

INK SLINGS.

—Up to this time October has been as unpleasant as September was otherwise.

—The President said to the Governor "it's up to the Mayor," and the answer is, who got the snub?

—Lacarno, Switzerland, has shown to the United States that we are not "the whole cheese."

—There will be no real cause of complaint if the weather remains mild until the coal strike ends.

—Lloyd George advises a London audience to investigate prohibition. The bootleggers in this country are experimenting with it.

—The Prince of Wales has arrived home safely and the gossips will resume the pleasant task of starting rumors of his coming marriage.

—An esteemed contemporary remarks, "Governor Pinchot is going to be more closely observed this coming week." He seems to have "thrown a scare" into the machine.

—Nobody knows whether there will be an extra session of the Legislature or not, but the significant news comes from Harrisburg that the legislative halls are being put "in order."

—William Groh Runkle made a very capable District Attorney from 18 to 18. He knows the ins and outs of the office and the county would be very wise in calling him back to public service.

—Russia has abandoned prohibition and returned to the use of the favorite tippie, vodka. It was probably a question of revenue. The Russians want liquor enforcement to yield revenue instead of cost.

—The Governor hasn't announced his candidacy for Senator yet but Senator Pepper suspects. In his Lebanon speech, Monday evening, Mr. Pepper said "Pennsylvania wants in her Senators service not conservation."

—All that Governor Pinchot is saying about the rottenness of machine politics in Pennsylvania is true, but is the Governor the right man to say it? About the only ones who might believe it are the ones who never go out to vote. That's the type he's catering to now.

—Women are purifying politics amazingly in Philadelphia. Three of them were on the election board of the forty-sixth precinct in that city and all are under indictment for having made a fraudulent return of the votes. Certainly we regret the vote we cast to give that trio the franchise.

—General Butler is more or less of a picturesque character to Pennsylvanians. Most of we outsiders have looked with interest on his attempt to "clean up" Philadelphia, but Governor Pinchot won't be able to make another tail for his own kite out of Smed's notoriety. Calvin Coolidge will see to that.

—Judge Dale's announcement that he is "standing on his record" interests us a lot. We are not quite sure just what the gentleman refers to. If it is his record on the bench he wants the voters to look into, we'll save them that trouble by stating that he hasn't any. He hasn't been on it long enough to make one—either good or bad.

—What's a few gallons of gasoline to the man and woman who have suddenly thought of some acquaintance who might invite them to dinner if they were to motor out their way on Sunday? The motor car has done much to brighten up the memory of those who just hate to provide and prepare their own Sunday dinner.

—Supt. Broome, of the Philadelphia public schools, says "parents are not taught thrift as much as their children are." Little he knows about it. The parent of today is compelled to give every spare moment he or she has to intensive study of thrift in order to meet the drain that their children are putting on them because of superior education.

—If the Democrats of Centre county get out the vote and stick to their ticket they will have taken a long step toward destroying the power of machine politics. Every little office every little job that a Judge—however well meaning he may be—throws to the machine that has helped him to his place means just another implement with which it digs in to stifle and corrupt the electorate.

—With Mr. Walker on the bench there'll be no dilly-dallying with legal business. It will be right up to the minute all the time. Cases will not be continually continued because this, that or the other party presents some flimsy excuse for having it done. Mr. Walker is of the "do it now" type and he will speed-up the court and save thousands of dollars to tax payers who have to bear the expenses of maintaining them.

—The spirit of Centre county is reacting to the earnest and aggressive campaign that Mr. Walker is making for Judge. People like to rally behind a wide-awake, upstanding person who is not afraid to work. It inspires their confidence and arouses enthusiasm. They know that a man who hastens to meet them face to face has nothing to fear from any searching inquiry they may make of him, and where is the sensible person who does not admire grit and determination in another, especially when it is used with a pleasing personality and sound argument. Mr. Walker is gaining in strength every day.

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Complicated Contest Impending.

The contest for the Republican nomination for Senator in Congress is assuming a complicated form according to gossip. Instead of a battle between Senator Pepper and Governor Pinchot, as seemed likely a short time ago, it will really be a death struggle between the "wets" and the "drys." Between Pinchot and Pepper the drys would naturally favor the Governor and the wets incline toward Pepper. But the wets are not entirely satisfied with Pepper, who recently declared himself a teetotaler and had about determined to turn to Ralph Straasburger, of Norristown, who defeated Pinchot for delegate to the National convention at Cleveland last year. But Hampie Moore, of Philadelphia, has thrown his hat into the ring.

