Democratic Watchman.

INK SLINGS.

-Garden seeds will soon be appearing in the store windows.

-The bankers in session at Harrisburg, the other day, assured us we are enjoying "unprecedented prosperity." Thanks for this information.

-The calendar tells that in twentythree days spring will be here. Lets hope that the calendar does better by way of making good than the groundhog did.

-If there were no jobs and other perquisites to be handed out there would be no machines in politics and the really fit man would then be elected to office.

----It looks as if Vare really intends to run for Senator. He has already promised his seat in the House to another fellow, according to newspaper gossip.

-The Patriotic Sons of America, of Dauphin county, in session on Washington's birthday, adopted resolutions condemning Legislators for killing the ballot reform legislation.

-Some day we're going to turn the pile of "unfinished business" on our desk up-side-down and then two specially facetious readers-one in Colorado, the other in Maryland-are going to have an entire column devoted to them.

-The new bird is a starling. Joe Undercoffer, Tom Lamb and George Brown are nature fakirs. They were only trying to scare us when they declared it to be the "cow-bird". Anything alar, with cow attached to its name strikes terror to us.

-Only a few weeks ago new Mayors and Burgesses all over the State were in the spot-light because of the general reformations in municipal conduct they promised. Today we hear little or nothing of them. Have they made good or are they back trackin?

-This matter of worriment about getting Bellefonte "on the map" would be taken more seriously by a lot of us if it wasn't invariably the disease of someone who only located here because Bellefonte is on the map and was put there, long ago, by her unselfish men and women.

-Just wait until the next Congress of the D. A. R. When the ladies get into session they'll put a stop to this unseemly scramble of the "wets" and "drys" to raise the ghost of George Washington at the head of their armies. Their's is the right to see that George reposes in peace and we'll bet they'll resolute with many whereases and therefor be it resolveds just as soon as they convene in Washington.



BELLEFONTE, PA., FEBRUARY 26, 1926.

Woodward Bill Wisely Vetoed.

Governor Pinchot has wisely vetoed the emasculated Woodward bill, the only ballot measure passed by the session. It had been previously repudiated by its author and justly condemned by all sincere supporters of ballot reform. Under existing law resident in the district, alleging fraud. Under that provision judges who favor honest elections would be likely to order the opening of boxes. The "shall" for "may." It meant an improvement. But it was amended by alleged fraud were not shown the complainant would be penalized. The Woodward bill was a substitute

for a measure recommended by the committee of Seventy-six which provided that the petitioners might be residents of other voting precincts influenced to its recommendation because in the election districts in which the evil prevails the party machine terrorizes voters to such an extent that they are afraid to complain. But the Woodward bill was an improvement on the present law and in its original form was accepted by the reformers. But with the amendment of ballot box stuffers. For that reason the machine managers gave it eager and earnest support. They have even agreed to reward Stites.

Under existing law an election board may withhold the announcement of the result of an election and the return of the ballot boxes indefinitely. In the event of a petition to open a ballot box the board has ample time to secretly open the box and correct the fault complained of and the petipolution. In vetoing it Governor Pin-

-Mrs. John O. Miller is on the Governor it will be a high and im- the fight.

One Issue Clearly Defined. One of the important issues of the impending campaign in Pennsylvania is so clearly defined that it will not be General Assembly during the extra necessary to write it into the platform of either party. The extra session of tration has been employing every the Legislature fixed it indellibly. The Republican party has declared positively and unequivocally in favor of judges "may" order the opening of ballot pollution. The committee of ballot boxes on petition of five voters Seventy-six, a group of men and Democratic Senators having dispaired women of high character, uninfluenced of forcing a Senatorial inquiry now by partisan considerations, unanimously recommended a series of ballot laws which would have made Woodward bill substituted the word fraudulent voting hazardous if not impossible and the Republican organization deliberately killed every one order of the machine, so that if the of them. That was a willful, wicked ceeding, of course, just as they opand wanton declaration in favor of ballot frauds.

For many years the Republican organization has maintained political control of Pennsylvania by fraudulent votes and false returns of the elections. This evil had become so flagrant within the county. The committee was that thousands of honest men and women of that party faith have become disgusted and asked for correction. But the leaders of the party, in their zeal for plunder, forced a servile Legislature to defeat every measure that promised reform. They realize that an honest vote and correct return will drive them out of power and possibly send them into prisons. Senator Stites, it became a shelter for The defeat of honest ballot legislation is a confession of weakness. They see the "hand writing on the wall" and tremble for the consequence.

