

INK SLINGS.

—Early or late some of us will have little Christmas shopping to do. —Vice President Dawes has himself properly indexed. He admitted it in Chicago, Monday night, when he said to the Women's club of that city: "I am an accident."

—Let us hope that the new receivers of the Centre County bank will start in to getting some real goodies to its creditors and leave the deaf nuts to be cracked until there is nothing else to do.

—Up to this time the hunters have been having anything but propitious weather for their stay in the woods, but what's a bit of bad weather to a fellow who has visions of bringing down a buck.

—The fact that the new receivers of the Centre County bank had their first meeting yesterday afternoon, is encouraging. It is assurance that they intend to lose no time in going to the job of unraveling the tangle.

—Show us the person who is claquing about the receivers Judge Dale has named for the Centre County bank and we'll show you the person who hoped to get something out of it or some one who is reflecting his disappointment.

—The Governor's plan for settling the anthracite coal strike was accepted by the miners Union, and rejected by the operators. Why? Because it was all for the Union. In fact quite as much as it hoped to get when the men were called out.

—Among our reasons why we are not out with the deer slayers is the one that if we were to bring down a big buck the weather has turned so warm that he would probably spoil before we could get all our doubting friends around to see him.

—Well, we've heard Paul White-man and his band. Individually we believe them to be artists, but collectively—our candid opinion is that they are an abomination when they devote such talent to interpretation of music absolutely void of either theme or rhythm.

—The sooner all subscriptions are paid in the sooner the hospital will be completed. Don't expect the board of directors to do the impossible. They can't carry the work to completion without funds and those who haven't paid up are the ones who will be responsible for whatever delay there might be.

—The "old guard" of the Republican party has run up the white-flag already. Ever since the Cleveland convention they have been cleaning house of the radical element, but now that Congress is about to convene again they are trying to gather the castaways back into the fold. They'll need them and they know it.

—The Indiana gentleman who writes that he is not in agreement with our Democratic policies, but enjoys the "Watchman," nevertheless, is one of the many who have kept us rainbow chasing for years. Some day, perhaps, we'll convert all of our misguided Republican readers and then we'll elect a Democrat in Pennsylvania.

—Mr. Ralph Beaver Strassburger, the Norristown newspaper man who blighted Pinchot's hopes of going as a delegate from Pennsylvania to the last national Republican convention, is evidently preparing to throw another monkey wrench into the machinery. He denies that he is a candidate for Lieutenant Governor and says that if he runs for anything it will be for United States Senator. To say the least, Mr. Strassburger is ambitious.

—If we should happen to get seven more letters from Democrats of Centre county to add to the eleven we have already received urging us to ask W. Harrison Walker to be a candidate for chairman of our party in the county, we would certainly present the appeals to the gentleman, because we have an awful respect for that seven—come—eleven combination. We've dabbled little in African golf, but enough to make us very hopeful of what might happen were we to get seven more letters and Harrison should decide to put his pepper shaker into general use.

—We hope that December will not be a dull month in Bellefonte. It ought not to be. There isn't a merchant here who can't give you more real value for your money than you can get out of all the catalogues that Sears-Roebuck or any other mail order house may have been sending you. Besides, every merchant in Bellefonte—except for the chain stores—is keeping your taxes down by paying some of them himself. You might get bacon at the — and — a cent or so cheaper than you can get it at the store of the man who is paying the same mercantile tax—and then all the local taxes on his home. You might get "seconds" in hardware, clothing, this, that and the other thing, from catalogue houses a cent or two cheaper than you can get "firsts" from your local merchant, but you pay for it when the tax collector comes around. Aren't we wandering far afield? We started out hoping that December would not be a dull month. We know it won't for those merchants who advertise their wares in the "Watchman." However December may be, we know January and February and, maybe, March are not going to be dull months in Bellefonte for a new burgess will be in the saddle and we're looking for great doin's.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Governor Pinchot Scores.

Governor Pinchot has scored in his effort to end the anthracite coal strike. At least that will be the public view of it, because the miner's organization accepted his plan at once and the operators will eventually acquiesce. The miners get practically all they ask for and the operators are forced into the position of having to cut the coat according to the cloth.

The real sufferers from such disturbances are the consumers of coal and, as the proposition of the Governor specifically forbids any increase in the price, the public will be satisfied. It will take some time to complete the plan of operations but as resumption of work at once is one of the essentials, the necessary delay is unimportant.

