

INK SLINGS.

If all vote thieves were sent to jail the Philadelphia jail would be crowded.

September, 1925, has gone, leaving behind it memories of a month of unusually lovely weather.

Some Philadelphia judges seem to imagine that courts are maintained to shield rather than punish criminals.

As long as "Old Sol" keeps on the job as he has been doing we should worry about when the coal strike is going to end.

General Wood must have done something to Colonel Proctor. Bringing the Wood slush fund of 1920 into public notice was a hard blow.

Our single-tracked mind has been so preoccupied with what is going to happen next November 3 that we forgot to run off on a siding long enough to wire back to you that it is only eighty-two days until Christmas.

Some wheat is up with a promising stand while some farmers are still waiting for their ground to get in condition to plow, all due to vagaries of rain clouds that have recently passed over Centre county depositing copious showers in some sections and giving others the go-by.

The sooner the subscriptions are paid in the sooner the new hospital unit will be ready for occupancy. The board is very wisely declining to anticipate these payments. It is only spending the money that contributors give it to spend, so if progress appears slow it is not to be censured.

An old Bellefonte, gone many years from scenes still dear and cherished, looked at the improvements about the "Big Spring" last week and exclaimed: "Well, I never thought I'd live to see the day when nature's gift to us would be appreciated to the extent of giving it such a setting as this."

There were twenty-nine inmates in the Centre county jail on Wednesday night, almost the high-water mark in boarders that a local sheriff has been called upon to entertain. Funny, how often we are disappointed in the way things turn out. When the Volstead law went into effect we had visions of the need of jails vanishing entirely.

In all of his years in the legal profession Mr. Walker has made a practice of doing it now. He never procrastinates, his clients will tell you. Business entrusted to him is attended to at once. It is a splendid habit and one that insures the Centre county court dockets against becoming clogged with litigation when Mr. Walker is elevated to the bench.

The Governor will be in Centre county on Monday. Every good citizen should remember that Centre county was erected long before Gifford Pinchot was heard of and it has traditions to maintain. It has always been respectful of constituted authority. Let there be no lack of cordiality and let none of the fellows who refused to sign the petition to Commissioner Buller to protect the trout in Spring creek lead "His Excellency" out along the walk to admire them.

A very unpleasant little encounter with our Congressman on the streets of Clearfield within the week was not utterly regrettable. For once self-control failed us not and we remained silent while the grandiose Billy Swope did his best to "high-hat" us. Aside from the ridiculousness of the "boy orator of the Susquehanna" assuming a manner with those who know him it was politically edifying to hear him say that he has not yet come to a conclusion as to whether he will be a candidate to succeed himself.

To us, State's alleged trouble in defeating Lebanon Valley, last Saturday, was only the touch-piece that will cure her of the actinomyositis that has been her greatest trouble in recent years. Running wild with college teams under their class isn't good for men who, as the football season progresses, have to meet many teams in their class. State needs to win this fall only from Notre Dame and Pitt and the more trouble the others of her opponents can give her the more chance she has to win the games that mean something.

Judge Potter has been presiding over our courts this week. The honorable gentleman from Snyder county has comported himself with a dignity that commands respect for the Bench, yet he has not been so austere as to find no leaven in the drab progress of the law. We are in perfect agreement with "His Honor" in the idea that a moonshiner who makes good liquor shouldn't be soaked as hard as one who dispenses poisonous stuff and that the five hundred Moooses whom he fined two smackens each had had more than two dollar's worth of fun out of what he fined them for.

Col. Bill Mitchell will probably get no further than Gen. Smed. Butler has gotten in his attempt to clean up Philadelphia. Mitchell has been trying to tell why a man who risks his life daily for his country should know more than those who wear gold lace, look over charts and appear pompous in swivel chairs, should know about the game they haven't the guts to get the rudiments of. Mitchell will be just like Butler. The good people will pat him on the back, say: Fine, old boy, but they'll wilt under the acid test, when some of the sacrifices that Butler and Mitchell have made come up to them.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 70. BELLEFONTE, PA., OCTOBER 2, 1925. NO. 39.

