

INK SLINGS.

—Maybe, if the anthracite miners go on a strike September 1st their brethren in the soft coal fields of Central Pennsylvania will be able to get a few day's work a week.

—Dog days are on us and "the precious little darling" who will probably go to a premature grave because of calorie feeding and antiseptic living, shouldn't be allowed to go into the water.

—Possibly the wish is father to the thought, but it seems to us that both profane and vulgar language is on the decline on the streets of Bellefonte. Occasionally we hear a leather-lunged individual using ugly words to express himself, but not nearly so often as we did a few years ago when walking along the streets. Let us hope that the boys all come to learn that there is no thought they may have to express that can't be clothed in clean words.

—Wouldn't Congressman Vare look like the breaking up of a hard winter if Tom Cunningham and Sam Rotan were to put it over on him in the fight they are having to name candidates for the "row offices" in Philadelphia. Cunningham and Rotan, with Bill Campbell, are of the old Penrose regime. Vare is the beneficiary of his more astute brother's political estate. He is a small peg in a big hole and all that keeps him from falling clear through is money bulging in his pockets.

—Dr. Ellie Potter, specially, and all others who think prisoners ought to be coddled, might well read Richard Washburn Child's article on the "Great American Scandal," published in the Saturday Evening Post of last week. It is a dispassionate, fact fortified discussion of the alarming increase in crime in our country and is appalling enough in its revelations to bring any dreamer back to a realization of the fact that where respect for the law doesn't command its observance then fear of it should compel it.

—The Eastern States Dyer's Association has been in session in Atlantic City and out of the deliberations of the august body comes the startling contention that fat men are tider than the thin ones. The buyers say that twice as many vests size thirty-six "come in to be cleaned as those of size forty-four." Aside from the fact that there are twice as many men wearing the smaller size as there are of those wearing forty-four the dyer's experts have evidently failed to note a fat man at the table. Nine out of every ten of them have their napkins tucked under their chins.

—Major Adams probably thinks he is going to do a good job in taking enforcement of the Volstead law out of politics. He might be sincere and all that, but we are here to tell you that his enforcement will only go to the point where it threatens the continuation of the Republican party in power. And we are not saying this because we are of the opposition. If our party were entrenched as the Republican is, its leaders would probably try to dig in deeper, just as their opponents are doing. What the country needs most is change. A threat, always, to the party in power that unless it thinks less of providing jobs for its henchmen than it does of those who pay the taxes to pay their salaries it is going to be turned out.

—By way of suggestion to those who are striving to guide the wayfarers of Pennsylvania back into the port of good citizenship at the new western penitentiary let us say that they deserve every failure that has rewarded their efforts. If men convicted of crime are only children in conception of their duty to society they should be treated as children. Corrected when they need it, rewarded when they merit it. Above all, they should be impressed with the sanctity of the Sabbath day. If they are children they should have five days of school work, Saturday for play and Sunday minus the ball games, movies and all the other sugar coatings that modernists are desiring to bring back grown children who are mostly errant because they never were taught to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Consequently it isn't, to them, the seventh course in the mason's wall, binding them to all that makes for good citizenship.

—If none of his Republican friends are knowing enough to advise George Wharton Pepper to stop writing letters to Pinchot let us step into the breach and do it for them. Pinchot wouldn't have had the whip hand he has over the Republican voter if it hadn't been for such blunders as Pepper is making. George is a loyal Episcopalian, and a great lawyer, so those who know him better than we tell us, but he's a damp poor politician. Some years ago the late Senator Heinle was figuring on being a candidate for Judge of Centre county. Somebody who didn't appraise the Senator's real ability as a lawyer, said to him: "Why, Bill, you don't know enough law to be Judge." To this the Senator replied: "A Judge doesn't need to know any law. All he needs is to have good common sense and a good lawyer." We believe the Senator was right, at that. And because we believe he was right we are convinced that Pepper is a lost cause for the Republican organization unless he gets sense enough to stop writing letters and gets a manager clever enough to turn the tide that is against him flowing the other way.