The Governor's plan requires concessions on both sides. On one side the miners agree to a five year contract which will guarantee activity of the mines for that period. As an esteemed contemporary states, the miners are "very jealous of their right to strike," and they will have to relinquish that right during the existence of the contract. On the other hand the operators highly prize their prerogatives of increasing the price of their product at frequent intervals and will be obliged to forego that privilege for five years. The demand of the miners that the operators serve as collection agents for organization dues is modified but not abolished. These were the principal causes of quarrel.

The Governor has no legal right to demand the concessions from either side that the plan provides, but he has the right, and it is his duty, to urge any course that will contribute to the public welfare, and the settlement of the labor disputes in the anthracite coal region will certainly accomplish that result. His proposition shows that he has learned in the school of experience, for in this instance he has given the interests of the public the consideration that ought to have been expressed in the settlement of two years ago, which helped the miners and operators at the expense of the consumers and cost the public millions of dollars in the increased price of coal.

—When Mr. Ferguson admitted that he is the real Governor of Texas he was only boasting. Most married men know who is boss in the house.

Lame Argument for Ballot Thieves.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger, which seems to have taken upon itself the office of "spokesman" for the ballot thieves of Philadelphia, continues to protest against an extra session of the Legislature. The expense of such an enterprise appears to the mind of our contemporary as a bugaboo of such vast proportions and forbidding aspect as to cause hysterics. Every ballot thief in the State would probably express the same opinion, if asked, and the more stupid of them might be expected to support their opposition with the same arguments. The present Legislature is opposed to the proposed reforms and corrective efforts should be deferred until a friendly Legislature is chosen.

The expense of an extra session of the Legislature, held for the consideration of ballot reform, couldn't possibly exceed half a million dollars and might be held considerably under that figure. Such legislation as will result in honest elections and fair count of the votes cast in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton and a few other centres of population would be worth ten times that amount to the people of Pennsylvania. It would bring into the public life of the Commonwealth an entirely different type of men and save enough waste in administration to reimburse the treasury in less than five years, besides inspiring confidence in the government and contentment among the people.

The suggestion to wait for a reform Legislature for ballot reform legislation is even more absurd. Until legislation is enacted that will terrorize the ballot thieves of Philadelphia and the other communities in which frauds are practiced there will never be a reform Legislature. The corrupt bosses will continue to control both the primary and general elections in the interest of ballot thieves and for the protection of ballot criminals. The time to begin a crusade against corruption of the ballot is now, and any Senator or Representative in the present General Assembly who resists the progress of the reform will be retired from public life at the next election.

—Vice President Dawes may have some claim to the Nobel peace prize after he has licked the Senate into a peaceful frame of mind.

—The Governor resumed his tour of the State institutions on Monday and added ballot reform to his list of things needed.

Clergy and the World Court.

The great anxiety of leading Republicans, in and out of Congress, to enroll the government of the United States in the World Court is amusing in view of the attitude of the same gentlemen when the ratification of the covenant of the League of Nations was pending in the Senate. We sincerely hope their purposes with respect to the court will be achieved. It is a long stride in the right direction. But the World Court offers only part, and a comparatively small part, of the advantages to Christian civilization which the League of Nations is now rendering in the interests of permanent peace. The World Court is a creature of the League of Nations and necessarily limited in its functions.

On Monday, in New York, five hundred ministers of various denominations held a meeting with many laymen conspicuous in civic affairs, adopted resolutions favoring adherence to the court and appointed a committee to urge the Senate to adopt the proposal of the late President Harding, supported by President Coolidge, on the subject. One of the gentlemen named for this service said "America must become a member of the World Court if we are to save ourselves from the national disgrace of lining up with the dregs of civilization." He probably had in mind the group of nations, Turkey, Russia and Mexico, which are our associates on the outside of the League and with us outside of the court.

But why were these eloquent and enterprising pulpiters "as silent as the grave" when the most important question of entering the League of Nations was pending in the Senate? Was it because the covenant of the League of Nations was sponsored by a Democratic President while the movement to join the World Court was taken up by a Republican President? The only material difference in the propositions is that one is the creature and the other the creator of a magnificent enterprise in the interest of humanity. It is easy to understand the attitude of partisan bigots like the late Senator Lodge, and why they should engage in a fight with Woodrow Wilson, but why should the clergy support his malignant purpose?

—We note that two hundred Chicago grave diggers have gone on a strike. It's a morbid thought, but the people they work for won't do any kicking about it.

Rumors of Pepper's Withdrawal.

