

INK SLINGS.

The mild weather of the fore part of the week might have been the January thaw.

The winter wouldn't seem half as hard if the price of coal were only half as high.

The Legislator who sponsors a bill to increase the alcoholic content of beer may be described as a real optimist.

"That Royle Girl" is a very interesting study in Americanization. There is no doubt about that, but our reaction to it is that we had better put another rail on the immigration bars until the "melting pot" has done the work it is trying to do.

Beware of the person who advises you that housing facilities in Bellefonte will gross you fifty dollars a month. Some of them will, but there are nine who want places that will cost from fifteen to thirty to every one who can afford to pay anything more.

Don't take chances on "pet days." Tuesday was one of that kind. We took one and went foolin' around without rubbers or overcoat, just because it looked like spring and right now we have earache, sore throat and all the other penalties one pays for thinking its spring in January.

For more than a year government experts have been experimenting with the hope of developing an anti-knock gasoline. It would be a wonderful find, but not half so wonderful as an anti-knock serum that could be injected into those who crab about every step forward a community tries to take.

Our advice to farmers is to sell their wheat if they can get a dollar eighty for it. It might go to two, but it might slip back to one-sixty. It is our opinion that any good times that may be ahead are already discounted by the boys who are wise enough to get out when they have drawn in enough others to hold the bag.

Pierre Van Passen has given it as his opinion that what is really news is everything of interest gathered from the four points of the compass, the four points of the compass, N. E. W. S., spell news. Quite a sensible deduction, isn't it? Very like that of U. S., the United States, meaning us. In reality both are in the nature of perfect aerostics.

Col. Geo. Nox McCain says that three years of Pinchot government has cost the State fifty-one million dollars more than Gov. Sprull spent in four years. If the Colonel is right in his calculations—and he must be, else he wouldn't dare make such a statement—it might have been cheaper for the tax payers if they had not hired a man to clean up the mess at Harrisburg. That is, cheaper in dollars and cents, but not so in moral satisfaction.

The Curfew ordinance was put in effect again in Bellefonte on Monday night. As was to be expected there has been a lot of criticism, but why? Argument that the home isn't a better place for a boy or girl, after 8.30 at night, than the streets hasn't a leg to stand on. And go deep enough into the motives of the person who criticizes the Curfew and you'll find that he or she has some ulterior reason for keeping the young folks on the streets at night. We haven't an idea that its enforcement will be of long duration. With only two policemen it is a physical impossibility to enforce it to the letter, so that it will eventually be laughed into general disrespect unless an occasional apprehension of a violator is made. One or two caught in a month would prove as effective in enforcement as the addition of a lot of officers to the force, for what youth could feel that he might not be the next to be grabbed.

In reporting the recent meeting of veteran athletes in Philadelphia, Ed Pollock, sports writer, seems to have been awed by the orderly manner in which friend Eugene C. Bonniwell, who presided, had the records in all branches of sports labeled and tucked away in his mental filing cabinet. That the Judge should be up on track-events is no wonder. Ever since we first heard of him he has been at the scratch ready to run in any political race to be started. The Judge is a very clever gentleman. Years ago, when we were in College, George "General" Hoskins came up to State to break the ice as a professional coach. He was then reputed as the "champion amateur wrestler of the Athletic club of the Schuylkill Navy." The "General" was a very impressive personage in the eyes of the several hundred students State then boasted. He was king and the king could say or do no wrong. He knew everything and records rolled off his tongue like water from a duck's back. He was a veritable encyclopaedia of sports facts and became the court of last appeal in every argument as well as the awesome admiration of every boy in college. Then came one George Lintz, from Tacony, who happened to be somewhat of an athlete himself. Lintz and the "General" got into a jam one day and the former dug out the New York World's almanac and with it knocked our idol clear off the pedestal we had built for him. The "General," because he knew we didn't know any better, had been slick enough to make his own dates and records and got away with it until George Lintz became iconoclastic.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 71. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 22, 1926. NO. 4.

