

INK SLINGS.

—Red Cross week begins today. Enroll if you would help the greatest and most unselfish humanitarian movement the world knows of.

—The swivel chair department of the army seems to be having more trouble lickin' Col. Bill Mitchell than the rookies had in putting the boche to flight.

—The favorite pastime down in Texas seems to be charging some member of Governor "Ma" Ferguson's family with taking a little more than the law allows.

—Gen. Groener's idea of "a beautiful death" for the Kaiser evidently didn't look so beautiful to Bill. He much preferred being a live coward to a dead hero.

—Italy wants satisfaction from Jugoslavia for the attack on her consulate at Belgrade last Sunday. What foreign country is there that doesn't want everything it can get?

—Things are breaking nicely for the Kellers. On the heels of the father's elevation to the bench comes the announcement that a son has been made head of an important department at The Pennsylvania State College.

—We look upon the approach of Christmas unmoved. The peak of the day's pleasure for us was the sight of the great brown turkey waiting to be wrecked. The prospect of a baked ham or a roast chicken as a substitute doesn't lure us into pleas for the festival day to hasten.

—At last the world has found out why the Kaiser fled to Holland. Gen. Groener, who became Ludendorff's successor when German arms were wavering, sent word that the only hope of reviving the morale of the army was in getting Wilhelm into the trenches. Confronted with making a little cannon fodder out of himself Bill preferred sawing wood at Doorn.

—If the railroads only stick to it the time will come when those who value their lives will realize that it is safer to sit in a railroad car than it is to undertake to keep out of the way of fool and drunken motorists on the highways we are building. Already the motorist who values his life is beginning to inquire as to the unimproved roads, where traffic is less, that will carry him to his destination.

—Francis Carney is in jail at Greensburg charged with having cut down and hauled away timber that belonged to others. Ordinarily this would be just a bit of police news and have no place in this column, but Carney's physical condition lifts the item into the realm of the unusual. So unusual that probably some of you readers will say: What a lie, when we tell you that Carney has no arms.

—More power to the Governor and the committee he has invited to help devise ways and means of purifying elections in Pennsylvania. The country counties are honest. In Centre, for instance, everybody knows everybody else and an attempt to register and vote dead men, dogs, cats, etc., would be futile. It is in the big cities and the counties of large foreign population that manipulation is easy and the majorities that sweep gang favorites into office are piled up.

—Neither cannibals nor Bolsheviks could have been as brutal as Congressman Vane was in Philadelphia at the recent election. Think of the depths that man Shoyer has plumbed if he has any conscience at all, by allowing his name to be stuck on a ballot in order to get in to a dead man's shoes before rigor mortis had even set in. If Republicans of Pennsylvania are proud of such leaders God save the Commonwealth. If they are not, God make them men and women big enough to see that such things are not part of their imagined divine right to rule.

—Just by way of confirming our belief that the "Watchman" usually looks pretty straight and sees pretty straight let us remind the creditors of the Centre County bank that we advised them, months ago, to "reorganize their own institution or somebody else would slip in and start a third bank in Bellefonte." The effort is now being made. Feelers are on the streets and they are not actuated by the same motives that the "Watchman" was when it suggested the idea to the creditors. They are hoping to "cash in" on the good will and loyalty that was always a great asset of the old Centre County.

—The coming of Billy Sunday to Bellefonte awakens memories of "the Brewers Big Horses Can't Run Over Me," "Brighten up the Corner" and "the sawdust trail." Fifteen years ago there was scarcely a person in the United States who didn't know of Billy, his two outstanding songs and the rail over which thousands upon thousands went to repentance. Wednesday a fairly well informed lad of fifteen asked us: "Who is Billy Sunday?" It all comes to this. The newspapers make men as well as everything else. Billy hasn't been in the papers much during the last decade and the coming generation doesn't know there ever was an ex-ball player who swayed the masses more than even Bryan or Roosevelt could. By the way, who remembers who Francis Murphy was and what he was doing in Bellefonte and how Henry Ward Beecher happened to be here at one time and what Jangle Will Carleton started his lecture in the court house with?