"Get the Money Boys."

The announcement of the candidacy of former Governor John K. Tener for the Republican nomination for that office next year has not aroused the enthusiasm his friends expected. Mr. Tener made a fairly, it might be said a surprisingly good Governor, and he was exceptionally popular while in office. But he has been very much "out of the reckoning" since and it is a hard matter to stage a "come back" under such conditions.

The only perceptible effect of his early announcement is shown in a stir among the friends of Auditor General Edward Martin, who seems to have been cherishing a hope that he would be the nominee. There has been a sort of mutual understanding that the candidate for Governor next year would be a western county man. General Martin lives in that section and his vote for Auditor General indicated at least a moderate degree of availability. But former State Senator and ex-Banking Commissioner John S. Fisher, of Indiana county, has many friends out that way and enjoys a tentacle in the east in the person of Mr. Grundy. Besides Governor Pinchot has not spoken yet and Fisher helped him three years ago.

As conditions exist at present a political map might be drawn with these three names as salients, and a very pretty fight organized. It is intimated that contractor Boss Vare is willing to fall in behind Martin and there is at least a possibility that Pinchot and Grundy would join the Fisher force. That leaves Tener to organize the stragglers with the chance that the Mellons and Olivers, of Pittsburgh, would come in under his banner. In that event there would be plenty of money available, though Vare is said to be rather "close" in disbursing his own funds while the Olivers and Mellons as well as Pinchot and Grundy are inclined to profigacy. It would be a sort of "get the money boys" campaign.

The federal council of churches and the Anti-Saloon League differ widely on the question of prohibition enforcement but the churchmen are not working on salary.

More Grabbing of Property.

Ever since the appointment of Albert B. Fall, of New Mexico, to the office of Secretary of the Interior that department of the government has been under suspicion. For many years before that it had been realized that the department afforded vast opportunity for exploitation and was the object of desire of many political crooks and adventurers. During the administration of President Taft, Secretary of the Interior Ballinger almost succeeded in an enterprise to rob the government of all its valuable timber interests. The exposure of his operations contributed largely to the election of Woodrow Wilson and during his eight years in office there were no scandals.

But immediately after the inauguration of President Harding and the installation of Albert B. Fall as Secretary of the Interior the plotting was resumed. Mr. Fall gave more attention to the mineral property of the government than to surface products but let nothing of value escape entirely. His first step was to procure from a stupid Secretary of the Navy and a careless President control over certain mineral rights which had previously been under the care of the Navy Department. With the transfer of this authority he proceeded to dispose of all the oil territory of the government to personal favorites upon terms which enabled them to make him rich.

The latest exploitation is not traceable directly to the officials of the Interior Department but involves a Senator in Congress who is more or less closely affiliated with the Senator Fall group. It appears that Senator Cameron, of Arizona, and members of his family have pre-empted about all the things of value, including the water and mineral rights along the Colorado river for miles. The value of these rights is variously estimated at from millions to billions of dollars, and the government has received nothing for them. Several hundred suits have been entered against the members of the Cameron family for the recovery of the property, though curiously enough the Senator's name is not mentioned.

Even the political boss has problems to solve. Congressman Vare may have to support either Pinchot or Pepper for Senator and it is still uncertain in either event.

Perverting the Court.

The complete control of the Philadelphia courts by Congressman Vare is clearly shown in the action of Judge Bartlett in the matter of opening the ballot boxes of election districts in which fraud or error is suspected. Under the Act of Assembly of 1919, upon the petition of three qualified voters, the computing officials shall open the suspected ballot box. In pursuance of this act a petition so signed was presented to Judge Bartlett concerning one of the ballot boxes in one of the Vare wards of Philadelphia. Judge Bartlett promptly granted the petition as he was legally bound to do. The next day counsel for the Republican organization objected and the Judge withdrew the order.