In the campaign soon to begin one of the dominant issues will be fair or vised that will succeed. fraudulent elections. The Republican believe that frauds in voting and false

Exposure of the Aluminum Trust Coming. Recent incidents justify the hope that the iniquities of the aluminum

trust will be revealed. The adminisavailable expedient to shield this monopoly from exposure. But appearances indicate that its defensive resources are about exhausted. The propose to ask the President to employ special counsel, as was done in the Teapot Dome scandal, "to take such action, civil or criminal, as the facts might warrant." The administration Senators will oppose such proposed an investigation of the monopoly. But it is believed a majority of the Senators will adopt it.

The aluminum trust, the most dangerous monopoly of all, has been operating from the beginning under the protection of the administration. The leading figure in the combination is Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury. For more than five years, in fact ever since the beginning of the Harding administration, it has been robbing the people by excessive charges on aluminum ware which has come to be a domestic necessity. For more than three years strenuous efforts have been in progress to check its plundering processes. But the administration has been able to defeat every measure proposed to expose its methods or check its operations. It is hoped now that a plan has been de-

The opposition of the administration managers realize that thousands of to the plan has already been indicated. voters who cherish the principles Senator Cummins, chairman of the which influenced Lincoln to accept the Judiciary committee, protests that "it political philosophy he adopted will would be usurping the functions of vote against their candidates. But they the executive department of the govthe fault complained of and the peti-tioners may then be prosecuted for perjury. The Stites amendment, there-fore, becomes a most ingenious scheme to protect fraud and encourage ballot returns of the vote will compensate for such losses. It is a sinister hope based on criminal impulses. But the challenge has been issued and the returns of the vote will compensate for such losses are sinister hope based on criminal impulses. But the challenge has been issued and the returns of the vote will compensate such proportions that it could no longer be concealed the Senate not challenge has been issued and the returns of the vote will compensate such proportions that it could no longer be concealed the Senate not challenge has been the majority of the Legisla-ture virtually ignored the election re-form measures simply because Pin-chot advocated them they were deal-chot advocated them they may not at the Governor but of the compensate will account the super of compensate will account the super of compensate will account the super of the compensate compensate will account the super of the super of compensate will account the super of the super of the super of compensate will be account the super of the super of the super of compensate will be account the super of the ernment." Even if that is true there Democrats will accept the guage of only directed but ordered the Presi- ing a blow not at the Governor but at throwing more than 300 miners out of chot has courageously performed a battle. The Democratic party has dent to take precisely the same course. valuable public service. If the Repub- done all it could to correct the great- Harry Daugherty was at the head of valuable public service. If the Repub-lican machine rewards Senator Stites with the nomination for Lientenant Governor it will be a high and im-the fight. Harry Daugherty was at the head of the Department of Justice then and was discredited because of his venal-ity. The present Attorney General had been censured for not aiding such propositions when they were be-fore the regular sessions timed with his administration. They were not

An Indefensible Session. From the Pittsburgh Post.

The lack of results of the special meeting of the Legislature from the standpoint of public interest leaves the session itself in an indefensible position.

It is true that Governor Pinchot was unable to convince the public of the necessity of a special session, which is supposed to be summoned only to meet emergencies, and that the personal politics of the Executive cropped out at times in an offensive manner.

It is true that the Republican state organization played ruthless politics in connection with the session, acting at times as if it were more disposed to favor bootleggers and election crooks than to serve the public.

But the unwisdom and shortcomings of neither Pinchot nor the Republican state organization afford an excuse for dereliction on the part of the Legislature.

The Legislature is supposed to have some standing, independence and responsibility in its own right. It is supposed itself to know something about the conditions of the State and to have some regard for the public interest.

With the session called, whether it was generally deemed necessary or not, it was the duty of the members of the Assembly to make the best of the situation in the interest of the public. The legislators knew that frauds mark every election in the State and that legal procedure against those engaged in such treasonable crimes was difficult. Irrespective of how they stood in principle on the subject of prohibition, they could not be expected to be indifferent to such phases of bootlegging as manufacturing and selling poison as a beverage. Regardless of their attitude toward Pinchot or toward the Republican state organization, their regard for the public should have been such as to cause them to keep the public interest constantly above their factional

the very heart of the American system of government. Pinchot himself had been censured for not aiding

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Two big snowstorms and a blizzard are still in prospect for the season, James B. Yeager, of Hazleton, weather prophet, said yesterday.

-Thieves broke into the Hallowell garage on the Bethlehem pike, near Ambler, for the third time last night and stole tires and automobile accessories valued at \$2,500.

-Resdents of Raubsville, a suburb of Easton, are eating and sleeping with guns at their sides as a result of an epidemic of petty thievery in the community. The thieves take vegetables, chickens and horses.