This enrollment of candidates complicates matters. If the contest had been of the three cornered variety with Pinchot and Pepper dividing the dry vote there might have been a chance for the wets to win with Straasburger. The drys are unquestionably in the majority in the party but not sufficiently so to win with a divided strength. Now that Mr. Moore, ex-Mayor of Philadelphia, ex-Congressman and formerly Joe Grundy's spokesman on tariff questions, is an aspirant with wet proclivities the wet vote will also be divided and the chance of victory decidedly turned in favor of either Pinchot or Pepper. As between Moore and Straasburger Moore has the popularity and Straasburger the money.

But in any event it will make an interesting fight. It is practically settled that Vare will be behind Straasburger and Grundy will be the chief attendant in Moore's corner. The corporations will be strong for Pepper and the Prohibitionists for Pinchot. When these several forces meet in combat it may be expected that considerable fur will fly. There will be money as well as booze in the air and unless the election laws are materially improved there will be such a carnival of crime as has never been witnessed in Pennsylvania. An extra session of the Legislature might avert such a saturnalia of political corruption but nothing else can.

—Vote for William Groh Runkle for District Attorney and secure to that important office.

Tax Bill Hearings Begun.

The House committee on Ways and Means has begun hearings on the tax bill. It is understood that the administration will not have a "pet" measure this year but Secretary of the Treasury Mellon will express to the committee his ideas of the lines upon which the measure should be laid. He will recommend cutting the surtax and high taxes considerably and some reduction of the smaller incomes. The President is in accord with this policy. Representative Martin Madden, chairman of the committee on appropriations, has thrown out a cautionary signal against too great a decrease in the revenue from incomes. It is practically agreed among them that the cut must be limited to \$350,000,000.

There is not as tense a feeling between the leaders of the parties on the subject as was shown last year, but Representative Garner, who will direct the movements on the Democratic side, is of the opinion that the income tax may safely be decreased to an extent considerably greater than the amount estimated by Secretary Mellon, and his scheme proposes to cut in greater ratio on small incomes than on the larger ones. His proposition is that all incomes under \$5000 be exempt entirely and the surtax and big income rates be reduced as far as possible after this allowance or concession to the industrial element of the taxables. Mr. Mellon declares that would be a ruinous policy and the chances are that the fight will be centered large on that point.

Last year the Democrats won easily and that fact accounts for the reluctance of President Coolidge to identify himself directly with the Mellon plan. He is not confident of the result and wants to avoid the humiliation of a personal defeat. He is strong on economy and saving at the spigot is his favorite indoor sport. But he is anxious to make a record in the matter of paying off the public debt and for that reason protests against the Garner plan to levy no tax on small incomes. Wise business would be conserved by less speed in payments and spreading them over a longer period. Later there will be more people to pay and greater resources to draw from.

—Vote for W. Harrison Walker and put an-up-and-doing Judge on the bench of Centre county.

—Mellon continues to manifest great interest in the tax bills of the poor millionaires.

Let Us Elect an Up-and-Doing Judge.

As the judicial campaign in the county draws to a close we find unmistakable signs of the growing strength of Mr. W. Harrison Walker. There is a reason for this rapidly swelling tide in his favor.

The contest has been unusual because it has developed on the candidates themselves to carry their cause to the people and the manner in which each one of them is doing it has had its effect.

At no time in the history of the ballot in Centre county has any party presented a candidate whose personal efforts have attracted so much attention as have those of Mr. Walker. He has a service to offer and the will, the energy and the personality to present it to the people.

Courage, determination, helpfulness and courtesy are traits to be admired. Mr. Walker has all of them and the people who didn't know it before the campaign are finding it out as he travels over the county and greets them. They are beginning to see that the spirit of the man—the progressive, do-it-now, nothing is ever too much trouble spirit—is something very much to be desired on the bench. Because many of them have been annoyed by needlessly delayed legal procedure and all of them realize that much money in taxes could be saved by speeding up justice.