Not long ago General Butler, serving as Commissioner of the Department of Safety of Philadelphia, publicly declared that Mr. Vare had used one of the judges of Philadelphia as messenger to convey a corrupt proposition with respect to the conduct of the police department. The accused jurist, who was touring in the far west at the time, promptly made long-distance denial of the charge. General Butler repeated the charge, gave details of the incident and the matter was hushed up. But the stain upon the courts of the city remains. The prompt yielding to the necessities of the machine by Judge Bartlett fastens the Vare collar on another of the judges of the city with the attendant shame.

Courts are organized and maintained for the purpose of protecting the public against criminals. According to the only possible interpretation which can be put on the action of Judge Bartlett the purpose of the Philadelphia court is reversed. It is employed to protect criminals from the just penalties of their crimes. A greater outrage has never been perpetrated and unfortunately it was committed in the name of the law. Judge Bartlett is not much of a lawyer but he knows that in making the decision which rendered it difficult to expose the corruption of the primary he was violating at least the spirit of the law. But he was fixing himself in the favor of Vare.

If the Governor would frankly state the purpose of his present political activities he would relieve the tension of a good many anxious minds.

The Air Service Inquiry.

The evidence taken thus far in the hearing before the President's air service board may not serve to absolve Colonel Mitchell from the charge of insubordination but it has certainly justified his criticism of the service. One after another of the expert and practical airmen has testified to the inefficiency of the service and corroborated Colonel Mitchell's opinion that the urgent need of the service is an independent air corps. Major Kliner, executive officer of the air service, and Major Royce, in charge of the primary school of Brooks field, Texas, were emphatic on this point.

On Monday a number of air service officers were examined and all agreed on several major points. They are that the controlling force of the service is lodged in men unacquainted with the work; that there are too many minor officers and no officers of high rank, and that when the minor officers who understand are in conference with the higher officers who do not, the uninformed officers prevail because of their rank and not because of their knowledge. These conditions create dissatisfaction among the personnel of the service and work for inefficiency in the service. Other officers expressed the same view.

The only grave disagreement with previous statements of Colonel Mitchell brought out during a long session of the board, at which a considerable number of witnesses testified, was in the matter of penalizing criticism. The witnesses denied that they were "muzzled" as charged by Mitchell and that discrepancy will be sufficient to hang a court martial and severe punishment on. But at that Colonel Mitchell's insubordination will result in a great improvement in the service, for though it will cause the loss of the most valuable man it will make such a reorganization of the service as will do much good.

Of the three candidates who hope to be Judge of the courts of Centre county we know there are two whose hopes will be blighted by the frost that will fall on November 3.

It may be truthfully said that Colonel Mitchell "left hope behind" when he took the witness chair in Washington on Tuesday.

Those men who are sailing to Bermuda in a cat boat must have a strong preference for the "real thing" as against the home-made.

Eleventh Hour Convert.

In his Scranton speech the other day Governor Pinchot revealed hopeful signs of repentance. As we have frequently shown he has been entirely indifferent to electoral frauds hitherto. Possibly this fact may be ascribable to the other fact that electoral frauds have contributed to his political advantage in the past. The excessive and corrupt use of money is among the crimes forbidden by statute and condemned in the constitution. Yet the Governor, in his primary campaign three years ago, spent money "like a drunken sailor." At the general election following it is reported and commonly believed that 100,000 fraudulent votes were cast for him in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Since his inauguration as Governor he has had ample opportunities to earnestly urge legislation which would minimize if not actually prevent electoral frauds. Senator Flinn, of Pittsburgh, who thoroughly understood the subject, had prepared a series of bills to accomplish that result. Senator Flinn had supported Mr. Pinchot for Governor and was known as his personal and political friend. But the Governor completely ignored his importunities to urge ballot reform legislation and thus encouraged fraudulent vote manipulators to indulge the excesses which have finally aroused the public conscience and forced the Governor to take notice. In this case he has lost rather than gained by the frauds, but let us hope he is influenced by conscience rather than cupidity.