-Contracts on the Delaware River bridge totaling \$1,250,000 were approved yesterday following the authorization by the Joint Commission of drawing up a tolls agreement between New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

-While a driver of a coal wagon was in the office of his company in Lancaster obtaining the necessary delivery papers for his load, a thief backed another auto truck up to the loaded machine and removed the entire load.

-Trolley and motor traffic over Freeport road between Springdale and New Kensington was interrupted by slides of tons of earth and boulders which were loosened by recent thaws. Traffic on the Pennsylvania Railroad was not delayed.

-Charged by the father of his bride of two days with falsifying her age by swearing that she was 18 when in reality she was 16, Arthur Buttle, 23, of Chester, was arrested by police and returned to Garrett county, Mr., where the license was obtained.

-One thousand dollars in awards and ertificates, donated by Edward Bok, was given to relatives of two Philadelphia policemen, a third member of the force and two firemen for deeds of herosim during the year. The awards are given annually.

-Nelson Stackhouse, restaurant proprietor at Phoenixville, and Thomas Ettinger, clerk, were held under \$600 bail each on charges of conducting a disorderly place, following the finding in the restaurant of two intoxicated girls, one of whom was 15 years old.

-The February term of Montour county court scheduled for Monday, was called off because of the illness of Judge Evans, giving an entire year without a jury trial. Two previous terms were called off because of lack of cases but this term there were three, two criminal and one civil, for trial.

-Because of his critical illness with Bright's disease, David D. Coleman, former justice of the peace of Juniata, was released from the Blair county jail last Thursday, one week before he served his sentence of forty-five days for malfeasance in office. He refused to eat or take medicine

-Availing itself of the "efficiency operation" clause contained in the new agreement with the miners, the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company, of Wilkes-Barre, closed the No. 4 shaft of the big Loree Colliery, declaring it unproductive and work.

-The Gazette and Bulletin, Williamsport's morning newspaper, changed hands last Saturday, when interests headed by Albert W. Fell, general manager of the Pennsylvania Publishers' association bought the property outright. Control as provided by the ownership of over 80 per cent. of the capital stock is vested in Mr. Fell, -Overcome while they slept, by gas escaping from a stove and a light, Jas. M. Dautrich, 58, and his wife, 55, were found dead in a room at the hotel of James Janorski, in Reading, on Sunday. Discovery of the tragedy was made by a daughter of the proprietor, who passed the room and smelled gas. A large four burner light in the center of the room was turned on full but unlighted. -Paralyzed for months after his neck was broken in a bathing accident at Narragansett, R. I., last summer, Rody P. Marshall, Jr., 16-year-old son of a prominent Pittsburgh attorney, has regained a slight use of his fingers and physicians are holding out hopes for his recovery. Physicians said the boy's ability to use Throughout, the session did not sit his fingers indicated there was a regeneration of the injured spinal cord. -The measles epidenic which has been steadily increasing at Shamokin, on Tuesday reached its highest point when seventy-six children were reported ill with the disease, according to the health authorities. The total number of afflictions since January 1 is over 225. Many classes in the public and parochial schools are depleted and in some families as high as six children are down with the disease. -According to report, the contract for the new State road on Route 29, on the Mifflin county side of the Seven Mountains. has been awarded to the Lod Contracting company, and it is said the work will be started as soon as the weather permits. The project will make work plenty in that section during the summer, as the job is a big one and will require a large number of men and a big quantity of material. -Worry caused by the fact that he would have to sentence two men who had been friends of long standing, is believed to have caused the death of Judge John Faber Miller, of the Montgomery county courts, in his home near Norristown on Friday night. Judge Miller was 61 years old. The two men to have been sentenced by Judge Miller on Saturday are J. Truman Miller and Walter R. Mover. officials of the Norristown Penn Trust company, for their peculations from that institution. -Four days after their marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Searfoss, of Port Allegheny, are in a critical condition as the reof temporary insanity suffered by the shot and dangerously wounded his 19-yearold bride, shot himself twice and then drove to the Port Allegheny hospital. The Searfoss first shot his wife and she dropped from the car. Then he turned the gun -The Philadelphia Public Ledger on himself, inflicting two serious wounds declares it will oppose Mr. Pinchot and then drove his car to the hospital. A passing motorist picked up the injured woman a few minutes later and took her to the hospital. Searfoss says he does not The just and unpust walked in to tour the State in his canvass for the bridge and there was one vote on its and admits suffering from a mental ailment for some time.

stump again. This time, she says she is out to urge the League of Women | feat his election. voters to "get out the vote" in order to rout the gang. Isn't Mrs. Miller just the best little applesauce peddler in Pennsylvania. What she is really trying to do is get out the vote to keep the gang in. It will name the candidates of the Republican party and it will control them after the Mrs. Millers of Pennsylvania have elected them-and she knows that far better than we do.