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Prohibition Enforcement the Issue.

Governor Pinchot's answer to Senator Pepper's appeal for support is characteristic. In his preliminary speech Senator Pepper said: "If you send a man to the Senate who is opposed to the President and hostile to Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, it will make tax reform difficult; it will obstruct every administration policy and it will waste the great victory won at the polls last year." The Governor's reaction, expressed in a speech in Chicago on Sunday evening, was "the present era of disrespect for the law can be laid at the door of the conspicuous political leaders at Washington who set the example. The 18th amendment was betrayed in the house of its friends. They 'sowed the wind and the nation is reaping the whirlwind!'"

Thus the issue is drawn between the two candidates for Senator in Congress. Pepper pronounces himself the servile follower of Coolidge and Mellon and Pinchot declared that "Pittsburgh, the home of Secretary Mellon, whose good citizens have appealed to him over and over again to put an end to open and notorious violations of the law, is the one exception. It is so because the controlling political forces in Pittsburgh have succeeded in nullifying every effort of the State administration to reduce bootlegging and make the town dry." All other cities in Pennsylvania, he states, have shown improvement, but Pittsburgh continues in its evil course because Secretary Mellon is the dominant figure in the political life of that city and he is not in sympathy with the cause.

These diametrically opposite declarations of the candidates make it certain that the dominant issue of the campaign will be prohibition enforcement. The Senator may try to disguise the facts by professing fidelity to the President and deep interest in tax reform. But the Governor will not allow such deception to be imposed upon the vast force of voters in the State who believe in prohibition with almost religious zeal. Coolidge and Mellon intend to favor enforcement and at intervals give out statements of a purpose to enforce the Volstead law. But actions speak plainer if not louder than words and the prosperity of the bootlegging industry in and about Pittsburgh seems to corroborate the statements of the Governor on the subject.

—Red Cross, with its wonderful work of succor is on the scene of every disaster, no matter where it may occur. You will be represented there if you enroll in the drive for members which starts today.

Borah Likely to Make Trouble.

Those who expected, or hoped, that his elevation to the chairmanship of the Senate committee on foreign relations would moderate the sentiments of Senator Borah with respect to the outside world are likely to be disappointed. The Idaho statesman has been rather intolerant in his talk and action toward foreign governments, more especially those known as allies in the world war. His uncompromising opposition to the League of Nations and the World Court has been based largely upon an aversion to "foreign complications." Because of his attitude on such subjects there was considerable opposition to giving him the chairmanship to which he was entitled upon the death of Senator Lodge.

Responsibility has considerable influence on temperament and the leaders of the administration element in the Senate felt that as chairman of the committee Senator Borah would be more amenable to reason than he had been as a member, and his seigniorage rights were reluctantly recognized. But he has held firmly to the policy of exacting all that is coming from our recent allies in the matter of repayment of monies loaned or advanced during the war. In discussing the failure of the French debt commission to agree on terms of settlement with our government, he is particularly caustic. He declares that France is fully able and ought to be equally willing to settle in full and with interest.

In his expressed views on this subject there is likely to be a general concurrence. In a letter to a Chicago correspondent he says that France has maintained since the close of the war an army of from 700,000 to 1,000,000 men and "has loaned large sums to other countries to maintain military establishments, and therefore he does not feel that it is any part of our duty to put the load of the present imperialistic war and France's military establishment upon the taxpayers of the United States." It will be hard for the administration and Wall Street bankers to refute this line of argument. It is about what a large majority of the people think and many of them say openly and above board.

Governor Pinchot's Committee.

The "committee of seventy-six" as the Governor sentimentally styled the body of men and women he had previously appointed to devise a way to prevent election frauds in the future, held its first meeting in Harrisburg on Friday. Nearly every member of the committee was present and an atmosphere of determined purpose pervaded the meeting. In opening the deliberations Governor Pinchot said: "I have asked you to come to Harrisburg for the purpose of considering and assisting in solving a problem which goes straight to the root of free government. Election thieves are rampant in parts of Pennsylvania. It is notorious that the stealing of votes has become a habit."

