

INK SLINGS.

Fall is only fifty-two days off. If somebody will devise a plan to eliminate politics from the equation a coal strike may be averted.

When St. Peter passed Bryan through the Gate we'll bet his seat check called for one beside Luther and Calvin and Wesley.

Oats has matured so irregularly in Centre county that some is already in the barns, while a lot of it won't be ready to cut for several weeks.

By way of doing a little joy-killing let us remind the Bellefonte boys and girls that they have only thirty days more of vacation from school.

After today we presume, the golf sticks will be as persistent in keeping us from concentrating on work as the fishing rod has been since the fifteenth of April.

Having utterly failed in his role as the Moses of the Senate Vice President Dawes has found directing a jazz orchestra more encouraging to his ambition to lead something.

When Lord Gladstone called his father's defamer "a liar and a coward" he uttered fighting words, but it appears that Mr. Peter E. Wright, the offending biographer, is a writer, not a fighter.

Seventy-five thousand dollars' worth of rum was found in the cellar of a house on Poplar street, Philadelphia, on Monday. With such a cache that thoroughfare might better have been named Popular street.

We haven't spoken of one of the judicial candidates who isn't absolutely certain that he is going to be nominated and elected. That is the right spirit for an earnest candidate to exude. And we'll all have to wait until September fifteenth to know which ones have gotten it by "hollerin' in the rain bar'l'."

The decision of Mexico to take some stand against the influx of communists from Russia to that country is a long step in the way of insuring itself against more internal unrest than it has already been having. Incidentally, it is pleasant for us to think that danger of the red flag being run up along the Rio Grande is not so imminent.

Great political leaders are not being made these days. The old ones are dying and few give even promise of taking their places at the head of the political parties. We don't quite get the Republican worry over the supposed dearth of material in our party, however. Wasn't it only last fall that they told us that the Democratic party is dead? When we get the army together competent and capable leaders will be found at his head.

If Senator Pepper has any idea of succeeding himself as the Senator in Congress for Pennsylvania he had better employ more astute management of his campaign than has been shown up to this writing. Pinchot has and will probably hold the country districts while Pepper has neither Philadelphia nor Allegheny in such a condition of party harmony as to insure him a vote large enough to overcome what the Governor can reasonably count on up-State.

The Metropolitan journals that are so worried over what is to happen to the Democratic party since the death of Mr. Bryan that they are attempting to alienate the followers of Woodrow Wilson by questioning the propriety of burying "The Commoner" in Arlington are hard pressed for ammunition. What if Wilson is lying at one side of the city and Bryan is laid at the other? May not the meeting place of their followers be at the White House in the center?

Whatever else may be said of Mr. Bryan we recall no other American as dominant as he in the public life of our country for three decades. While many of the theories he advocated were illogical and would never have made the slightest impression on the public mind had it not been for the hypnotic witchery of his oratory he lived to see some of his so-called "heresies" accepted as sound governmental doctrine. He never gained the goal of his greatest ambition, but no one of the great men who died fighting for a nobler cause.

Governor Pinchot might enlist greater co-operation in his Giant-Power proposition were he to be more explicit in explaining how it is to operate. We all recognize the fact that, sooner or later, the entire country will be in control of an "electric monopoly," as he stated in his Philadelphia speech of Tuesday, but what safeguards does the Governor's "hobby" offer to keep the country from falling into the hands of a political monopoly. Experience has taught the public that business monopoly is bad, but that political monopoly is far worse.

The three rubber laden ships that are rushing across the oceans from Singapore to New York to get their cargoes delivered before August first present an interesting phase of the exactitude of business contracts. On what the stokers in the holds of those vessels can do by way of making steam depends a fortune, no doubt, for if the rubber is not landed here by today the contract for July delivery has been broken and the price falls. Falling rubber prices interest us not, however. We need two new tires, but we haven't the where-with-all to buy them because most of our delinquent subscribers have evidently been needing them also.

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William Jennings Bryan.

The "passing away" of any conspicuous leader of the moral forces of the period is a distinct loss to civilization. The sudden death of William Jennings Bryan, at Dayton, Tennessee, on Sunday last, was a shock to the public life of the country and a bereavement to hundreds of thousands of men and women who had learned to not only admire but to love him.

Mr. Bryan first commanded popular admiration while he served as Representative in Congress for Nebraska, in a masterful speech against excessive tariff taxation. But he really arrived in 1896 when, as a delegate in the Democratic National convention in Chicago, he uttered the famous sentence: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."