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Pinchot's Change of Mind Gratifying.

In the processes of approach to an impending conflict between Governor Pinchot and the Republican machine the "breaks" continue to favor the Governor. Last week he scored heavily in the declaration that the anthracite coal barons objected to him as an arbiter in the disputes between the miners and operators for the reason that in a speech he had denounced the operators as "monopolists who in various ways gouged the public." Since then he has earned additional popular favor by summarily removing one of the Public Service Commissioners for the reason that he had failed, in his official capacity, "to protect the public interest."

Almost from the beginning the Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania has served the interests of corporations. During all that period of time nearly every case brought before it has been decided in favor of the corporations, whether they appeared as complainants or defendants, and in no instance has the Commission initiated proceedings against a corporation. As the Governor says, "the vital duty of a Public Service Commission is, upon its own motion, to protect the public. To do so it must seek out, take up and deal with cases in which the public interest is involved, but which, without its action, would never come before it." This obligation has never been fulfilled by the Pennsylvania Commission.

But Governor Pinchot is in part to blame for this obvious delinquency. When he assumed the duties of the office there was one member of the Commission, the late John S. Rilling, who was always alert in asserting and supporting the interests of the people. But because he happened to be a Democrat Governor Pinchot availed himself of the first opportunity to chop his official head off and fill his place with a subservient instrument of corporate power. That he has changed his mind on the subject is gratifying, even though there is ground for suspicion that he is influenced by the selfish purpose of promoting his personal estate and political ambition. It is impolite "to look a gift horse in the mouth."

—Of course the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the removal of Public Service Commissioner Benn. That organization is naturally opposed to anything that interferes with the political machine.

Unnecessary or Insincere Worry.

Some of our Republican contemporaries are unduly worried over the lack of leadership in the Democratic party since the death of Mr. Bryan. We beg leave to assure them that there is no occasion to lose sleep or impair digestion on that account. Mr. Bryan was a great orator and deeply concerned for the prosperity of the people. But his untimely and widely lamented death did not entirely plunge them into a hopeless sea of despair. The woods are full of leaders and the Democratic party is rich in resources and abundantly supplied with capable men ready and willing to assume leadership and amply endowed with the mental and moral qualities essential to success.

As a matter of fact the cause which worries our Republican contemporaries is not that the Democratic party is without fit men to guide its forces in the impending contest between the masses and plutocracy. They are worried because the signs indicate an increasing flow of public sentiment in support of the beneficent policies of the Democratic party and a certainty of triumph in the near future. The false pretense of the Republican leaders is becoming so palpable that only those held by the force of expected profit to their false doctrines can be depended on. There are capable men in every section of the country to lead the Democrats to certain victory in 1928.

But our friends, the enemy, are not so well provided. Calvin Coolidge is their only hope, and he is an accident without learning or experience. In Pennsylvania the Republican leaders are at each other's throats in quarrels over spoils and throughout the country the energies of the party managers are spent in unsuccessful efforts to suppress the scandals of the Harding administration. The Democrats will miss Mr. Bryan because he was a great force in the moral life of the country. But they will find a man entirely capable of taking his place as the "guide, philosopher and friend" of the people, and under such leadership will move forward to certain and glorious victory.

—It may be well enough to have push if it isn't used to force others out of the line of success.

—The world may owe every man a living but it's up to him to work out a settlement.

Mr. Benn's Absurd Action.

In view of the plain facts it is difficult to conjecture upon what basis former Public Service Commissioner James S. Benn hopes to retain his seat on the Commission, notwithstanding his summary dismissal by the Governor. It is admitted that the General Assembly has no power to enact legislation which conflicts with the constitution of the Commonwealth. The fundamental law specifically declares that the Governor has power to remove any official appointed by him except judges of the courts and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The act creating the Public Service Commission in so far as it conflicts with that provision of the constitution is invalid.