After a buffet luncheon spread by Mrs. Cornelia Pinchot at the executive mansion and the statement of the purpose of the meeting by the Governor some time was spent in discussing the primary election frauds in Philadelphia and in offering suggestions as to preventives. Judge Renshaw, the victim of the Philadelphia frauds, suggested the enactment of a law which would facilitate rather than prevent the opening of ballot boxes where fraud has been perpetrated, and Democratic State chairman John H. Bigelow proposed a return to the convention system of making nominations. "I do not know," he said, "whether it was worse to debase a Legislature in the election of a United States Senator, as was done in Illinois in the Lorimer case, or to debase a whole State as was done in Michigan, in the Newberry case."

Certain Republican members of the committee were plainly disturbed by the drift of the discussion and Judge Butler, of Chester county, protested that the committee should get down to work. Thereupon a sub-committee was appointed to frame such legislation as may be expected to accomplish the desired result. The discussion was then resumed and in addition to descriptions of the frauds in Philadelphia on primary election day full details of the effort to dispose of former Judge Patterson as the Republican candidate for district attorney by the process of stickers were given. Judge Fox, formerly of the Supreme court, told of the atrocity of this enterprise and with it in mind the committee adjourned.

—So Gen. Smed Butler is to leave Philadelphia. The crooks have at last succeeded in prying him out of his position as head of the police force in that city. Philadelphia has been bad enough, even with "the fighting marine" struggling to clean up the city, but can you imagine what it will be after he is gone.

Party But Not Revenue Gain.

A careful examination of the proposed tax bill now under consideration in the committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, in Washington, leads to the opinion that President Coolidge is shrewd if not actually wise in urging a decrease in the income tax rates on big incomes and leaving undisturbed the burdensome tariff taxes on the necessities of life. The measure is not intended to produce revenue. Its palpable purpose is to create propaganda for the Republican party in the impending congressional campaign. Neither the President nor the leaders of his party are concerned about revenue for the government. The government might function without revenue for a few years.

But the Republican party can't endure for that length of time under an adverse majority in Congress. Such a contingency would cut off all the special privileges upon which the party machine has lived and thrived in the past. Such favors judiciously distributed are the source of campaign contributions, which in the last Presidential campaign mounted up to an aggregate of nearly twenty million dollars and without which President Coolidge wouldn't have been able to carry a dozen States. The object of those now engaged in the formation of a tax bill is to secure a Republican majority in the next Congress and a continuation of the special privileges as an asset for future use in the same way.

With this object in mind the President is now urging a tax decrease of half a billion of dollars instead of the lesser amount he had previously recommended. By strenuous efforts of his "one-track" mind he has figured out the larger cut may be made by omitting provision for payment on the public debt and the average tax payer is always delighted with a smaller tax bill. The tax payer is not likely to investigate the cause of tax reduction and the President's pretense of economy in administration will look like a great achievement. But it is nothing more or less than a huge humbug invented to fool the people. The bill ought to be so entitled and the responsibility for the fraud clearly fixed.

Important and Gracious Service.

Nearly all the men and women invited by Governor Pinchot to sit in a committee to devise ways and means to prevent electoral frauds have accepted the service and it may be assumed that within a brief period of time the work will be begun. It is an important public service. The electoral frauds in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and other populous communities have impressed a stigma upon the good name of the Commonwealth annually for more than a quarter of a century. More than that, they have been instrumental in defeating the will of the people in more than one instance. After the gubernatorial election of 1910 one of the Philadelphia State Senators boasted that the Republican candidate had been elected by fraudulent votes and claimed for his city the credit.