Secretary Mellon too Sensitive.

It will strike most observant minds that Secretary Mellon is over sensitive in the matter of his nephew's activity in politics. In an interview given at Washington, on Saturday, Governor Pinchot stated "W. L. Mellon, nephew of the Secretary of the Treasury, was interfering with his dry programme at Harrisburg, by influencing Allegheny county Legislators against it." This statement is said to have aroused the indignation of the Secretary of the Treasury to a surprising degree. "W. L. Mellon," he said, "is a private citizen engaged in business in Pittsburgh. He is attending to his business there and I am attending to my public duties here. Just because he is the nephew of the Secretary of the Treasury is no reason for exploiting him in this connection."

Mr. W. L. Mellon may be attending to his business in Pittsburgh but it is certain that part of the business he is attending to is politics. Within the last three or four years every important political movement in Pittsburgh has been directed by him, and it is widely known that most of the legislation enacted within the same period of time in Pennsylvania has been approved by him or passed in spite of his opposition. It is well known that he exercises a large influence in selecting the candidates of his party in the State and exerts practical control in Pittsburgh and Allegheny county. Recently Congressman Vare traveled from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh to enlist him in the opposition to Senator Pepper and in the organization of the special session, only the other day, he compelled Chairman Baker to acquiesce in his choice for an important chairmanship.

These facts are notorious. They afford no perceptible reason for complaint against Mr. Mellon, however. He has an inherent right to preferences as between candidates and party policies and to express them. As a matter of fact it is rather creditable to influential business men to take an interest in politics if the effect is for the public good. But any citizen has an equal right to differ with business men as well as professional politicians and express their differences. It has been a common rumor in Harrisburg and throughout the State that Mr. Mellon has been opposing prohibition enforcement legislation. Governor Pinchot is greatly concerned in that sort of legislation and his public reference to a current impression can hardly be called a crime.

Senator Capper says the farmers "don't want subsidies." He might have added that if tariff tax discriminations were abolished the farmer would be able to depend upon his own resources and prosper.

A Suspicious Movement.

If the purpose of the State in fixing the date of final adjournment of the special session as Thursday, February 18th, is to enforce industry and assiduity to tasks before them it is commendable. If, on the other hand, it is to stifle legislation or prevent proper consideration of the measures before the Legislators, it is correspondingly reprehensible. Under the call of the Governor there are eight subjects of legislation for consideration. It might be possible to maturely consider and intelligently act upon all these subjects within that period of time. But it is quite possible to prevent the passage of any of them within that time.

It is clearly apparent that a considerable number of the Republican leaders of the State are ready and willing to adopt any course that will defeat the Governor's purpose to procure reform legislation that will guarantee fair elections and just returns of the votes cast. It is not improbable that the same leaders are anxious to defeat legislation on most of the other subjects expressed in the Governor's call. Even the question of tolls on the Delaware river bridge is developing opposition and it is certain that the legislation which would help the Governor to end the coal strike is dangerous to the machine. To openly oppose such measures would be disastrous but they might be stifled.

It is desirable that the General Assembly shall proceed as diligently as possible with the business before it and adjourn as soon as the work is finished. But early adjournment is not sufficiently desirable to justify the defeat of pending legislation. The saving in expense by curtailing the session a few days is comparatively trifling. The salaries of Senators and Representatives will be the same, whether the session lasts one month or six, and the wages of employees is not a great sum even if the time of service is prolonged another month. It is possible, of course, that the best intentions of the party leaders is expressed in tying up to a brief session, but a Missourian might have doubts.

Conspiracy of Curious Elements.

Our highly esteemed and invariably interesting friend, Colonel George Nox McCain, has discovered another mare's nest. By processes of deduction, elimination, analysis or whatever other methods the professional sleuths employ, he has arrived at the monstrous conclusion that Gifford Pinchot, Joseph Grundy and Bill Vare have entered into a criminal conspiracy to prevent the re-election of George Wharton Pepper to the office of Senator in Congress. Obviously it was a painful subject for his consideration. The very idea of opposing George Wharton is sinful, and deliberately organizing to defeat him is atrocious beyond measure in the estimation of Colonel George Nox.