The great campaign which followed his nomination is familiar history to most readers of newspapers. It was a strenuous struggle for the maintenance of the rights of the common people, during which he won recognition as the master orator of his day and generation. He spoke in nearly every State of the Union and presented his arguments with such force and eloquence as to command the admiration of his most ardent opponents.

Though defeated, neither Mr. Bryan nor his party were dismayed, and the convention of his party in 1900 again nominated him, with like results. His campaign was conducted with equal vigor though hardly with equal wisdom. The previous predictions of disaster certain to follow the establishment of the gold standard had not been fulfilled yet he insisted on presenting the free coinage of silver question as a salient if not the dominant issue involved.

But notwithstanding his three defeats, and in the face of the disappointments which followed, Mr. Bryan retained his dominating influence in the Democratic party and in the convention of 1912, at Baltimore, by the force of his eloquence and masterful leadership, Woodrow Wilson was nominated and subsequently elected. In obedience to the custom of justly rewarding party service President Wilson called Mr. Bryan to sit at the head of his council board. For two years Mr. Bryan, as Secretary of State, directed his efforts to guarantee future peace of the world by negotiating treaties with several powers looking to that result.

Mr. Bryan was essentially a pacifist though his voluntary service as Colonel in the Spanish-American war proved that peace for him must be "peace with honor." The breaking out of the world war in 1914 disturbed his plans and defeated his hopes for permanent peace. But he still hoped to keep this country out of the carnage until after the sinking of the Lusitania when, in despair of peace, he resigned his office and retired to private life and resumed private employment. Among his activities were the editing of The Commoner and lecturing on the Chautauqua platform, and to these services he gave increased attention.

During recent years Mr. Bryan has given much time and energy to religious work. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and besides holding minor offices in that religious body he has served as assistant moderator of the General Assembly. He has taken a leading part in the recent controversy between the fundamentalists and modernists in which his and other denominations have participated. Mr. Bryan believed in all the doctrines of his church with respect to the history of the creation and the Divine origin of the Bible, and his last great activity was his prosecution of Professor Scopes, at Dayton, Tennessee, where he died.

It may be said that Mr. Bryan put Dayton on the map and if the plan to locate a Bryan memorial college there is completed his name will keep it on.

Even a woman can't be too young to have old friends if she is true to herself.

Philadelphia's Shameful Plight.

For the second time within two months the city of Philadelphia has been obliged to borrow money to meet the salary claims of its vast army of public officials. Last week the mayor of the city and other officials borrowed \$2,000,000 from a bank for the purpose, as stated by one of the leading newspapers of the city, of meeting "the increased expenses of city and county offices for the present year."

The previous loan made in June was \$3,000,000 obtained by shift from the sinking fund after the sinking fund had sold Liberty bonds of the value of that amount to provide the money. There must be something gravely wrong with a municipal government driven to the necessity of shifting funds from one department to another and borrowing from banks in order to pay its current obligations.

But nothing else is to be expected. Philadelphia "is corrupt and contented." The corporations "run the town" and maintain incompetents in power in exchange for favors bestowed at public expense. It is a burning shame that the metropolis of Pennsylvania is thus managed because selfish bosses need money to indulge expensive habits. But the facts are beyond dispute. Judges of the courts are employed as messengers, it is alleged, in arranging shady agreements and even the pulpits of the city are not immune from censure. How long the people will endure the shame remains to be seen. There are probably enough well meaning men and women there to correct the evil if they would.

The man who lights his cigar while putting gasoline in his auto tank is evidently trying to take the "fool-prize" away from the woman who starts the fire by pouring gasoline in the stove.

Right But Not in Full.

The State Department of Banking has wisely entered suit in the Allegheny county common pleas court against State Senator Max Leslie, a Pittsburgh political boss, to recover on a \$75,000 note held by the defunct Carnegie Trust company. The failure of that bank, through which hundreds of depositors stand to lose thousands of dollars, is ascribed to misuse of the funds by such loans as that expressed in the Leslie note. These sufferers are entitled to such relief as it is possible to give them, and it is the duty of those in charge of the bankrupt property to assemble whatever assets are available to distribute among them.

But in the fulfillment of this official obligation the officials of the Banking Department should play no favorites. That is to say, it would not be quite right to enforce payment by debtors who are not on friendly terms with the Governor and neglect to employ the same compulsion upon those who are. In the early statements of the Bell bank failures some men who are said to be supporters of the Governor, or at least in political alliance with him, were named as debtors of the banks. In the later statements the names of those who belong to the Governor's faction are withheld. This may be an inadvertence but it is suspicious.