Rumors that Senator Pepper will withdraw from the contest for the Republican nomination for Senator persist, notwithstanding his positive declaration to the contrary made in Greensburg a couple of weeks ago. It must be admitted his progress thus far has been anything else than promising. The Mellon influence has been freely given, the corporation support assured and the efficient services of State chairman W. Harry Baker are at his command. But the opposition of powerful elements in the party will not abate and the increasing popularity of Governor Pinchot continues. These are disturbing elements in the equation, both to the candidate and his anxious friends.

The idea of Bill Vare running for Senator in Congress is preposterous, of course, but nevertheless the existing uncertainty on the subject gives the friends of Senator Pepper grave concern. Probably Mr. Vare wouldn't get ten thousand votes outside of Philadelphia, but he would have so many votes counted for him in that city, unless the election laws are changed meantime, as to leave Pepper almost hopelessly in the rear. The only way to keep Vare out of the race is to buy him off, the consideration he demands being assurance that he may name the candidate of the party for Governor. Then there are various other elements of danger impending. In fact his withdrawal would surprise no one.

At this time the face of the Republican political map plainly shows Governor Gifford Pinchot as the Senatorial salient. Of course he will be vigorously opposed by President Coolidge, Secretary Mellon and the corporate interests of the State, which means a vast campaign fund and a forceful sentiment against him. But his achievements as Governor, notably his progressive settlement of the anthracite coal strike, has such an appealing influence on the public mind as might overcome even so formidable an opposition. Then Gifford has a fairly big bar'l of his own and is not niggardly in employing it when his personal interests and political ambitions are concerned.

—Germany has joined the League of Nations but we still have Turkey, Russia and Mexico with us on the outside.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Judge Dale's Wise Action.

Unless we have grossly overestimated its importance Judge Dale's action in appointing three, instead of one receiver, for the Centre County Banking company will very shortly reveal itself as the outstanding accomplishment of his judicial career.

The announcement of his decision was not so much of a surprise. The fact that he did not make an appointment after a day or so of deliberation presupposed that he was impressed with the importance of broadening the control of the settlement of this long drawn out middle.

The ability and the integrity of the gentlemen whom the Court has designated as receivers cannot be impeached. Mr. Ginter is an active and successful banker and in that capacity has been called upon, more than once, to work out just such problems as those that will confront him as a receiver for the defunct bank. Mr. Dale is a man of mature judgment, sound sense and the highest character. He will bring to the work an eye and mind single to the purpose of doing the best possible for the creditors. Little need be said of the Rev. Reed O. Steely. Everybody about here reveres him, but those who don't know wonder that in a minister there should be the amazing business capacity he has revealed since coming to Bellefonte. We can explain that. Before entering the ministry Rev. Steely was connected with the accounting department of one of Pennsylvania's largest corporations and for several years found himself in sole responsibility for an important mercantile establishment in a nearby city.

Any one of the three men would be capable of carrying the work delegated to them to satisfactory conclusion single-handed. Working together they should be able to do it with the utmost dispatch and satisfaction, for they are all what might be called outsiders to the long drawn out controversy. Their vision will not be blurred by the prejudice of professional or personal bitterness, and as a result they should be able to view the matter, as it should have been viewed from the first, as purely a bad mess to be cleaned up as quickly as possible along purely business lines.

There may be those who are criticizing Judge Dale for his failure to comply with the petition of the creditor's committee that only one receiver be appointed. Such persons lose sight of the fact that determination of such matters are wholly prerogatives of the Court. It is presumed that all of the appointees are friends of the Court and, as such, will certainly be more interested in carrying out his mandate creditably to him than any others would be. In appointing friends who offer qualifications commensurate with the duties involved Judge Dale has done exactly what any other public official would have done and he is to be admired all the more for it.

We congratulate the Judge, we congratulate the creditors and if there are no legal inhibitions we will not be a bit surprised if the creditors begin to hear pleasant news very shortly.

—The "Watchman" was misinformed last week as to the completion of the state highway over Nittany mountain. On Monday morning of this week there remained just 243 feet of uncompleted roadway. This represented about two day's work at concrete pouring and the contractors were able to work on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, and by working up to almost midnight, Wednesday night poured the last of the mixture which closed up the gap to the brick-paved portion of the road at the watering trough. Thus the roadbed across the mountain is now complete and while it will take two weeks to dry it out the new highway will be opened about a week before Christmas.

—And now two weather prophets have bobbed up in the northern part of the State who predict an open and mild winter with an unusually early spring, although they admit we will have several deep snows. Let us all hope they know what they are talking about.

—The Grange local organizations are declaring for an extra session of the Legislature for the purpose of ballot reform. It may be added that only the ballot thieves are active on the other side.

—President Hindenburg may have disappointed some old friends by approving the Locarno treaty but he performed a signal service to civilization and gratified millions throughout the world.