Possibly Mr. Benn imagines that the courts will set the constitution aside and restore him to his coveted place on the pay roll. It will be remembered that the late Senator Quay cast a rather serious aspersions upon the courts of the Commonwealth when he declared that some of the judges are "catapulted" into their seats on the bench by the political machine. There was a time when such a charge might lie against some of the judges of the State, but let us hope that period has passed and that all the judges now in commission, either on the lower or appellate courts, have been wisely chosen by the people on account of fitness rather than in reward for party service, sinister or otherwise.

The Governor has abundant reasons for wanting to thoroughly reorganize the Public Service Commission. It may be and probably is true that he sees in his action an opportunity to boost his political plans. Mr. Pinchot's motives are not always above suspicion and there has been no time since the beginning of his brief political activities in Pennsylvania that he stood in greater need of help than now, if he expects to remain in public life. But if in pursuit of his ambition he does good for the people he gives no cause of complaint. As a matter of fact any public official deserves whatever advantages accrue to him for faithfully fulfilling his obligations.

—It is said that a burnt child dreads fire and following the same line of reasoning the American Federation of Labor advises against affiliation with third party movements.

Failure of the Coal Conference.

As was widely expected the "coal conference" has adjourned sine die without achieving results. The adjournment resolution provides for re-assembling, however, and the political leaders may conjure up some plan that will contribute to their prosperity even though it may not benefit the consumers. It has come to be a habit with the Republican machine to bend the almost annual labor dispute to the service of the party. In 1902 the late Senator Penrose conceived the plan and put it in operation through President Roosevelt. It saved the party in Pennsylvania that year and has been adopted as an expedient every two years since. It is a cold blooded sacrifice of public interest to machine necessities.

The settlement at the expense of the consumers two years ago was largely in the interest of Governor Pinchot. In 1902 it was worked for the benefit of Penrose, whose term in the Senate expired in 1903. This year it will probably be manipulated to benefit Senator Pepper. No doubt Governor Pinchot will try to shape it so as to make himself the arbiter, but this will be prevented by the final interposition of President Coolidge who, having converted Pepper to his world court scheme, is anxious to have him re-elected. But no matter which of the aspiring Republican politicians is benefited the coal consumers are robbed because of the increase in the price of coal which invariably follows.

The "scale conference" this year was more in the nature of a joke than anything else. Neither the operators nor the miners' organization took it seriously. Mr. Lewis knew quite as well as Mr. Warriner that it would end in disagreement and neither of them paid much attention to the sessions. It was simply a preliminary performance to lead up to the real arbitration which will settle the matter at the expense of the consumers, as usual. In that final session the politicians will point the way and the public will be obliged to acquiesce. It may raise Mr. Lewis to the rank of national politics and place the present Secretary of Labor in the office of Governor. But it will certainly benefit Pepper.

—Senator Pepper may be as "dry" as he claims but in selecting enforcement agents he proposes to give the "wets" a run for their money.

—If Penrose were alive now making choice between Pepper and Pinchot would be a difficult problem.

Coolidge and Pinchot Equally Guilty.

The criticism of the summary dismissal of James S. Benn, of Philadelphia, from the very attractive office of Public Service Commissioner, opens up a wide field for mental speculation. The only serious charge that has been brought against the Governor in this connection is that his purpose is to "pack" the Commission in his personal interest or the support of his policies. That, of course, is in the nature of "jury-fixing," which is forbidden by law and punishable by fine or imprisonment. But the supporters of President Coolidge have no right to complain because Governor Pinchot indulges in a practice which is the "favorite indoor sport" of the President of the United States.

When Coolidge became President the Tariff Commission was composed of eminent political economists affiliated with both political parties but familiar with the principles of scientific taxation. Their duty as prescribed by the law creating the body, was to investigate complaints of too high or too low tariff schedules and report to the President that he might increase or decrease the rate in existence. Complaint was made to the Commission that the tariff tax on sugar was too high and the Commission made a searching investigation. It reported to President Coolidge that the tax was too high and recommended a cut of one per cent. in the rate. Did President Coolidge make the cut? Not on your life.