The Governor was tardy in moving against these arch-criminals but seems to be zealous now that he has enlisted in the cause. They are guilty of "the meanest of all crimes," he says. They have "ingrained in our people some of the worst habits that can afflict a free community," he adds and winds up with an imprecation, "there is only one place for men who are guilty of these crimes. They have disgraced the communities of which they are a part and they ought to be put with the forger and the bandit for whom I have far more respect than I have for them. A political organization which is willing to protect these despicable criminals ought to be driven out of power."

At the Sunday morning service in the Bellefonte Methodist church, the pastor, Rev. Charles Homer Knox, found the opportunity to briefly express his thoughts as to the obligation of our community to the Bellefonte Academy. Inasmuch as the hour of worship was to be dedicated specially to young men, reference to the activities of the hundred or more boys who come here every year from all parts of the country was wholly appropriate. Bellefonte could do much more than she does for the Academy students and we are one with Rev. Knox's idea that the easiest and most direct contact to be had with them is loyal support of their athletic teams. These boys come here at the most impressionable age, also at the period when most of them are radicals. They miss the restraining influence of intimate home associations and friendships. Bellefonte can supply that in a measure without cost and with hope of great return, for besides bringing more than one hundred thousand dollars to be dumped into our community every year, these young men go out to the four points of the compass to scatter the name of Bellefonte. All through their lives they will remember the name of the town in which they spent their most impressionable years in school. If they speak well of us it will be because we have been their friends.

From Los Angeles county, California, comes the report that since January, 1922, one in every twenty of the residents of that very populous area, has been arrested for violation of the liquor laws. The arrests on liquor charges have been three times greater than those made on all other charges combined. The "Watchman" goes into four Los Angeles homes regularly every week. One of them has already reported that none of its members have contributed to the appalling percentage of law infractions. We know the other three are also doing their part in contributing leaven of good Centre county citizenship to benighted Los Angeles.

According to Senator Walsh the Coolidge administration takes orders from Downing street as well as Wall street.

It is said the Governor is improving in the art of oratory. He is certainly making the politicians take notice.

Unless the friends of Governor Tener show more enthusiasm he may find out that "the first shall be last."

Disarmament.

From the Philadelphia Record. Count Apponyi's proposal that a committee of the League of Nations should prepare a project for immediate disarmament is encountering other opposition than that of Great Britain. France is reported to be opposed, although it is a steady supporter of last year's Geneva protocol. France is the most heavily armed nation now, next to Russia; it is afraid of a disarmed Germany, and it finds plenty of occupation for soldiers in its colonies and mandatory territories. France will not disarm while Germany lies next door to it, and there is no way of removing it. Germany is about as thoroughly disarmed as it can be, but France still looks under the bed every night to see if an armed German is there.

But there are other difficulties in the way of disarmament. Russia is not in the League of Nations, nor likely to be. It has a government that shouts its animosity to every other, and it has a vast population whose military value has never been proportioned to its numbers, but its size is alarming to the people of other countries. And there is our own land, optimistically confident that its latest war is the last one it will ever be in, but which goes on getting into wars as often as any country. It keeps a small army, but it managed to get 2,000,000 soldiers to Europe in a year and a half, and it has a navy superior to any other, with the possible exception of Britannia, which long enjoyed the reputation of ruling the waves and may still occupy that proud position. The United States is the richest of nations and the largest, except Russia and China. What the United States does or refuses to do is of some consequence in the world. It will not join the League of Nations and has so far refused to have anything to do with the Permanent Court of International Justice. It will decide what to do when the time comes, and it can do a good deal. Naturally the other countries do not care to divest themselves entirely of arms.