The head and front of this conspiracy is malice. Mr. Grundy, for some unexplained reason, has a personal enmity against Senator Pepper. Congressman Vare, for reasons which may be conjectured, has organized in his mind an intense hatred of Senator Pepper. Governor Pinchot may have neither enmity nor hatred toward Pepper, but he has a large-sized ambition to wear the toga which now adorns the Pepper shoulders, and that is substantially as bad. It is true that Vare doesn't like Pinchot and Grundy is not enamored of Vare and that neither of them is partial to the other. But opposition to Pepper is a common sentiment which might bring them together and thus compass the defeat of the Senator.

Outside of the cranium of Colonel George Nox McCain and the sanctum sanctorum of the esteemed Philadelphia Public Ledger there is not a great deal of interest in the political ambitions or public service of Mr. George Wharton Pepper. He doesn't seem to represent anybody in the State except the corporations and they are pretty well taken care of in Congress. Soon after he was appointed to the office of Senator he made an effort to gain the affections of the organization in Philadelphia. He offered to "spit in the eye of a bull dog" and do other stunts that would commend him to the rough-necks. But his efforts miscarried and if he fails of re-election there will be little popular grief.

Senator Stites, of Montgomery county, was a strong Pinchot supporter during the last two sessions. He has joined the opposition. Montgomery is a machine controlled county. Mr. Stites aspires to re-election. A plain cause of "cause and effect."

Abolish the Commission.

If the present disgraceful squabble in or concerning the Public Service Commission should result in the abolishment of that body the result might compensate for the shame it has caused. From the beginning the Public Service Commission has been a cruel instrument in the service of corporate greed to loot the public. For a time, in the person of the late John S. Rilling, the people had a champion on the board. But though he was vigilant and courageous in his efforts he was helpless for the reason that he was alone. All the other members of the board seem to have been under the influence of the corporations.

As Governor Pinchot declared in his criticism of the action of the board last summer, when it gave the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company authority to increase rates while the question was under investigation, the Public Service Commission was created to protect the interest of the public against the predatory purposes of corporations. As a matter of fact it has never even attempted to fulfill that obligation. No matter how preposterous a corporate injustice might be the decision of the board has been given in its favor. So far as our information goes not a single complaint of the public against corporate greed has been allowed.

It is barely possible that the Governor has blundered in his treatment of the present trouble. The Supreme court has nullified one of his acts in the matter and that tribunal has the last word in such disputes. But when we recall the late Senator Quay's statement of the processes of selecting Supreme court judges there is excuse for a doubt. But there can be no doubt of the subserviency of the Public Service Commission to corporate power. It has been revealed a hundred times within twenty years in decisions in which just complaints have been turned down and corporate greed not only sanctioned but encouraged.

The meager opposition to the World Court may keep the United States out for a few weeks but not much longer. By the same token the bitter-enders may keep this country out of the League of Nations for a few years but not much longer.

Secretary Hoover Making Trouble.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce in the Coolidge administration and a good deal of a Poo Bah in the government at Washington, is likely to talk himself out of a good job. In a recent comment upon the subject of foreign trade he is alleged to have said that "our industries have the ability to maintain their export trade in competition with other countries." This is rank heresy from the Coolidge standpoint. If our industries are able to maintain their export trade what reason under heaven is there for taxing our people to the verge of poverty in order to enable our industries to maintain the home market? If we can compete where carrying costs are added why not at home?

Mr. Hoover is a very versatile gentleman and exceedingly fond of talking. He has shown a perfect willingness to give advice to all his colleagues in the Cabinet on any subject. Why, therefore, should he withhold from the administration as well as the public his theory that our industries are able to meet competition abroad and not at home if he entertains such a theory, while the government is permitted to take from the consumers of the country four or five billions of dollars annually to be handed over to the owners of our industrial plants as bonuses. The President declared in his message to Congress at the opening of the session that taxation for other than revenue is larceny.