Instead he returned the recommendation to the Commission with directions to renew the investigation and then set about to "pack" the Commission. He first removed the only Democrat on the board and filled the vacancy appointing a radical high tariff partisan. Then he induced the Republican commissioner who had favored the decrease to resign by offering him a more attractive office. This "packing" operation guarantees the sugar trust and the beet trust producers who have formed a profit-sharing agreement with the trust the excessive rate which robs the consumers of the country to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars annually. If Pinchot is doing Coolidge is atrocious.

—After four years devoted largely to broadcasting his achievements as Prohibition Commissioner Major Roy A. Haynes has been superseded by Gen. Andrews, who promises to spend less time at the "mike" and more in the field.

Centre County Farmers Not in Favor of Killing Deer.

Two weeks ago the State Game Commission promulgated a ruling that farmers and land owners in counties thickly populated with deer would be permitted to shoot the deer which are persistent in destroying farm crops; and that they can keep the meat.

This ruling was probably brought about through an insistent demand for protection from the deer by farmers in certain portions of the State, notably in Lycoming county, and in order not to make the ruling too exclusive the Commission made it apply to all counties in which deer are known to exist in goodly numbers.

Up to this time, however, not a deer has been killed in Centre county as the result of the ruling of the Game Commission, according to information furnished the "Watchman" yesterday morning by game protector Thomas G. Mosier. And there is probably no county in the State, not even Lycoming, where deer can be seen pasturing in the fields more frequently or in greater numbers than in Centre.

And to their credit it can be said that the farmers and land owners generally in this section do not look with favor upon the ruling of the Game Commission permitting the killing of deer. They believe it opens the way to the wilful violator of the game law to slaughter deer and evade just punishment. The farmers would rather see an increase in the hunters' license fee sufficient to create a fund sufficient to pay damages when they reach that stage where they become burdensome, but most Centre county farmers have the same generous feeling regarding the birds and wild animals frequently expressed by "Waxey" Straub, when he lived on the old Alexander farm. "Waxey" used to say that he always planned enough of every crop so that there would be a little left for him after the birds and the rabbits and the groundhogs got their share.

—Senator Pepper has a new scheme for getting into the world court and hopes the Republicans will adopt it. But most of the other nations may object.

—Obviously former Public Service Commissioner Benn shares the late Tim Campbell's opinion of the constitution. Tim thought it meant nothing.

Another "Shining Mark."

By John F. Short in the Clearfield Republican.

That "Death Loves a Shining Mark" was again exemplified to the civilized world last Sunday when William Jennings Bryan passed peacefully to the other life while sleeping in the home of an admiring friend in the little mountain town of Dayton, Tennessee. The circumstances surrounding his last hours and days have been told in detail in the newspapers of the world since Sunday afternoon. Everybody has heard and read the story.

The Republican supported Bryan faithfully and loyally each of the three times he was the Democratic party's candidate for President. The writer knew him well since 1896, traveled with him and his party throughout the eastern side of the country on most of his campaign tours in the three campaigns as a reporter for Pittsburgh newspapers. The Republican did not always agree with Bryan's policies and deductions. That is all of the past.

No man ever stood in the limelight who fought his cause more courageously than the Commoner. He never compromised and for that reason he was the loser more often than the winner. The world believes he was consistent and the record supports the belief. That Bryan was ambitious goes without saying. He never gave up the hope of leading his followers to victory with the White House as the goal.

His greatest weakness was his intense hatred of Big Interests or "Wall Street." He was obsessed with the belief the East should be punished for being more or less prosperous, always charging whatever gain came to the eastern business men and business interests was unjustly taken from the pockets of the west and southwest.

Many people who knew William Jennings Bryan well believe he should have entered the ministry, left politics alone and that as a minister of the gospel he would have been in his proper place.