Of course disarmament will come. Big armies are no assurance against war, because one country's big army obliges other countries to have big armies, and the confidence of a country that it is invincible makes it a little careless of the feelings and perhaps the rights of other countries. If it reinforces its position by an alliance other nations will ally themselves, and by and by something will happen. The nation that feels that it can lick all creation will refuse to listen to reason, and 1914 will be repeated.

We do not expect this to happen because we believe the world learned something by the great war, and the League of Nations is an agency of peace, and the Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs and Romanoffs are gone. But world changes come slowly. Every nation will be a little suspicious of other nations until it has grown used to finding them peaceful. This takes time. There has been some limitation of navies. France is growing quieter and may be willing in a few years to reduce its army. If suspicion can be allayed, and if friction between nations can be averted, and if nations can acquire the habit of settling their controversies by peaceful means—and the habit is forming—they will realize that they can safely reduce their armed forces and lighten the burden on their taxpayers. World peace will come, but it is not to be rushed.

Choosing Occupations.

From the Altoona Tribune. Years ago fond parents devoted winter evenings to deciding the futures of their numerous offspring. Johnny was to be a teacher, Mary would be a trained nurse, Willie would be tutored in the ministry, and perhaps a fourth progeny would be placed in business or kept on a farm. And in the day time the school instructors of Johnny, Mary, Willie and so on believed they had fulfilled their duty if they prepared them for graduation. Few teachers realized that their's was an exceptional opportunity to help young men and women to pick their life's work on the basis of their individual qualifications and peculiar abilities.

All is different in the educational system of today. Vocational guidance is an established science. The public schools and the institutions of higher learning now strive to fit the curriculum to the student, not the student to the course of study. The student at the same time is directed into a life's work for which he is especially suited. Many men and women now failures in life might have been pre-eminent in their professions or trades had an ounce of direction been exerted in their youth to the selection of a career. A boy with an aptitude for mechanics and the engineering branches should not be forced into a legal or literary career because a parent or an instructor is partial to those latter occupations, yet countless have been and many will be in the future. There is a "destiny which shapes our ends" if it is the power which attracts the individual to that thing in life for which it is most fitted by nature.

W. Harrison Walker Esq. and Judge Arthur C. Dale last week filed their primary campaign account. Mr. Walker gave his expenses as \$1679.34 while Judge Dale states that he spent only \$911.56.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

As the direct result of accidentally stabbing himself while making a bird house on Monday of last week, Edward Smith, 20 years old, son of Mrs. Frank Carr, of New Castle, died on Thursday morning in the hospital. The knife slipped and cut a gash in his abdomen. Peritonitis developed.

Buried under a fall of coal at the plant of the Atlas Portland Cement company, at Northampton, last Thursday, Michael Beck, an employee, was suffocated before fellow workmen could rescue him. Beck slipped at the edge of a conveyor and fell in, being carried down with the fine coal and covered by hundreds of tons of the fuel.

Miss Gertrude Graham, aged 21 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Graham, of Danville, was taken to the Jefferson hospital, at Philadelphia, on Monday, in an effort to have a tooth removed from her lung. The mishap occurred as Miss Graham was eating an ice cream cone. An X-ray examination at a Danville hospital revealed the tooth lodged in one lung. Miss Graham was taken to Sunbury and left for Philadelphia on a midnight train.

Carl W. Brazzel, of Pittsburgh, has been sued for \$20,000 by Mrs. P. H. Stern, of Cambria county, for the death of her husband, Benjamin A. Stern, by an automobile owned by Brazzel, driven by a chauffeur. The accident happened on the Kautner bridge, on the Lincoln highway, where Stern was making repairs to the bridge. Mrs. Stern also filed suit to recover \$1431.35 for professional services, hospital charges, and burial expenses.

On the eve of his trial for possessing \$5,000 worth of clothing alleged to have been stolen from a Sellinsgrove store E. J. Humbert, 36 years old, of Windber, broke out of Snyder county jail in Middleburg on Saturday night, after knocking an attendant unconscious with the arm of a chair. He then jumped out of a second-story window of which two bars had been broken previously. He completed his getaway by breaking the lock of the jail yard.