Mr. Walker is amply qualified legally, but, as we said last week, the best lawyer doesn't always make the best judge. In addition to his legal training, which is of the best, he has these other attainments in a degree far more apparent than any of his rivals for the office.

You would be amazed to know the number of Republicans who are convinced that Mr. Walker offers Centre county its best chance for four-square justice, administered in such an expeditious way that it will cost the tax payers least. They are rallying to his support in all parts of the county. All they ask is that the Democrats stick to him and help them give the county an up-and-doing Judge.

Judge Dale hasn't a chance of election. The contest is between Mr. Walker and Mr. Keller. Of course those who don't know that the wake over old John Barleycorn's body was over 'way back in 1918 are still sitting with pallid, pious and prayerful lips at the side of the imaginary corpse and determined that Arthur is the one man who will hit it on the head if it attempts to come to life again. They're going to stick to him and they should, if they feel that way.

But the voters of Centre county know that law can't keep people from drinking, nor does fear of punishment deter them or those who supply them with liquor. We made this statement in these columns seven years ago and Wednesday night President Coolidge used almost our exact words when he told the biennial meeting of the Council of Congregationalist churches that the only solution of the problem is through the Sunday schools, the churches "and religion." The President lost sight of the most important agency for good when he failed to include the home.

After all is this question of bootlegging a matter that ought to be injected into a campaign in which a man is to be selected who for ten years will hold the scales of justice over thousands who don't know or care what a bootlegger is. Of course it shouldn't, because when the home and the churches discover that they are wandering far afield they will realize that there never would have been such a problem had both not failed to inculcate morals such as would have averted it.

Judge Dale hasn't a chance. His candidacy is only splitting up a vote that should go to Mr. Walker who offers the only hope of facilitating legal procedure in the Centre county courts and saving money for those who have to pay for conducting them.

Governor Pinchot's New Enterprise.

Governor Pinchot having finished the third leg of his now famous "tour of inspection," on Saturday, turned his attention to the herculean task of obtaining a further extension of the leave of absence of Brigadier General Smedley Darlington Butler, of the Marine corps. In this enterprise his colleagues are Senator George Wharton Pepper and Mayor Kendrick, of Philadelphia. It can hardly be said that this will prove a congenial assignment. The appeal must be made to President Coolidge, who is not likely to entertain the most kindly feeling for the Governor. Neither of his colleagues are under obligations to him for the courtesies in the past. Taking one consideration with another it is not a pleasant prospect.

But the Governor is equal to the emergency. He says his ambition is to leave a record of courage and fidelity to the people. His appeal to the President in such an environment affords plenty of proof of courage, even if it is a trifle shy of wisdom. A year ago President Coolidge extended the leave of General Butler more or less reluctantly and declared that he would not do so again. Coming as a political enemy the Governor asks him to stultify himself by a reversal which the President's friends, his party organization, are opposed to and the President's enemies, the independent element of his party favor. If the President accedes he helps his enemy and injures his friend, Senator Pepper.

In his appeal to the President Governor Pinchot represents the better element of the community concerned. The church people are unanimously in favor of the extension of his leave so that he may continue his fight for clean government in Philadelphia. It is fair to assume that this element is in the majority in that city, as it is in every other community in Pennsylvania. But the President, who is a rather shrewd politician, knows that on election day the better element is a negligible quantity in Philadelphia and that Governor Pinchot's failure to urge ballot reform legislation is largely responsible for that. If he can make the extension of leave look like a help to Pepper, however, it may be made.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

The Security Key to Peace.

From the Pittsburgh Post.

It looks as if the European nations represented in the conference of Locarno, Switzerland, on security and other matters related to war prevention had at last found the key to peace. Germany, for the first time in the years following the outbreak of the world war, sat at the conference table as an equal to help shape an agreement instead of to hear terms laid down to her. By the main pact Germany, France and Belgium virtually outlaw war; they are not to attack or invade one another's territory and are to abstain from any act that might lead to hostilities. Great Britain and Italy stand as guarantors of the agreement, promising to throw their force against any of the three that violates the terms. A number of related pacts also were made, and it is believed that there is sentiment in all the countries involved to bring about prompt ratification of the agreements by the parliamentary bodies.