That Bryan achieved much good in his battles for better things, as he viewed situations and questions, is generally believed. He fought long and hard for the election of United States Senators by the people. He was one of the strongest and most earnest supporters of the Eighteenth Amendment.

William Jennings Bryan met, knew, personally and talked to more people than any other man in the world. He lectured in every State, city, town and hamlet from the Atlantic to the Pacific, not once but many times.

He was a power in the Democratic party, notwithstanding his many defeats for office and party place. His followers stood by him to the last minute. He had many enemies in his own party who were as relentless in their hatred as he could possibly be. The followers of the late Champ Clark never forgave him for his violation of his home instructions and desertion of Clark at the Baltimore convention in 1912. That sore never healed.

Although a life-long outspoken hater of the "monied interests" Mr. Bryan was a wealthy man when he passed away. He was reputed to have accumulated a million or more from his lectures, writings and Chautauqua activities. The past several years he has been active in Florida real estate transactions and is said to have been very successful.

That the country has lost a great man, one of the most prominent figures of his day and generation, is admitted by everybody. He was beyond all doubt the greatest orator of his time. He swayed audiences of tens of thousands as no other man ever did.

When he first vaulted into prominence with his "Crown of Thorns and Cross of Gold" speech he was one of the finest specimens of American young manhood any one ever gazed upon. He was truly handsome. His voice was melodious, far reaching and never rasping. Whether you agreed with him or not, you were delighted to listen and never tired. The past ten years or more he was different in every respect from the Bryan of 1896 and 1900. He appeared ten years older than he really was. His face, voice and entire physical appearance evidenced the man old beyond his time. He was only 65 years of age.

William Jennings Bryan died as he lived all his public life, fighting for what he advocated, fighting his best, neither giving nor asking quarter.

Official Law Violators.

From the Louisville Courier Journal.

Those prohibition officers near Maysville who, so they allege, shot at automobile tires and pumped three bullets into the tonneau of the car and one bullet into a child in the car could hardly have put up a more notable exhibition of marksmanship if they had been loaded with the moonshine they were hunting. By the way, what article of their official instructions authorize them to shoot tires, tonneaus or children on suspicion of violating the prohibition laws? We are hearing much just now about a proposal to take politics out of the prohibition enforcement organization, but it is even more needed to take law violators out of that organization.

—Congressman Vare is opposed to a Democratic judge in Philadelphia because he couldn't possibly hope to make a messenger of him.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—James Rutch, of Bethlehem, a retired jeweler, celebrated his 83rd birthday on Sunday. In the sixty-five years he was in business he estimates he repaired more than 55,000 clocks, not to mention watches.

—John S. Lingle, for several years driver of a State Health Department truck, in Harrisburg, has been arrested on charges of stealing a clock, typewriters, motor tires, electric fans, blankets, oil stove and other articles from capitol stores. The total value was \$600.

—Dr. B. H. Warren, of West Chester, connected with the State Department of Agriculture, is being strongly urged for appointment by Governor Pinchot to the vacancy on the State Game Commission caused by the death of John S. Speer, of Elk county, by men active in agricultural organizations.

—George Gillespie, 37 years old, a police sergeant, of Pittsburgh, is recovering in a hospital there from his 268th operation, undergone last Friday, for injuries he suffered in an automobile accident two years ago. Surgeons told him it will probably be his last, and hereafter he will wear an artificial leg. Nineteen of his operations were major ones.

—So fascinated are Uniontown sheiks with new feminine styles in "undies" that women shoppers complain that they cannot get a peep at display windows on account of the groups of loafers who haunt the fronts of the stores. Mayor R. D. Warman has decreed that male window shoppers must "move on" or suffer the penalty of fines and jail sentences.

—Mrs. Vincent Hess, 24 years old, of Burnham, has been missing since Friday night. The authorities have been asked to aid in locating her. Mrs. Hess has been ill and melancholy for some time and left her two year old child in charge of a relative to go to Lewistown. When last seen she was walking in the direction of a trestle across the Kishacoquillas creek after leaving the street car.

