coroner, he brought to his duties the experience of a prosecutor that must often have served him well. In 1907 when he was promoted to head the bureau, Pennsylvania had seven pure food laws. Now it has twenty-five. He says they are better than the Federal laws or those of any other State. During his regime the bureau has been self-supporting with a surplus greater than \$4,000,000.

Food control in Pennsylvania has undergone considerable development in the last quarter century. In early days the fraudulent sale of oleomargarine gave much concern. Today, properly branded, it sells on its own merits in a large market. No longer regarded with the suspicion of bootleg, it is seldom the object of complaint. In addition to a General Food act we now have twenty-four special statutes. The commodities include soft drinks, ice cream, eggs, lard, sausage, milk, coffee, fruit syrup and oysters. Other regulations have to do with cold storage, bottling, milk containers and milk testing. The General Food act covers ketchup, jellies, jams, preserves, etc.

It is a pleasure to add that Mr. Foust credits the success of his administration to the co-operation of the Wholesale Grocery Association. The duty of legislation is to protect honest business as well as society in general. When so framed that it benefits both buyer and seller, it has a sanction that makes enforcement comparatively easy.

—For the sum of \$1,800 Oscar G. Kephart, of Osceola Mills, has contracted with the Postoffice Department to carry U. S. first class mail one round trip, between Clearfield and Tyrone, for one year beginning July 1st. At the present time first class mail does not reach Clearfield by train schedule until 10:30 at night. Mr. Kephart's contract calls for its delivery there between the hours of 7 and 7:30 o'clock.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Appointments of John M. McLaughlin, of Wilkinsburg, and William Sharrocks, of Philadelphia, as junior examiners were announced at the Department of Banking.

—Creation of a new inspection division with headquarters at Altoona and transfer of J. J. Coffey, of the Philadelphia division, as its supervising head was announced at the Department of Labor and Industry.

—After successfully eluding her family, on Sunday, Mrs. Mary Gantz, 63 years old, of Pine Hill, northern Lancaster county, went into the front yard, seated herself on a chair, put the barrel of a shotgun into her mouth and pulled the trigger. She died immediately.

—Friends of Max George, of Tioga, claim for him a Carnegie hero medal. Fully clothed he jumped into the Tioga river and rescued Miss Helen Wells, who had gone down for the last time and who was not revived till fifteen minutes after being taken from the water.

—Deaf mutes in Central Pennsylvania are planning to hold a big picnic at Ivy-side park, near Altoona, on July 4. Visitors are expected from Somerset, Indiana, Clearfield, Cambria, Bedford, Centre, Huntingdon and Juniata counties. A local committee is arranging a program of games and sports, the winners of which will receive prizes.

—Balked in their efforts to break open a safe in the office of John L. Reist, tobacco warehouse, of Lancaster, thieves early last Thursday set fire to the building. The blaze was confined largely to the second floor which was filled with packed tobacco. The loss is estimated at \$40,000. One thousand tons of tobacco it is estimated were stored in the warehouse. Much of it is damaged.

—Following the completion of the \$250,000 bridge spanning the Susquehanna river at West Milton and Milton, citizens of Union and Northumberland counties are planning a celebration of the event, which will take place July 1. Former Secretary of the Commonwealth Frederick A. Goddard, of Milton, will be the speaker of the day, and an old-time celebration of the event will be held.

—Just as Louis Lohf, 23 years of age, and Anna Beck, 19 years old, both of Altoona, Pa., were entering the court house at Cumberland, Md., on Friday, to obtain a marriage license, police intervened, telling the girl they were advised by Chief of Police of Altoona, that he had a warrant for her arrest for incorrigibility. Lohf went to the Maryland Gretna Green by automobile and met Miss Beck, who arrived by train.

—Convicted of a manslaughter charge, growing out of the death of her four weeks' old daughter, Miss Olive Miller was sentenced to two and a half to five years in the western penitentiary, by Judge Henninger, at Butler, on Saturday. Miss Miller had been a telephone operator at Butler and after killing her child carried it in a suitcase to Clearfield and hid the body in a flush tank of the toilet at the railroad station.

—Preparations have been made to resume drilling at a gas well near Lionport, Westmoreland county, of the People's Natural Gas company, which has already been drilled to a depth of 770 feet and is reported to be the deepest producing gas well in the world. Drilling operations were suspended a month ago when the drill point became fast in the bottom of the well. A special saucer was manufactured to remove the drill point.

—Paul W. Houck, Compensation Commissioner of the State, has sent out notice that the State Compensation Commission has decided that pneumonia, unless it follows an injury, is not compensable. This will affect many cases before the board. In the case in which the ruling was made, Andrew J. Sadosky, of Pottsville, worked on a cold floor for two hours repairing an automobile. The referee had awarded compensation, but this action was reversed.

—Rounding the bend of the western end of Horseshoe Curve at a terrific speed, Friday afternoon, Pennsylvania's express No. 48, eastbound, was unable to make the turn and jumped the track, drawing eight cars with it, injuring two men, one of them seriously, and tearing up four main line tracks, completely blocking traffic for a period of several hours. Close to 15,000 gallons of milk were dumped into a small stream and several car loads of live stock were liberated.

—State Forestry authorities have arranged with men connected with the Pennsylvania committee of the Zionist movement to send hundreds of specimens of birch, beech, ash, laurel and other Pennsylvania trees and shrubs to the Jewish agricultural college near Jerusalem. The work will be done as part of the exchange with the Palestine authorities and reports exchanged on the way the trees thrive. The State has also arranged to plant at Mount Alto seeds of New Zealand pines.

—Cutting of the last large tract of privately owned timberland in the northern section of Pennsylvania has been started in the Bear Creek region of Elk county, twelve miles south of Kane. Two camps have been established on the tract and a large force of woodsmen are felling the immense hemlocks, some of which are from sixty to eighty feet in height. It is estimated it will take six years to complete the cutting of the tract when lumbering operations in that section of the State will be ended until State and federal preserves are opened.

—In an effort to dislodge some stone in a quarry where he had prepared a blast Clyde Baney, 35 years old, of Warriors-mark, sustained serious injuries last Thursday when the powder exploded. The fuse did not work properly and before he could get to a place of safety the powder exploded, and he was burned about the right side of the face and head and also sustained burns about the right arm and hand. Baney also suffered a deep laceration of the right cheek when struck by a piece of flying stone. He was taken to the Mercy hospital, Altoona, for treatment.

—A wedding anniversary party at Chambersburg, scheduled for Saturday night was turned into a mourning group through the electrocution of Frank E. Rupp, aged 50 years, foreman of the Triadelphia Springs sub-station of the United Electric company. Rupp, who had invited twenty-five relatives and friends to help observe his twenty-fifth wedding anniversary Saturday evening, was working about some high-tension wires in the sub-station when he touched one containing 13,200 volts with his head. He was instantly killed and in falling forward into a maze of wires caused a short circuit and a fire which for a short time threatened to destroy the station.