The real purpose of the action of the authorities in the complicated affairs of the Carnegie Trust company and the other Bell banks should be, first to recover as much out of the wreck as possible, and next to make it more difficult and more dangerous to commit such frauds upon a confiding public as seem to have been perpetrated in the case in question. Designing and mercenary politicians all look alike to the law and those attached to one faction of the dominant party have no more right to immunity from punishment than those of another. Suits should be entered against all the Pittsburgh politicians who owe the bank.

Twenty-five years ago Carroll D. Wright, United States Commissioner of Labor, warned the public against dishonest officials of Building and Loan associations.

No doubt General Anderson meant to be firm and thought he would be firm but he underestimates the force of the political machine.

President Lewis wants the world to know that he is quite as big a man as old Warriner.

More Luck for Pinchot.

Until the result of the week-end conference between Governor Pinchot and General Butler is revealed it will be impossible to take an accurate measurement of the Governor's luck. But things have been breaking in his favor with surprising frequency of late, and if it happens that he has enlisted the rolicking marine into his army of supporters it may be said that he has the State of Pennsylvania at his feet. The latest development in the question is expressed in the announcement that the association of anthracite coal operators will not accept him as an arbitrator of their differences with the miners for the reason that he is committed to the interests of the miners.

The operators object to the Governor in the capacity of arbitrator because of a speech made during a session of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, held in Philadelphia some months ago, in which he denounced the anthracite coal operators as "monopolists who in various ways gouged the public." In this statement he has reference to the settlement of the mine troubles two years ago, in which he, as arbitrator, allowed both sides about all they wanted in the expectation that the operators would divide the benefits accruing to them with the consumers of the product. This benevolent expectation was disappointed and the odium of looting the public fell entirely on the Pinchot shoulders.

Nobody was able to understand at the time how or why Governor Pinchot came to the decision he announced in the adjustment of that vexed labor dispute. It provided for an increase of wages as demanded by the miners and for an increase of price equal to the increase of wages. This necessarily saddled upon the consumers a burden equal to the increases. It appears now that the Governor expected that the mine owners would absorb one-half and the carrying companies the other half of the increase. But neither the operators nor the carriers absorbed any part and the operators took additional toll by increasing the price beyond the increase of wages. Mr. Pinchot was right in denouncing this operation.

Of course the fault was his in a measure. If he expected the operators and the carrying companies to become philanthropists he ought to have had it written into the bond. Experience ought to have taught him that the practical gentlemen who manage mining and carrying corporations are not greatly interested in benevolence, and that they are not working for health or pleasure. There is no evidence so far as the records show that they even implied a promise to absorb a share of the burden of wage increase and in failing to meet such expectation have violated no obligation, moral or legal. Still the denunciation of mine owners by the Governor will meet with popular favor.

It didn't take Jack Dempsey long to discover that two can't live as cheap as one. After declaring that he was through in the ring it has taken his bride only a few months to start him fighting for money again.

The President, according to John Hays Hammond, is confident that there will be no anthracite coal strike. That's fine as far as it goes, but needs the support of a "bill of particulars."

Governor Pinchot and Senator Pepper may be trying to conceal scalping knives under their "Dear George" and "Dear Gifford" epistolary exchanges.

Vice President Dawes seems to have abandoned his campaign for new rules in the Senate. Probably he missed the train of thought in New England.

And if the machine plans of a few years ago had not miscarried John A. Bell, of the Pittsburgh bank scandals, might be Governor or Senator.

Senator Norris, Republican, wants the Federal Trade Commission abolished because it has been packed by the President.

The price of pearls has greatly increased within recent years but just as many of them are "cast before swine" as ever.

The insurance company which will underwrite good resolutions has the wealth of the world within its reach.

The back of the hot wave appears to have been broken but the "dog days" are still in the future.

Get the Watchman if you want the local news.

Highway Hospitality.

From the Altoona Tribune. Are there any good Samaritans on the highways of today? Fear of robbery and assault have whittled the generosity of the motorists until the tired wayfarers along the national highways have about one chance in forty of getting a "lift" on their travels over the continent.