-The Republican party made Pinchot Governor of Pennsylvania. Its Governor called the special session of convention was necessary or not is imlion dollars and simply because the ny with the Governor the Republican was frittered away without a single constructive enactment toward law enforcement as applied to the poisoned been present and menacing from start rum traffic or corruption of elections: Isn't it time that those Republicans who are honest, christian men lay aside the narrow partisanship, that drives them into party lines at election time, long enough to purge their party of little men and make it something that away down in their hearts monwealth but neither is authorized they don't feel like having to apologize for.

-After we get through reading all in response to our inquiry for information as to the unidentified bird we think our alma mater would be justified in decorating us with the degree of Doctor of Onithology. They've written from California, Maine and Florida and one whom we had always regarded as a friend sat down at his desk in Wilmington. Delaware, and crushed us with the following: "Anyone as familiar with 'chippies' as you once were, and who has looked over as many 'chickens' as I know you have becomes a pathetic figure to me when he has to ask someone else to introduce him to a new bird." Isn't it awful, the mess we've gotten into. Even the family cat brought a starling in and laid it at our feet on Sunday morning. We mention this latter fact because of the pleasure we have derived from the discovery that the papers we find spread over the freshly mopped kitchen linoleum are not put there to protect it from the smudges of our sloshy foot wear. They are there for the erudition of the cat. And the Sunday morning episode has convinced us that the cat is reading the Watchman else, why would it have started out to catch a starling just after intently eyeing one of those papers on the floor.

perative duty of the electorate to de-

-Senator Pepper is now in favor of branch banks but the Senator is likely to be for anything from this tration wanted to give. time until the primary election.

A Growing and Menacing Evil.

There is one evil, probably of recent origin but of increasing proportions, Barr, of Pittsburgh, not only refuted

both in Washington and Harrisburg, that presents a menacing aspect. It is the encroachments of one branch of expenses of the Pinchot and Sproul the government upon the prerogatives administrations but proved that the the Legislature. Whether the special of others. Both the federal and State Republican machine has been wickedly governments are based upon the perverting records of the government have to figure closely to meet the material. The fact remains that it theory of three separate and inde- in order to discredit Governor Pinchot cost the tax payers nearly half a mil- pendent departments. Of late years in the public mind. Auditor General there have been maintained a constant | Martin reported to the Legislature Legislature that the Republican party and some times a threatening conflict that within three years the Pinchot has given the State was out of harmo- between the executive and legislative administration had cost the public departments of the governments at \$54,000,000 more than the four years party has given the State the time Washington and Harrisburg. During of Governor Sproul's term. Senator the recent extraordinary session of Barr shows that the excess was used the General Assembly this conflict has in paying debts of the Sproul term. to finish.

The constitution of the United claims against the State amounting to States and the constitution of Pennsylvania alike authorize the President | Legislature of 1923 increased the apand the Governor to give Congress or the General Assembly information of poses to an amount in excess of \$24,the state of the Union or the Com- 000,000. The Sproul debt and inor expected to draft legislation or sum greater than the increased exframe bills for passage and offer them as personal expressions of public General Martin. When it is considerthe communications we have received policy. Until within recent years no- ed that the Pinchot administration body ever heard of "administration paid the Sproul administration debt, bills," and such a thing as group or bunch legislation marked as administration bills was never dreamed of the last fiscal year, it is plain that until a comparatively short time ago. it was economical rather than pro-During the extra session of the Legislature some measures were opposed by some Legislators for no better rea-

sons than that they were "administration bills."

a legal and moral right to resist en- ing for a comparative statement of croachments upon his prerogatives by expenditures of the Pinchot and prethe Legislature, and it his duty to do vious administrations was read in the this week they have a busy time ahead so in order to maintain the dignity of Senate. On Wednesday, February his great office. But it would be just 10th, Senator Barr offered a resolution is one that should have been done long as well and possibly a good deal bet- asking that the report define the uses ter if he refrained, in future, from to which the expenditures were put. framing legislation "in bunches" and Auditor General Martin was able to oners. The main question to decide sending it to the General Assembly make his false report in response to is whether the present office will be stamped with his approval and marked the McDade resolution on Monday, the proper place for such quarters "administration bills." If the Senators February 15th, but was unable to re- and whether it will be big enough to and Representatives in the General ply to the Barr resolution of a day Assembly are incapable of framing legislation they desire to pass, they final adjournment. are unfit for the position they occupy. But fit or unfit for the job, the Governor has no right to force his measures upon them

----Some of the alibis delinquent Legislators will invent will be amusing, but all of them will be absurd.