In the movement now about to be undertaken, moreover, it is a gracious public service. The ladies and gentlemen invited by the Governor to perform the difficult and arduous work are promised no recompense for the time and labor which their acceptance will involve. The only reward they can expect is an approval of their own consciences and an appreciation of their sacrifices by the decent citizens of the State, and that is not certain. The difficulties they will necessarily encounter will be multiplied, too, by the politicians who have profited by the frauds in the past and hope to gain by them in the future. These advantages will not be relinquished freely and the unselfish men and women may as well realize first as last that they have a "hard row to hoe."

Ballot reform legislation is not a new conception in this State. It has been tried at various times and in sundry ways in the past by well meaning men of both parties who have been shamed by the spectacle of corrupt government and more or less discouraged by the failures of their efforts at improvement. One reform law after another has been misused by election officers, or mutilated by political jugglers with the result that they have aggravated instead of abated the evils. But the impending effort may achieve the result. The personnel of the commission created by the Governor justifies this hope, at least. It is unfortunate that it wasn't begun sooner. The inevitable impression that it is placed in a setting of selfishness will almost necessarily militate against the progress if it does not defeat its purpose.

—"Boot-leg" coal is the newest thing. The striking miners are doing it up in the anthracite fields. Out in Kansas they "boot-leg" cigarettes, everywhere they "boot-leg" hooch, but "boot-leg" coal: Well, that's something else again.

Philadelphia Election Frauds.

Since the primary election in September much evidence of fraud committed in Philadelphia has been revealed. Absolute proof has been obtained that in nearly every voting district false returns were made for the purpose of building up great majorities for the organization candidates. The processes of gathering the evidence were hampered at every stage so that it was impossible to complete the work before the frauds were ratified by the general election. No doubt those engaged in the work were earnest in their purpose to correct a great evil. It may also be assumed that they were diligent in their efforts. But the intricacies and tardiness of the law defeated their purposes.

Almost annually, "since time out of mind," the same thing has occurred. Fraudulent votes and false returns in Philadelphia have reversed the result of the vote in State-wide elections frequently, and the outrages thus perpetrated are indignantly denounced by good citizens in and out of the city. Frequent attempts have been made to punish the perpetrators of these crimes but after a brief period of time they have been abandoned, either because they were too expensive or too difficult to pursue to the end. Generally speaking the criminals responsible for the frauds have been rewarded by generous party favors rather than punished for the most dangerous crimes in the catalogue.

In the present instance considerable progress has been made in the sincere effort to punish the perpetrators of the frauds. A considerable number of election officers have been arrested and a vast amount of evidence of their guilt accumulated. But no good will come of this unless the movement is continued with unabated energy to its logical conclusion. In other words, if electoral reforms are to be obtained from the recent exposures of fraud it is essential that the prosecutions be pressed until just punishment is meted out to the criminals. It will be a hard task and heavy burden for those who have undertaken it, but it will be worth the effort and cheap at the cost.

The World's Wheat.

From the Philadelphia Record. A Russian agricultural authority, Professor Ossinsky, of the Agricultural Academy at Moscow, has given some more detailed information about the wheat of his country than has been previously stated. He says the normal pre-war production of wheat was 759,000,000 bushels, and that the production this year was 660,000,000 bushels, besides a large yield of rye and oats. And rye is more used in Russia than wheat, so that a good deal of this wheat production should be exportable, and shipments to France and Germany have been reported several times. The wheat harvest this year is more than three times what it was in 1921. The professor is making a tour of the United States and has been giving special attention to ranch economies and cotton production.

Secretary Jardine has been warning the farmers against increasing their wheat production because so much is being produced abroad. Before the war Russia was our chief competitor in the world's wheat markets, but when Turkey entered the war Russia could export nothing, and until this year it has cut no figure in the world's supply. If it fed itself it was regarded as doing very well. Wheat has had to be shipped to Russia to relieve famine sufferers. This year the harvest is nearly up to the pre-war average, and hereafter Russian competition must be reckoned on. The area sown to wheat in Argentina is slightly more than last year, and the temperature and rainfall have been very favorable. The Australian area sown to wheat is slightly less than last year and climatic conditions have been unfavorable, and it is unlikely that the harvest will be nearly as good as the last one. The wheat production the past season in 29 countries, producing 98 per cent. of the Northern Hemisphere wheat outside of Russia and China, was 8 per cent. above the crop of last year, but not equal to the crop of 1923.