—Probably one reason that the school of experience is unpopular is that it doesn't maintain a football team.

It Is Up to the President Now.

From the Philadelphia Record. Organizations representing an aggregate membership of 25,000,000 have begun a drive in behalf of American adherence to the protocol of the Permanent Court of International Justice. Through their headquarters in Washington they are bombarding the Senate with demands that stultifying obstruction be ended, so that the nation may take its proper share in the great agency for the promotion of world peace. This is perhaps the most formidable undertaking of propaganda ever attempted in this country. It is lobbying on a super-scale. But it represents pressure that is justified and necessitated by the facts.

President Coolidge's attitude on the proposal has always been correct. Repeatedly, in messages to Congress and in public addresses, he has urged ratification of the protocol. But his tone has always been judicial. He has been satisfied to offer a calm recital of the familiar and unanswerable arguments; never has he exhibited real enthusiasm or shown a disposition to do anything more than placidly advise. For this reason the Republican Senators have been content to let the matter drift, and the handful of "bitter enders" have been able to prevent action.

Inspired reports now represent the President as being in an aroused mood of resolution. He intends to "force the issue," will not yield an inch to the hectoring of the obstructionists. If these forecasts prove accurate, there will be little need for monster parades and petitions to induce the Senate to act. In this matter the President's advice expresses the overwhelming sentiment of the American people, regardless of party, and a demonstration of downright enthusiasm and insistence on his part would quickly accomplish the result which his languid advocacy hitherto has failed to achieve.

The World Court represents fulfillment of an American tradition, ideal and demand; its constitution has been drafted largely by American jurists; adherence has been urged by Presidents Harding and Coolidge and their Secretaries of State and by every civic organization of consequence in the country. The cause will succeed when the President shows a willingness to fight for it.

Germany Ratifies.

From the Pittsburgh Post. The overwhelming manner in which the German Reichstag recently ratified the Locarno pacts gives a new impetus to the international good will that came with the original agreement of the former enemy nations in Europe to try to forget past differences and strive in union to outlaw war. It had been assumed that the nationalists and communists in the Reichstag would fight ratification, but the opposition was reduced. The result also was safeguarded by the ruling that a two-thirds majority was not necessary. The vote on the bill to permit the government to sign was 300 to 174. The required measure for Germany's entrance into the League of Nations was approved, 278 to 183, and finally the entire Locarno bill was accepted, 191 to 174.

President Hindenburg is entitled to credit for doing well his part for ratification. He lived up to his promise that while he may have been viewed in the campaign as a monarchist or nationalist, he would in his administration know no party, but would be guided wholly by what he considered best for the republic and the peace and honor of the land. He supported the Locarno agreements wholeheartedly while some of those who tried to take credit for his election were against them.

The significance of the German ratification is, of course, clear, since without it the program upon which such high hopes for peace have been raised would have been a failure. Ratification by the other nations signatory to the agreements has been assumed as a certainty. Ratification of the Locarno agreement also made it but a formality that Germany should arrange to enter the League. League membership was one of the essentials to the working of the whole program. With Germany in the association practically the only nations remaining on the outside will be the United States, Turkey, Russia and Mexico.

By Christmas this year the gain of the Locarno agreements ought to have the movement for arms reduction going at a lively rate.

Would Wait for 1927.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. The Governor has not stated whether he intends to call the Legislature to meet in special session. In so far as election reform is concerned it may be just as well to defer the subject until the next regular session in the early part of 1927. The members will be elected next year. There may be better prospect of securing the right kind of action from members elected in a campaign in which reform appears as an issue than from members elected last year. The general impression of the present members as a whole does not inspire confidence in their sincerity as election reformers.

—Senator Borah is too peaceful for this world. He wouldn't fight anybody for anything.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Loukin Sekul, aged 32 years, of McKeesport, died in the McKeesport hospital on Monday afternoon from burns suffered November 25, when he fell into a pot of molten iron in the National Tube company's plant in McKeesport, where he was employed.

—"Fork over the cash," commanded a young man as he aimed a revolver at A. D. Pryor, manager of an Altoona grocery store, last Friday night, while Pryor was tying up an order. The manager gave him \$6 of his own money and then was imprisoned in a back room until the bandit took \$80 from the cash register.

—The State Fish Commission has announced the purchase of 118 acres of land and an enormous spring at Spring Meadow, east St. Clair township, Bedford county, for a site for a new trout hatchery. Negotiations had been pending for many months, with dozens of other sites in other sections of the State clamoring for recognition.