In the Saturday issue of the Tribune a story appeared telling of the adventures of a curious evangelist-draftsman who walked from Newark, N. J., to Cincinnati, Ohio, and back to "determine what a penniless christian wayfarer might expect from his fellow-man." All generosity and philanthropy is not clothed in broadcloth or silk according to the deduction from the transient evangelist's experience, for nineteen of every twenty clergymen and church officials refused to aid him, while three of the nine thugs who held him up during the trip gave him money when they found that he was "broke."

Over 1,100 motorists ignored the plea of the "knight of the road," as he trudged from city to city, and of the thirty-four cars in which he was given a "lift," twenty-five were of the cheaper variety. Merely another example of plebeian hospitality. The vagrant-like and penniless wanderer was given plenty of opportunity to study the enforcement or rather the non-enforcement of the Volstead act. Coffee is six times harder to get than liquor, according to his statistics which showed that many offers to a "nip o' hip hooch" were given but very few to a "cup of Java." Twelve bootleggers offered him employment in his travels and six of the men who tried to hold him up later offered to take him into partnership as a thief.

Would you, Mr. Modern Motorist, pass an injured man lying by the roadside and far from other aid? Five times the inquisitive wanderer dropped by the side of the highway in pretense of serious injury, and while 232 autos whizzed past him without slowing their motors, fifty stopped to inquire of his injury. The adventuresome evangelist, judged of by his own standards, and his only proclamation was that it was no better than in the days of the Good Samaritan. Perhaps he judged too harshly, and perhaps his appearance was that which might urge caution among the drivers, but nevertheless, the wayfarer of today quickly misses the heretofore proclaimed hospitality of the South and West, or of the North and East as well, and to the American motorist, "to give is better than to receive" means only "Give 'er the gas and give 'em the air."

Federal Indemnity Reduced.

From the Pennsylvania Farmer. The two hundred thousand dollars of federal funds which became available on July 1 for paying bovine tuberculosis indemnities in Pennsylvania, will not be sufficient to match the State funds in the usual ratio. Formerly the State paid a maximum of \$40 and the federal government a maximum of \$25 for each grade animal condemned. The amounts for purebreds were \$70 and \$50. The federal fund for the current year would have to be more than three times as large as it is to permit payments to be continued on this basis.

The authorities have debated whether to pay the full amount allowed by law or long as the federal funds hold out, or to pro rate the amount so that those who test at the end of the year will receive as much as those who finish while there is still some money available from Washington. It has been decided to reduce the amount of payment per animal so that all will receive a small share of the federal fund. It has been estimated that the \$200,000 will be sufficient to provide a payment of \$7.25 for each grade and \$14.50 for each purebred that will be condemned during the year. With the State indemnity remaining unchanged this means that dairymen will receive a maximum of \$47.25 for grades and \$84.50 for registered animals.

And When the Rents are Soaring.

From the Pittsburgh Post. At a time when practically every district of the country reports a housing shortage and when rents accordingly are soaring, the National Board of Fire Underwriters finds that fire is destroying American homes at the rate of 618 a day or one every three minutes. Half of the 15,000 annual death toll of the United States from fire is taken in dwellings. The financial loss to the country from fire is now placed at more than half a billion dollars annually.

That, in addition to the loss of priceless lives, means simply property waste, destruction of wealth. Nearly all such fires are due to carelessness; in many instances the waste seems practically wanton, with scarcely any precaution taken against fire. Of course, in a country having more than 100,000,000 population, the total construction in a year necessarily is large. Still destroying homes at the rate of 618 a day is a serious handicap of the efforts to overcome the housing shortage. It is an ally of the rent profiteer. Its destruction of wealth has a bad effect in many directions.

There is only one way to avoid the fire menace and that is through carefulness.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Taking a nap while sitting on a window sill of his bedroom, on the fourth floor of a boarding house, at 219 Second avenue, Johnstown, John Victor fell to the sidewalk and was killed on Friday night.

Farmers of northern and north-central Pennsylvania counties will gather at the State College experimental farm near Troy, Bradford county, on the morning of Thursday, August 13. It will be the annual field day at the fertilizer, manure and limestone experimental plots.

Rev. J. L. Gillegly, a Williamsport clergyman, on Monday filed complaint with the Public Service Commission against what he called an unreasonable delay by the American Railway Express company in delivery of palms. He says they came too late for Palm Sunday services.

The new Milton-West Milton bridge across the Susquehanna river, has been thrown open to traffic. There remains some of the finishing up work to do, and the installation of a lighting system. The bridge was rebuilt at a cost of \$225,000, which will be shared by Northumberland and Union counties.