The American farmer may look for something more remunerative than wheat, but he need not get into a panic because Russia is back in the exporting class and other countries are doing better than they have done in some recent years. It will be a good while before the domestic consumption absorbs all of the domestic production. Many countries must import wheat every year.

The Test.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The League of Nations has done one of the major things it was created to do. By prompt and vigorous action it has stopped a war.

It could not prevent the beginning of a war. Nations may at any moment begin to fight if they are so minded. The League offers means for the settlement of disputes without recourse to arms, but it is not gifted with prescience and cannot forestall a fight which it cannot foresee. In the Greco-Bulgarian conflict it has done the next best thing. It has stopped a war by issuing an ultimatum. Defiance of this ultimatum would have been ruinous in either Greece or Bulgaria. Compliance with the demands of the Council of the League means that both nations will receive fair play. A majority of the Council is composed of representatives of the Great Powers, and there is no doubt that these Powers would have taken any coercive steps prescribed by the Council.

This is the greatest test yet faced by the League of Nations. Had war been permitted to blaze unchecked in the Balkans the opponents of the League would indeed have had cause for jubilation. With something concrete to stand as a record the boubters will find small basis for argument. Fact is stronger than theory.

Of course it is to the interest of peaceful nations to do their utmost to prevent war, but in the present instance there has been a minimum of selfish concern. There is little doubt that the conflict, had it been permitted to go on unchecked, would have been strictly localized. Greece and Bulgaria alone would have been the sufferers, as neither the Balkan nor the extra-Balkan States would have been dragged into participation. The promptness of the Council's action is, therefore, doubly commendable, and is admirably justified by its instant effectiveness.

Election Problems.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. We believe the voting machine affords the best solution of the problem. It has the approval of a great many people who have had experience with it and already there is considerable sentiment for its adoption in Pennsylvania. The election reform commission appointed by the Governor is competent to make an honest investigation of the results elsewhere and it can throw considerable light upon the subject.

—Col. George Nox McCain remarks, in a recent reminiscence article recalling the Quay Senatorial fight of twenty-six years ago, that all of the then leading Republicans are dead, while a number of the Democratic leaders of that period still survive. Nothing strange about that. Having their front feet in the trough all the time the Republicans eat too many plums and die of political indigestion.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—Recently discharged from the Harrisburg hospital where his right leg was amputated following the development of an infection, John Hoops returned to the hospital on Monday with a fracture of the left leg. Hoops sustained the fracture when he fell down stairs at his home in Linden street.

—Mrs. Florence Thompson, 63 years old, of Clearfield county, is dead as the result of an explosion of a gallon can of kerosene. She attempted to fill an oil lamp while it was burning and the explosion which followed ignited her clothes, and her burns were so serious that she died shortly afterward.

—Merle Henneman, 11, son of George Henneman, of Mapleton Depot, is critically ill in the J. C. Blair Memorial hospital at Huntingdon, as the result of a fall Monday afternoon from the top of a sand quarry at Penn Glass Sand company, alighting 45 feet below on a railway track. He suffered internal injuries, including collapse of the left lung and broken ribs.

—A short time after she had witnessed an automobile accident at McElhattan, last Friday, Mrs. Nancy Chubb suffered a heart attack and died at her home. Mrs. Chubb had been in good health prior to the attack and it is believed that excitement caused by the accident brought on the fatal attack. Lawrence Messerly, the station agent at McElhattan, whose car was struck by a Pennsylvania passenger train, escaped with only slight injuries.

—The Rev. John W. Long, for the last five years president of Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport, has refused to allow his name to be considered for the presidency of West Virginia Wesleyan University at Buckhannon, W. Va. Announcement of his decision was made at the fall meeting of the board of directors of the school last week. Before going to Williamsport Rev. Long was pastor of the Methodist church at State College.