—Mrs. Samuel R. Hill, of Philadelphia, died of heart disease beside the body of her husband as it was about to be lowered into the grave in Hillside cemetery on Monday. As the Rev. Dr. G. M. Brodhead, pastor of the Devereaux Methodist church, began the last rites Mrs. Hill collapsed and fell beside the coffin. The same hearse that had borne her husband took Mrs. Hill to a hospital, where she was found to be dead.

—Two miners were killed and 17 burned, four seriously, when gas exploded in the Hillman vein of the Lehigh Valley Coal company's Dorrance mine, near Wilkes-Barre, 1,000 feet below the surface on Monday. It was two hours before the dead and injured could be brought up. The cause of the explosion has not been ascertained, although it was suggested that blasting operations might have ignited the collected gas.

—Holland Folke, a lineman of the Keystone Power corporation, at Ridgway, is back on duty after having passed through the experience of having 2,300 volts of electricity pass through his body last Saturday. He was working on a telephone pole at the grounds of the Elk county Country club, and came in contact with the current when he grasped a crossarm. He was unable to release his hold, but was pulled from the pole in an unconscious condition by a rope thrown over him by a companion.

—Miss Margaret Meyer, aged 19 years, who resides in Lamar, with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Loveland, sustained injuries to her throat Wednesday afternoon which required twenty-seven stitches to close when the automobile owned by Mr. Bucher of Lamar, in which she and several other girls were riding, collided with a truck at the Flemington bridge, throwing Miss Meyer through the windshield, and cutting her badly about the throat and face. She was removed to the Teah hospital.

—For years while he was working in a mine at Blairsville, Pa., Isador Forlin, an Italian, wanted to go back to his home in the Tyrolean Alps and establish a tourist hotel. A misfortune that befell him in the mine helped him to realize his desire. He was caught under a fall of slate and suffered an injury to his back which incapacitated him for further work. The Workmen's Compensation Board awarded him \$12 a week for 500 weeks. He applied for it in a lump sum in order that he might return to his native town to start the hotel. The board granted his request.

—Paralyzed with fear as she saw a passenger train approaching a railroad bridge across which she and Katherine Bachman were walking, Miss Margaret Ellen Sheard, of Fayette county, saved the life of her companion, but lost her own. This fact was brought out for the first time at a coroner's inquiry into the case. Katherine Bachman said Miss Sheard saw the train and told her to run for her life. She did and barely got across the trestle as the locomotive swished her dress. Miss Sheard was too frightened to move and either jumped from the trestle or was knocked off and drowned. As a result of the accident the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad company has closed the bridge to all pedestrian traffic.

—M. A. Davis, county detective of Mifflin county, was arrested last week by constable M. C. Weirick and deputy C. L. Runkle, of Middleburg, on a warrant sworn out by Mrs. Mary Gill, charging him with assault and damage to beehives and other property during a raid on the home of the complainant and her husband, John W. Gill, in West Beaver township, Snyder county, on November 22, 1924. Davis furnished bail in \$1,000 for his appearance at quarter sessions court at Middleburg, October 5. Ten State policemen and five peace officers from Mifflin county were present during the raid and eight witnesses testified in court that the raid was conducted in an orderly manner and no damage inflicted.

—William Porter, of Joplin, Mo., an expert on lead mining, has just made an inspection of half a dozen farms in Sinking valley, Blair county, and plans to prospect for lead there. It was in Sinking valley that mines were opened during the revolutionary war to supply Washington's army with lead for bullets. The mines were abandoned shortly after the close of the war and never have been worked since. Because of the historic significance of the mines, Colonel Proctor Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, marked them with a bronze tablet, which was unveiled July 4. Mr. Porter read of the ceremonies in a newspaper and, being a native of Alexandria, Huntington county, he came east to investigate. He is of the opinion that lead in paying quantities underlies the valley. If test holes disclose he is right mining will be resumed there.