Mrs. Clara Moul, of Hanover, who had offered a farm near that town as the site of the proposed Lutheran College for Women, has withdrawn the offer because no definite action had been taken by those in charge before September 15, as was promised. Just why no action was taken by the church board has not yet been learned. The site was approved by engineers and architects who visited it at the suggestion of the Lutheran church officials.

While raiding a house of questionable character in the southwestern section of Hazleton, on Monday night private Smith, of Troop B, state police, was shot by Anthony Demynion, aged 26, of Hazleton. Smith returned the fire and his assailant fell with two serious wounds, one bullet entering the right temple and another the right shoulder, penetrating the lung. At the state hospital the same night a surgeon removed the bullet from Smith's stomach.

Losing practically all of his garden and orchard crops in the hail storm which swept the Five Forks section of Franklin county several weeks ago, Ira Martin, who lives a half mile south of that place, went home Thursday night to find his home destroyed by fire, his chicken house broken into and half of his chickens missing. Martin and his family had been visiting Thursday night with his parents in that place. He purchased the Five Forks home last spring.

David Bowman, well known citizen of Myersdale, who disappeared early Saturday morning, was found hanging from a limb of a tree a mile southwest of that town on Sunday, by a posse which had searched all night. He had climbed on a rail fence, fastened a rope to the limb of a tree and then apparently kicked the rails from the fence. Some time ago Mr. Bowman had his spine injured while at work in the mines and the injury is thought to have preyed on his mind.

Earl Reichert, 25 years old, of Allentown, was electrocuted at the Fishback sub-station of the Pennsylvania Power and Light company early on Tuesday afternoon. He was employed as a lineman for the Phoenix utility company and was engaged in running a new 66,000 volt line to Frackville when the line on which he was working fell on another line carrying 23,000 volts which passed through his body. His remains were taken to the Allentown hospital morgue where they were later claimed by relatives.

George Rodkey and Herbert Motter, living near Brushstown, Friday had a hearing before Justice Apple of Gettysburg, that morning on one of the most unusual charges of theft in that county. The men are charged with the theft of eight wagonloads of newly pulled corn, valued at \$200, from the farm on which Rodkey lives. The farm belongs to the Littletown Saving Institution. The ears were pulled from the stalks in the center of the field, leaving the corn on the stalks around the outside to throw off suspicion.

The heaviest sentence ever given in Columbia county for automobile stealing was imposed last Friday on Miles Probst, of Berwick, who pleaded guilty before Judge Garman. He received five to ten years in the penitentiary, a fine of \$100 and costs. Probst previously had been sentenced to two and a half years in the penitentiary on a similar charge, and was paroled after serving a year and a half. He will be compelled to serve the remaining year when he goes back. Probst was alleged to have broken jail once.

Gasoline thieves who drain supply tanks of service stations after midnight, are being sought by police at Shamokin for stealing 400 gallons of gas at the Joe Van Horn general store. The thieves drove up to the store shortly after midnight, Saturday night, according to a man who lives near the store. He saw the truck stop there but thought nothing of it as motorists often stop there after midnight and attempt to arouse the proprietor to buy gas and oil. Other neighbors heard queer noises, but believed they were caused by some motorist with engine trouble, and did not investigate.

The Northampton Country club, between Easton and Bethlehem, was looted some time Thursday night of trophy cups, silverware, cigars and tobacco, valued at several thousand dollars. The thieves first raided the clubhouse proper. From the cigar case they stole cigars, tobacco and cigarettes valued at more than \$1000. From the second floor they took silver trophy cups and other articles. Among the cups were those won by Robert S. Gerstell, of Easton; Henry Hayes, of Bethlehem, and Dallett H. Wilson, of Washington, D. C., formerly of Bethlehem. In the caddy house they stole thirty-six dozen golf balls, valued at about \$500. It is believed the thieves worked in their stocking feet.