Everybody knows that tariff taxation is not for the purpose of producing revenue. The proponents of protective tariff legislation claim that it protects labor, a vicious fiction that has deceived thousands of men and women in the past. Recent experience in New England, where the highest protected industries have paid the lowest wages, have refuted this claim so completely that no one is now deceived. The only effect of it is to increase the profits of the employers of labor, and that is the purpose for which it is maintained. Such statements as that attributed to Mr. Secretary Hoover are likely to expose the fraud upon the public more fully and give serious trouble to Mr. Coolidge.

There is an old Pennsylvania German saw that if the fifteenth of January finds no ice it will make it, and if it finds ice it will break it, which is equivalent to meaning that the backbone of the winter will be broken and an early spring will follow. Everybody will recall that last Friday morning was cold and crisp and ice abounded everywhere. During the day it warmed up and the ice began to melt. During the week practically all the ice and snow have gone from the fields and mountains and the ice has even gone out of the streams. Whether this is the breaking of the backbone of the winter we cannot say, but it is at least a respite from zero weather. Of course we will have more snow and more cold weather, but we are nearing the first of February and it is almost a certainty that the most of the winter is behind us.

Last Saturday night a Burns detective passed through here with F. P. Michaels in his custody. He was on his way to Lock Haven where Michaels was wanted for skipping three bail bonds aggregating \$10,000. William Weber, of Howard, was the bondsman who stood to lose the entire sum had not Michaels been picked up in Pittsburgh by the detective. He was under indictment in Clinton county for false pretense and fraudulent conversion. Michaels is well known in Centre county. He lived at the Bush house for a long time while selling bonds and stock here.

The January thaw came along on Monday when the temperature rose to above fifty and considerable rain fell. Most of the snow fall of two weeks ago was taken away and the ice went out of the Bald Eagle creek on Monday night. Spring creek carried an eighteen inch flood, but not enough of water to do any damage anywhere. Of course we are sure to have more snow and cold weather, but even a few days respite were welcome.

If Monday night's proceedings in the General Assembly are to be taken as "a sample," the machine leaders have a queer notion of courtesy.

As between Benn and Scattergood the Governor backs Scattergood. Of course it is a matter of choice between Philadelphians.

Senators Blease and Borah may convert a majority of their colleagues to the views of the Vice President on the rules question.

Lighthouses of the Air.

Thanks to the remarkable clearness of the air one night recently, a pilot of the United States air mail service was able at all times throughout his flight from Hadley Field, N. J., to Bellefonte to see a revolving beacon at Philadelphia. His report of the matter naturally attracted attention; but it is suspected that the time is rapidly approaching when it will be no uncommon thing for aviators to perceive lights for an even greater distance. Indeed some beacons have already been set up in various parts of the world that can be observed from points hundreds of miles away.

The French have erected, for example, a lighthouse for aviators on a hilltop near Dijon, 2,000 feet above sea level, which it is reported can be espied from the air, under the most favorable atmospheric conditions, at points as far south as Marseilles and as far north as Brussels. It is a lamp of one billion candle power and is the largest in the world. Some conception of its power can, perhaps, be formed when it is known that a 5,000,000 candle power lamp sheds an effulgence almost sufficient to allow a baseball game to be played at night on a field on which it has been set up.

Our largest lamps are half-billion candle power affairs. We have five of them on the division landing field of the air mail service at Chicago, Iowa City, Omaha, North Platte and Cheyenne. Between them, at 25-mile intervals, are 5,000,000 candle power beacons, marking emergency landing fields, and between them, at three-mile intervals, are small blinking lights pointing out the route to the nocturnal flyers. East of Chicago the course of the flyer is indicated by beacons of the Western emergency landing field type, set from twelve to seventeen miles apart. It was one of these that the aviator had in sight during his flight from New Jersey to Bellefonte. At one time he saw twelve of them. On hills and ridges, between the beacons, are lamps which emit broad, constant beams, and at shorter intervals are the small blinking lights.