The League of Nations has so important a relation to the results of the conference as to call for Germany's becoming a member of it, with the understanding that she will have a permanent place in the council. The Permanent Court of International Justice, the league council and boards of conciliation are listed as possible agencies for arbitration of differences that may arise under the operation of the treaties. Arbitration was one of the high notes sounded.

The importance of such agreements, supposing that all are ratified as expected, cannot be overestimated. Right away there is a renewal of hope for early action for arms reduction. The question of security naturally had to be dealt with every time reduction of arms was suggested. With this question apparently settled at last the outlook for development of the League as well as the move to stop racing in armament is much better.

Rather Disturbing.

From the Philadelphia Record.

To those optimists who have hoped that the enfranchisement of women would mean a purer era in our politics, and that the new voters would rise superior to the temptations to which mere man is subject, it must come as a rather disagreeable surprise to learn that of the five election officers arrested for alleged fraud in the first second division of the Forty-sixth ward three belong to the weaker sex. We would not impute any wrongdoing to the ladies, although an investigation has shown that Judge Renshaw's vote was reduced from 72 to 40, while that of the gang candidate was boosted from 57 to 152. It thus appears that while the Judge carried the division by 15 in the primary election he was returned as having lost it by 112 votes—certainly a very striking discrepancy.

We are glad to see that the women deny the charges as ridiculous and a pack of lies, and declare that "if a mistake was made it was because of ignorance of the custom and not through any desire to do wrong." A blazing automobile in front of the polling place is said to have caused such confusion that an error might have been made.

Clearly woman suffrage has not brought the political millennium that was hoped for. Very likely it was ignorance or inexperience that permitted the gross miscarriage in the division to be made, and the women are entitled to a suspension of judgment in their cases. It can hardly be expected that voters comparatively new to the business can at all times cope successfully with the old male malefactors hardened to the game.

Ballot Reform the Big Issue.

From the Clearfield Republican.

There has not been an honest election in Pennsylvania in 25 years. Every time the Legislature attempted to "reform the election laws of the State" the "reforming" was done by the Quay machine and later, the Penrose machine. Result: Conditions worse than before; easier to play the "old army game;" more difficult to detect the fraud, and next to impossible to get the courts to open the crooked ballot-boxes. In both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh they simply vote the registry list of the district, and in a majority of the gang wards the registry list is as crooked as is needed. This condition has prevailed ever since the special session of 1905 passed the personal registration act. It is "perfected" more and more each year. It existed in 1923 when Bill Vare announced, within five minutes after the polls closed, that Philadelphia had given Gifford Pinchot at least 175,000 plurality.

Philadelphia did not give Pinchot half that plurality, to say nothing of 183,000 finally counted up. The voters were not out in Philadelphia in November of 1923. But a little thing like that did not stop the counting. There were no Democratic watchers and the gang sent out orders to "go the limit." And the election district lieutenant did that very thing. Same is true in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Erie, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Schuylkill, Delaware, Fayette and some other populous counties. Curative legislation along practical, common sense lines is the biggest issue in Pennsylvania today. There never can be representative government at Harrisburg so long as the crooked counting system is permitted in the large centres of population.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Thieves on Friday night broke into the East Earl postoffice and stole stamps, envelopes and post cards valued at \$100.

—Five hundred attended a banquet which marked the closing of exercises held in dedication of York's new \$1,000,000 hotel.

—Thrown from a car in the Pennsylvania Railroad yards at Altoona a week ago, Albert H. Morris, a freight conductor, died from his injuries.

—Struck by a Pennsylvania railroad train while he was working on the tracks, J. P. Swanger, of Mill Creek, was instantly killed on Saturday afternoon.

—The loss of \$48,000 in a card game at Pittsburgh on Friday night by T. C. Jenkins, a Pittsburgh business man, resulted in the arrest of E. J. Lawrence and Wilbert Jennings, who registered as Australian cattle breeders. A third man, according to the police, escaped with the \$48,000 check to New York.

—After they had separated following a disagreement, W. Adam Moyer shot and killed his wife and then committed suicide at the home of S. E. White, in Punksutawney, on Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Moyer were residents of Altoona until two weeks ago when they separated. Mrs. Moyer going to Punksutawney and the man to Clearfield.