-The Democrats in Congress didn't get all the tax reduction they wanted but they got nearly a hundred million dollars more than the adminis-

Malice Plainly Shown.

On the last day of the extra session of the General Assembly Senator the statement of Auditor General Martin with respect to comparative raise in rents.

When Pinchot entered upon the duties of his office he found unpaid a trifle more than \$31,000,000. The propriations for schools and other purcreased school appropriation totaled a the increased school appropriation and fligate.

This "bearing false witness" is of itself a grave crime and the malice ing for yourself, in increasing the behind it is clearly revealed in the value of its properties. circumstances attending it. On Tues-The Governor of Pennsylvania has day, February 9th, the resolution asklater by February 18th, the day of

> nouncement but it is a safe bet it will it will be an empty honor. come in due time and cause a lot of noise.

slippery places yesterday morning.

stupid that nothing can be expected from him.

-A good many landlords in Bellefonte have added another boost to their rents this spring, running anywhere from ten to as high as thirtythree per cent. The high cost of everything these days, the increase in property valuations and the demand for comfortable homes are the reasons given for the increase, and the ordinary workingman and the average salaried employee are the ones who will be hit the hardest by the increase. There has been no advance in wages

-Washington had a variable birthday in Bellefonte on Monday. The banks and the postoffice were closed tight but all other business places were open as usual. It was 194 years on Monday since the birth of Washington and 150 years since he won the declaration of independence. In his wildest imaginings at that time he probably never dreamed that the day would come when the country he fought so hard to free would one day become the greatest government on earth.

-Did you read the Tree Survey penditures referred to by Auditor for Bellefonte, in last week's Watchman, if not, do so at once, that you may be sure to plant the right kind of a shade tree and put it in its right place. By this you are only doing for had a balance in hand at the close of posterity what your ancestors did for you, in addition to having the satisfaction of knowing that Bellefonte is your home town, and what you do for

it, in adding to its beauty you are do-

-If the county commissioners make all the changes and improvements recommended by the grand jury ago, that of a separate place in the jail for the detention of female prishold them all.

-Senator Stites is trying his best to earn the promised favor of the ma--Pinchot still withholds his an- chine, but unless signs are misleading

> ----Governor Tener proposes "to prove his faith by works." He is going posed tolls on the Delaware river nomination.

may be honest enough but he is so Pinchot measures so much as they were proposals that had been put forward for years by civic bodies and supported by the great majority of

newspapers of the State. The adoption of a resolution to amend the constitution to open the way for installation of voting machines, looking toward final action at another time, cannot take away the taste of the spurning of the other measures and the mangling of the bill for the compulsory opening of ballot boxes so that at this writing there is a debate over whether it will operate against election crooks or those who attempt to expose them.

The starting of the process of constitutional amendment to enable consolidation in the interest of Greater Pittsburgh was, no matter what its importance, wholly incidental to the Pinchot program for the session.

well upon the public mind and the results make it indefensible. Since the Republican party of the State is responsible both for Pinchot, whom it elected, and for the organization, it has its share in accountability for the latest "mess" at Harrisburg. The special session has left a bad taste.

A Sordid Confession.

From the Philadelphia Record. The slaughter of the entire program of election reform by the gangcontrolled Legislature at the late special session has a significance which should not be lost upon think-

ing voters. By refusing to enact laws for the protection of the ballot the Legislature deliberately created an issue which in the next election will turn many thousands of votes against the Republican party. It is quite evident that those who control the action of the Legislature weighed in the balance the loss of votes that would result from an honest count against the loss that would result from the flouting of the popular will, and decided that the fictitious and fraudulent vote returned by crooked election officers is an absolutely indispensable asset. That decision was cynical and bru-

tal, but extremely practical. What does it matter how many votes the gang loses by affronting the people of the Commonwealth so long as its sult of what is believed to have been a fit agents do the counting, under what amounts to a guarantee of immunity? former late Saturday night. The husband If 200,000 indignant and disgusted Republicans should vote for Democratic candidates next fall as a rebuke to the leadership that has shooting took place in the motor car which brought disrepute upon their own Searfoss had given his wife as a wedding party, it will serve only to make gang present last Tuesday and occurred while election officers a little more active the pair were returning from Smethport. with the pencils.

for Senator. The Governor should worry. The Ledger strenuously opside.