—Merchandise valued at \$5,000 stolen from the freight station of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, in Pittsburgh, has been recovered, following the arrest of six men Saturday in connection with disappearance of freight from the station over a period of two years. Confessions made by those arrested resulted in the recovery of the merchandise, detectives said. A total value of \$25,000 was placed by police on freight reported missing from the station during the last two years.

—Because of his failure to satisfy a verdict of \$1,500 returned by a jury in a civil suit brought against him by John M. Sides, of Harrisburg, for alienation of the affections of Mrs. Sides, Nick Demas was returned to the Dauphin county jail on a capias. Unless he settles the account he must remain in prison at least fifty-five days, according to Harrisburg attorneys. He had been held previously for five days for failure to pay the damages allowed, but was discharged upon petition to court.

—Frank Cesaro, 48 years old, of Philadelphia, was arrested Sunday night charged with killing his wife by striking her on the head with a heavy shoe. The woman was found unconscious in her room during the day by neighbors who had heard a commotion in the house. She died from a fractured skull. Cesaro told the police that he had not meant to kill his wife. He said they had been tossing the shoe back and forth to each other in play and that he had thrown it with too much speed, the shoe striking her on the head, as she tried to dodge it.

—A conscience stricken thief performed good work up in Lehigh county on Saturday night. During Friday night somebody robbed the Hersch hardware store at Catasauqua of \$500 worth of goods. On Sunday when the manager, Harry Aubrey, gave the store the usual looking over, he was indignant at signs of a further disturbance. He thought there had been another thief, but investigation showed that all the stolen goods but a revolver had been returned. The thief had employed even more skill to return his loot than originally to steal it.

—Judge J. M. Barnett, of the Juniata county courts at Millintown, on Saturday sentenced Howard Hartman to serve three to six years in the western penitentiary, pay the costs and \$1,000 fine after being convicted of stealing \$1,000 from John Shearer, an aged man who is mentally unbalanced. Hartman committed the offense two years ago and made his get away, but Bradford Brown, a local undertaker, while hunting in Tuscarora valley a few days ago, saw and recognized Hartman. Brown marched him at the muzzle of his gun to the nearest justice of the peace where he was held in lieu of \$2,000 bail.

—The will of David A. Howe, a prominent business man of Williamsport prior to his recent death, was filed for probate last Thursday. It contains a bequest of \$50,000 to the Brown library to be used as a building fund for the erection of an addition to the present library, of which he had been president of the board of trustees for seventeen years. Other bequests of a public nature were \$2,000 to the Covenant Central Presbyterian church, and \$1,000 to the Wildwood cemetery company. It also directs that the bequests shall not be reduced by taxation, but that the estate shall pay the inheritance tax.

—The fire which started twenty-three years ago in the old Black Diamond mines is still burning in the neighborhood of Mount Carmel. The fire started during the big strike of 1902 and was the result of dumping hot ashes from the boiler house in an open mine hole. In the twenty-three years that the fire has been raging it burned up close to a million tons of coal and put the Lehigh Valley company to an expense estimated at over a million dollars. Many of the mine chambers adjoining and being a part of the Sioux No. 3, were dammed and walled off to stop the fire communicating to these workings.

—Confessing nearly one hundred robberies of dwellings in Mt. Carmel and its vicinity, three young girls Monday lay bare a brief but sensational criminal career, when arraigned before Judge Strauss, at Sunbury. Not only did they enter dwellings and stores in order to steal garments of silk and satin, they admitted, but in a coal shed near the home of one of their number they arrayed themselves in the stolen raiment. Thus attired, they waited until the manager of a road house came along in an automobile and took them out of town, where they participated in the gay life of the resort until the early morning hours. Then, returning to the coal shed, they changed back to their shabby everyday clothes and slipped into their homes. Two of the girls were sent to a State reform school and the other held for a court trial.