—County detective Crowe, of Clarion, has recovered a gold watch from Angelo Daniglia, stolen from attorney Fry, in Seattle, Washington, more than seven years ago. The watch immediately was sent to the owner at Seattle, and Daniglia taken into custody, but released when Seattle authorities stated that they could not connect him with the theft.

—Judge Albert W. Johnson in federal court at Scranton on Monday afternoon imposed \$25 fines on Fred C. Wyatt, of Providence, R. I., and F. B. Ruff, of Conneville, Pa., on charges of having defaced monuments at Gettysburg. These were the first of twenty-nine defendants under indictment on charges of defacing these monuments. Judge Johnson indicated he would impose the same fine in all other cases.

—The work of Frank B. McClain, of Lancaster, former Lieutenant Governor and long-time leader in State politics, who died last week, will live after him. His will, probated on Monday provides for Christmas celebrations at the Home for Friendless Children, in that city. These celebrations were provided by Mr. McClain every year and were a big event in the life of the children at the home. The value of his estate is estimated at \$60,000.

—George A. Dale, a well known resident of Clearfield county, was found dead in a corn field on the Woods farm near Curwensville, Wednesday evening of last week, by his brother, John Dale. He had gone to the field early in the morning to husk corn, taking a noon-day lunch with him. No one visited the field during the day.

From the manner in which he was found, the body being cold and stiff, it was surmised that his death occurred early during the forenoon. Heart failure was attributed as cause of death.

—C. H. Swigart, treasurer of Grange Trust Co., Huntingdon, accompanied by Dr. M. D. Campbell, of Loyaltown, and C. E. Keppel, of Millburg, returned home Friday last from a three week's hunting trip in Canada, 200 miles north of Quebec. They camped out, cooking their meals in the woods far away from settlements and are much enthused over their experience. Mr. Swigart shot a moose seven feet high and the party captured another moose and several bears. Mr. Keppel brought home two bear cubs captured in the hunt.

—At the most exciting moment in the third period of the Carnegie Tech-Washington and Jefferson football game at Washington, Pa., on Saturday afternoon, the wooden grandstand bordering the field and extending over Catfish creek gave way without warning. Several hundred persons were precipitated either to the ground beneath the wreckage or covered by debris into the creek. Twenty-five were taken to a hospital, but none of them were fatally injured, although two women were almost drowned before being rescued. The accident put an end to the game.

—Paul Bloose, 40 years of age, a civil engineer for the Pittsburgh Coal company, who had been missing since July 20, was found last Thursday in a cave in a densely wooded section of North Homestead. Bloose was found by John Robb and was unable to speak. His legs were bare and his only clothing was a piece of burlap wrapped around his shoulders. His hair was long and matted and a shaggy beard covered his face. There was no water or food in the cave, and the opinion was expressed that Bloose had not eaten for a long time. He was very weak and was taken to a hospital.

—Shot by some unknown person, Melvin Orner, of Bendersville, Adams county, is in the Warner hospital at Gettysburg, with a bullet wound in his abdomen and two in his left forearm. His condition is serious. He had been hunting raccoons with several companions and was seated on a log when there was a report of a gun and a moment later he found blood trickling from his arm. His companions hauled him 15 miles to the hospital, where the course of the bullet was traced into the arm and out of it into the abdomen near the intestines. Neither Orner nor the man with him have any idea who fired the shot.

—One man was killed and another severely shocked by electricity on Saturday, while working on a line at the sub-station of the Pennsylvania Power and Light company, at Bloomsburg. The dead man was William Erdman, aged 35 years, of Bloomsburg. He was working on a pole when his head came in contact with a wire carrying 22,500 volts. He was burned to a crisp. When Erdman's head touched the live wire the current went through his body to a dead wire on which his foot rested, charging a transformer on which Harry Greenwalt, of Danville, was working. Greenwalt was badly shocked but will recover.

—Three men on Saturday robbed Clarence West, paymaster of the West Knitting company, at Plymouth, Luzerne county, of \$278 while he was taking a two weeks' payroll to the company's office. The robbers fled into Wilkes-Barre and were last seen going south. West was carrying the money from a bank to the mills in an automobile and was forced to stop by another car as he was turning a corner. As he did so two men jumped into his car and took his money at the point of pistols. At the same time another car bearing New Jersey license tags approached and the two robbers jumped into it and soon were out of sight.