Interfering in family quarrels may result fatally for Anthony Senewick, 42 years old, of Mahanoy City, who received a probable fracture of the skull, a broken nose and internal injuries when he entered the home of John Minesky as a peacemaker. Senewick is at the State hospital at Fountain Springs and Minesky is held to await the outcome of his injuries.

Mrs. Mary Willicki, of Green Ridge, on Thursday last brought suit in the Northumberland county courts, seeking \$30,000 damages against the Shamokin and Mount Carmel Railway company. She alleges that her husband, after being forcibly ejected from a street car, was run over by an auto and suffered injuries from which he died. She has seven children.

Striking down sheriff Fred E. Mitten as he entered the corridor of the Bradford county jail at Towanda, on Sunday morning, with breakfast for his prisoners, Claude Harkness, held pending trial on a charge of threats to kill some of his neighbors, made a dash for liberty. The sheriff quickly regained his feet and caught the man with a football flying fackle just as he left the front steps to the jail.

Scalded by falling into a tub of boiling water, Savannah Wilkinson, three year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilkinson, of Gearhartville, died at the Phillipsburg State hospital at 8 o'clock last Wednesday night. The accident happened early Wednesday afternoon and the child was rushed immediately to the hospital. Her back and arms were terribly burned and she died a few hours after reaching the hospital.

Harrison G. Mazmore, 55 years old, of Freeand, is in the West Side sanitarium, at York, Pa., with serious injuries, which resulted when his mule team bolted on Monday, frightened by a falling tree. Mazmore was driving the mules, which were hitched to a grain binder, and he was thrown beneath the machine and was caught in the knives. The cuts cover his legs and arms and there are serious bruises all over his body.

Although his father is president of a bank, Milton Westerman, of Columbia, Pa., believed his money safer in the bedroom of his home than in the bank's strong box. Milton had saved \$120 toward his annual fall gunning trip. He placed \$100 in his gun case, in his bedroom, and \$20 under a marble slab on his bureau. Saturday night he told a friend where he had the money secreted. When he went home several hours later he found the money gone.

Burglars entered the Wels Pure Food store at Rehovos some time during Wednesday night and carried away a safe weighing about 300 pounds. Entrance was made through the rear door. The safe, containing \$75 in cash, was taken but valuable papers were not touched. The safe was discovered at East Renovo Saturday morning, about twenty-five feet above the Paddy's run bridge on the state road and taken back to the store by James Bruno, the manager.

Clement Yankowski, a clerk in the Liberty bank at Reading, pleaded guilty on Friday to the charge of embezzling funds amounting to \$4500 to \$5000. In view of his previous good character and on recommendation of district attorney David F. Mauger, the court sentenced him to one year in jail, to be paroled immediately in care of the probation officer, to pay a fine of \$100 and costs, and to make restitution at the rate of \$30 a month. It will take him over fifteen years to clean the slate at that rate of payment.

Awakened by the barking of a pet dog to find their home in flames, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Marr, of Jersey Shore, and their four children were compelled to seek safety in immediate escape, without having even time to secure any clothing except what they had been sleeping in. The family resides at the corner of Percy street and Park avenue, and it is surmised that the fire must have originated in a defective flue, as the entire roof and part of the walls were ablaze when the barking of the dog awakened the family about 2:45 o'clock.

Judge Chase, of Clearfield county, handed down an opinion in the case of Mrs. Anna Sinkovitch vs. the Bell Telephone company in which he dismissed the application of the defendant's attorneys for a new trial and directs that judgment be entered on the verdict rendered by the jury in the trial of the case at May court. Suit was brought by the woman to recover for the death of her husband, who was killed at his home in Sandy township, Clearfield county, on July 11, 1921, by a stroke of lightning, it being alleged the lightning bolt followed an abandoned telephone wire attached to the Sinkovitch dwelling. The jury made an award of \$10,000.

Pennsylvania's school superintendents have been requested to make preparations for caring for physically and mentally handicapped deficient children in their districts, in a letter sent them this week by Dr. Francis B. Haas, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Provisions for the education of these classes of children were made in a group of bills sponsored by Senator Lanus, blind Senator from York, in the 1925 Legislature. Under the School Code, whenever there are ten or more pupils requiring any particular type of education, the school board is required to make special preparations for them, Dr. Haas said. Where the number is smaller, joint classes may be formed with adjacent districts or special education obtained in residential schools. Each school district will receive \$300 for each of these special classes, in addition to the regular State aid.