—Lewis A. Myers, 42 years of age, of Flemington, near Lock Haven, was found dead in an outbuilding near his home, at 7 o'clock last Friday night by his wife. Myers had shot himself through the heart with a repeating shotgun. Although despondent since the death of his daughter a year ago, he was apparently in good health.

—Albert Hart, 41 years old, of Williamsport, has his choice of attending the Billy Sunday services every evening for two weeks or serving a jail sentence for committing assault and battery upon his wife while intoxicated. The sentence was imposed upon Hart on Tuesday by Alderman C. B. Allen. Hart will hear the evangelist and will report to an officer at the tabernacle each night.

—Four children of Nathaniel Brownfield, their ages totaling 324 years, were guests on Monday at the flag raising held in connection with the opening of the new million dollar White Swan hotel at Uniontown. They had with them an American flag that 75 years ago was presented to their father, Nathaniel Brownfield, then proprietor of the famous old inn in the same name which for 130 years occupied the site of the hotel.

—Nearly a million fish, worth more than \$60,000, were distributed by the State Fish Commission during October. These included trout, bass, catfish, sunfish, yellow perch, minnows and frogs and ranged in age from four months to more than two years and from an inch to nine inches in size. The largest number of any species sent out was 306,840 sunfish. Many of the trout shipped were from the Bellefonte fish hatchery, at Pleasant Gap.

—James J. Harper, 45 years old, post-office clerk at Pittsburgh for 23 years, was sentenced to one year and one day in the Federal prison at Atlanta, Ga., by Judge R. M. Gibson in United States district court in that city last Friday. Harper pleaded guilty to stealing about 1,500 letters from the mails from September, 1924, to May, 1925. He resigned from the postal employ in May, 1925, and it was not until after his retirement that the thefts were discovered.

—A state policeman and Pennsylvania railroad officer exchanged shots with a burglar at Madera on one o'clock Monday morning. According to a telephone message from Madera some one was discovered in the Pennsylvania station. The police were summoned. They went to the station, found some one there and called to him to come out. Coming from the station the burglar fired at the officers. They responded with a volley. There were no casualties on either side and the burglar got away.

—John H. Elder, aged 42, and Sherman L. Myers, aged 28, both of Altoona, were killed early on Sunday morning when they were struck by a passenger train in the Altoona yards of the Pennsylvania railroad. Elder was a railroad engineer and Myers was a fireman. Both worked on the same engine and they were on their way to work when they were struck. It is believed that they crossed the railroad tracks to avoid walking about two blocks further down the tracks, where they could have crossed on the bridge. There were no witnesses to the accident. Elder was single but Myers was married.

—Obliging thieves who milled back to their victim parts of the loot which they were unable to use, stole several traveling bags from the car of C. W. Corbin, of Huntingdon. Mr. Corbin was formerly a teacher in the Altoona schools but is now at the Pennsylvania Industrial reformatory. He had driven to Philadelphia with his daughter and while he was absent from his motor car, the thieves broke the glass and removed from the machine the traveling bags of the pair. On arrival at his home, Mr. Corbin found some mail awaiting him, which upon opening, proved to be letters which had been in the bags. The thieves, unable to make use of the letters, obligingly returned them to the owner.

—Mrs. M. S. Beebe, 94 years of age, of Pleasantville, Venango county, widow of Manley C. Beebe, once a member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature, attributes her good health and well preserved figure to having drunk no water, except what was contained in foods, since she was thirty years old. The aged woman states that women of today who exist upon drink diets in order to keep their trim figures and believe themselves modern leaders of fashion are more than half a century behind the time. Mrs. Beebe says she was taking on flesh when she decided to abstain from drinking water as a means to prevent it. The nonagenarian will not even use water with medicine. She prefers tea as a diluting fluid or a means to aid her in swallowing her food.

—An error in filling a kerosene lamp with gasoline caused an explosion at the home of G. W. Dunmire, near McVeytown, Saturday night, that totally destroyed the building and painfully burned Mr. and Mrs. Dunmire and their daughter, Mrs. Austin Kerr. The family were sitting about the table reading when the explosion threw burning gasoline over them. Dunmire's clothing aflame, he leaped through the door a living torch and jumped into a spring. Fera, a son, ran a mile in his bare feet to neighbors to telephone for the McVeytown fire department. Mrs. Kerr obtained a ladder and climbed to the second-story, where she saved a bureau drawer filled with valuable papers, the only thing rescued from the flames, which consumed the dwelling. The loss will total \$10,000 partly covered by insurance. Failure of the electric lighting plant was the indirect cause of the fire, forcing the family to use discarded oil lamps for temporary illumination.