In view of the progress that is being made by illuminating engineers it is probable that all of our lamps used to guide aviators and sailors at night will become obsolete in a few years. The history of the advance that has been made in illumination is epitomized in the story of the lighthouse at Cape Henry, at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, which was set up in 1792 and was the first to be erected by the United States as an independent government. At the outset it burned fish oil; in 1810 sperm whale oil was substituted; then came rapeseed or colza oil; then lard oil; then kerosene; then in 1910, vaporized kerosene, with an incandescent mantle and finally, in 1922, an electric incandescent lamp.

In the more or less remote future we shall probably have cold light, much more economical than the kind we have now because all of the energy in the lamp will go into light and none into the production of heat. We can imagine our great-grandchildren sailing about in their flying machines at night as nonchalantly as the youths of today drive their motor cars. Lamps of varying degrees of power, and with light of different colors to signify different things, will lie spread out before them for many miles. They will plot their course from the lighthouses of the air more readily than sailors can navigate by stars.

Couzens Deals With High Figures.

Two years' work by the Couzens Senate Committee brings a mass of charges against the Bureau of Internal Revenue which spokesmen for that branch of the Government should hasten to explain. On their face they indicate to say the least, a looseness of administration which must shock such an advocate of economy as President Coolidge. That Couzens is a Senator unfriendly to the head of the Treasury will not be accepted as a sufficient answer to the charges. Favoritism in the execution of the revenue law, incompetency, "leaks" mounting high into the millions—these are accusations not to be dismissed offhand. The public which pays the taxes has a right to know that this important bureau is administered efficiently and honestly. The answer to the Couzens report, whatever the answer is, should not be delayed.

Congress Friendly to the Farmers.

The farmers at Washington can't decide on what they want. Congress is in a mood to give them about anything they ask for; yet they can't get together on a program. The public of the cities was never more friendly to the farmers than it is today. If agriculture can agree on a program and select leaders and spokesmen who are not altogether discredited, the prospect for thoroughgoing measures of relief is bright.

It will be hard to believe that President Coolidge sincerely desires economy so long as he favors spending six or eight million dollars for a dirigible air ship.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

When Thomas J. Dunlap, 68, of Ligonier, stepped from the cab of the Ligonier Express recently he completed a period of 46 years' service in the employ of the Ligonier Valley Railroad company.

John Skovronsky, convicted of attempt to rob a Millville (Pa.) bank, was sentenced at Bloomsburg, on Monday, to four and a half to nine year in the eastern penitentiary after he withdrew his motion for a new trial.

Albert L. Sayers, aged 30, driver of a truck of the Lock Haven Chair corporation, sustained a broken neck on Monday when he was jammed between the truck and the company's building. His body was found several hours later.

Seventeen members of Uniontown's police force have signed the pledge to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors. Three did not sign. Each officer who signed was made an honorary member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The plant of the Dilltown Smokeless Coal Company, at Dilltown, Indiana county, consisting of a mine, equipment and 1,378 acres of high grade coal, has been sold to the Cosgrove-Meehan Coal corporation, of Johnsonville, the price being about \$575,000.

Dr. W. B. D. Ainey, chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission, is in Johns Hopkins hospital, at Baltimore, Md., for treatment for an illness, the nature of which the hospital authorities declined to discuss. Dr. Ainey entered Johns Hopkins hospital January 14.

Another big gas strike has been made in Greene county, the Natural Gas company of West Virginia, bringing in a five million foot producer on the H. M. Stewart farm, near Oak Forest. It is the first strike to be made in the Oak Forest district in recent years and will cause a revival of operations in that section.

Sergeant Philip L. Tulley, recruiting officer at New Castle for the United States marine corps, was fatally wounded while in bed in a rooming house. A woman, giving the name of Dora Tucker, 33, fired a bullet into her breast after shooting Tulley. The sergeant died shortly after reaching a hospital.

As A. D. Cozad sat reading the Sunday paper in his home at Mercer, on Sunday, he heard music coming from the kitchen stove. It was part of a program broadcast from a Pittsburgh radio station. He called in his neighbors and radio fans, who said the smoke from the stove had acted apparently as a conductor of the radio waves.

The Slatington post office sought shelter in a pool room last Friday, driven out of its building by a fire. A blaze started in the meeting room of the Klux Klux Klan on the third floor and burned through to offices on the second floor. The firemen poured water into the building to save the mails. They were carried to the nearby available place. The loss amounted to \$40,000, fully covered insurance.

General Charles Miller, 83 years old, of Franklin, one time head of the Pennsylvania National Guard and noted throughout the country as a wealthy oil man, will fight the charges of his wife, Emma Miller, who seeks a divorce and alimony on the ground of alleged infidelity. In her libel in divorce filed in Franklin, Nov. 30, Mrs. Miller charged one specific act of unfaithfulness last May in New York city, naming one Alice McCormack as co-respondent.

Constable Marvin C. Burkholder, of Juniata, after ten jurors had been selected to try him, pleaded guilty to second degree murder in Blair county court last Thursday, and was sentenced by Judge Thomas J. Baldrige to serve from six and one half to thirteen years in the penitentiary. He admitted he shot and killed Bernard Gephart, 18, of Juniata, on October 27, when Gephart failed to stop his automobile in response to a signal from Burkholder.

Mrs. Mollie LaRue, 36 years old, was held for court Thursday night by Justice of Peace Edward R. Patterson of Waynesburg, on the charge of felonious shooting with intent to kill. Her husband, Homer LaRue, is in the Waynesburg hospital with four bullet wounds in his legs. Mrs. LaRue had been separated from her husband and decided to go back and live with him. LaRue objected. The shooting followed. Mrs. LaRue is in the Greene county jail awaiting the action of the March grand jury.

Denying that she gave her husband a steady diet of kidney beans and potatoes, Mrs. Olive S. Gearing, defending herself against divorce, told a jury in common pleas court at Philadelphia, on Monday that she fed her husband on English mutton chops, porterhouse steak, artichokes, to say nothing of allegator peas in January and strawberries in February. Her husband, Lieut. Commander Henry C. Gearing, Jr., stationed at the Philadelphia navy yard, charges his wife with barbarous and cruel treatment.

Earl G. Caldwell, Negro, former employe of the Exchange National Bank, of Pittsburg, hasn't had much luck. He tried to rob a church bank in St. Louis, and served time for that. Then while he was a mail truck driver he tried robbing the mails, and went to Atlanta for that. He was sentenced to serve four years in Atlanta prison on Friday for robbing the Exchange bank. Sentence was pronounced by Judge F. P. Schoonmaker in Federal court. Caldwell was convicted last November of stealing a little more than \$6,000 from a small safe in the Exchange National Bank, of which he was watchman. A large part of the money was in \$1 bills.

Charles P. Lukens, defaulting assistant cashier of the Parkesburg, Pa., National bank, was sentenced to 18 months in the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., and fined \$1,000 by United States district Judge Thompson in the eastern district federal court on Monday. Last week Lukens appeared as the government's chief witness against Alexander H. McAdams, New York broker, with whom he and Albert C. Hamill, were indicted for the misapplication of about \$125,000 of the bank's funds. Lukens' sentence was postponed to enable him to appear against McAdams. The jury in the latter's trial, unable to agree, were discharged and he will go on trial again March 1. Both Lukens and Hamill pleaded guilty last April. Hamill served less than 10 months of a 16 months sentence at Atlanta, and was paroled last October. The Parkesburg bank closed its doors in September, 1924, and an investigation by National bank examiners and others revealed, it was testified, a shortage of between \$125,000 and \$150,000.