

INK SLINGS.

It is a little early to shear the lambs but that's what they're doing in Wall St. right now.

Now that the startling matter is settled we'll have to devote a little intensive thought to our dandruff cure. An opportunity to get in on this—it's better than Florida lands—is offered in another paragraph.

We are looking for someone with a few thousands to invest in a good proprietary remedy. We have a sure cure for dandruff and we'll either sell the formula or put it in the business that anybody is offered the chance of establishing.

When you see a fellow at a farm sale who hasn't already attached to himself some one willing to go bail on his note you can make up your mind that he is not there to buy. All he's after is to see the crowd and get the bag of lunch.

Let us start a campaign for the election of Congressmen, Senators and Legislators who will pledge themselves to fight for the unmaking of obsolete and bad laws on the statute books of Nation and State. Let us forget, for a few years at least, this chronic cry of "there ought to be a law."

If the Democracy of Pennsylvania is wise enough to take advantage of the opportunity that gives every appearance of offering itself to our party we will have a Democrat as United States Senator and a Democrat as Governor of Pennsylvania. And what a blessing to the State that would be.

The excuse offered for the new action in the Centre County bank case, that it will save thousands of dollars and much delay, is a flimsy one indeed. If this is so, why did the same crowd that is really behind this proceeding to get it back into the Federal courts petition Judge Dale to take it out? They were either deceiving the creditors then or they are doing it now.

Boss Vare is showing signs of getting out of the way of Senator Pepper's ambition to go back to the Senate. The Philadelphia contractor boss would like to be a member of the Republican National Committee and, of course it is only a coincidence, it seems that Senator Pepper is weary of his membership on that body. Nice, isn't it, for Pepper to get tired just when he can cut it into bait to get Vare out of the Senatorial race.

Senator McKellar is needlessly "hated up" over the "intimate papers of Col. House." If the gentleman from Texas thinks he was the whole cheese in the first Wilson administration what difference does it make? He must have been a pretty potential personage, for while Wilson is dead the King of England, William Hohenzollern and a few other men who played in the war game are still living and they haven't, as yet, called House to account for inaccuracies in his statements.

The Associated Business Men of Bellefonte are inquiring as to what they can do to make their organization more useful. To our mind they should join in a general movement to reduce over-organization, overlapping of attempted service by a dozen and one half-hearted organizations that springs up in every community to sap on one another and render all impotent. All of them do some good, but one virile organization can get more results in its field than a half dozen weakened by division.

State College Democrats have launched a boom for Judge Thomas Bailey, of Huntingdon, for Governor and Supt. J. K. Johnson, of Tyrone, for United States Senator. Last week we suggested the latter as available timber for Governor and already the reception of the suggestion has been quite beyond our expectations. Supt. Johnson, however, has put a quietus to the proposal. He is devoted to his present work and proposes to finish it before considering any suggestions of giving time or thought to politics. We could support Judge Bailey most enthusiastically. The State needs another Pattison and he would be one of that kind.

We want to serve notice on the creditors of the Centre county bank, right here, that we don't propose to be the "goat" any longer in the legal "foozling." New litigation has been started and we are supposed to throw up our hands and walk right into the parlor of the wily spider. If we don't, a great hue and cry will go up to the effect that we are delaying the settlement. Let the credulous who believe that stuff continue in their present mental processes and their equity in the bank's resources will continue to decrease. We are not morally or financially liable to them for a cent. We have done more to try to help them out of their difficulty than any living person. The only delays that have resulted in the legal processes have been due to blunders on the part of those who are representing them and we're plumb tired of the whole mess, but not too tired to stand up and fight the attempts of a few personal enemies who have been cloaking their own avarice by deceiving the creditors. We are doing exactly what any other red-blooded person would do in similar circumstances and we want everybody to know, friends and foes alike, just exactly where we stand.

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Pepper Manoeuvring for Votes.

Senator Pepper has again decided to give up the honor and relinquish the influence which goes with membership of the Republican National committee, and at a meeting of the State committee soon after the May primary his successor will be chosen. The Senator wanted to get away from the rough work of the office some time ago but was restrained by the fear that Congressman Bill Vare, who seems to want everything, would be chosen to succeed him. Even now the friends of the Senator allege that he is somewhat fearful of Vare's selection but believes that an arrangement made during his recent visit to Pittsburgh will bring Mr. W. L. Mellon into the fight with certainty of winning.

Other observers of the political movements are inclined to the belief that Senator Pepper's offer to resign from the National committee now is not for the purpose of keeping Vare out of that august body but with the view of letting him in. It is generally admitted that if Vare is a candidate for United States Senator against Pepper and Pinchot the Governor will have a walk-a-way, even if the floodgates of corruption are thrown wide open. Now Mr. Vare is as anxious for one office as he is for the other and if Pepper would turn over to him the membership of the committee his chances of retaining the Senatorial seat would be greatly enhanced, and those not so enamored of Pepper believe a deal is on.

Pepper is not popular among the vote getters in Philadelphia, and in a contest between Vare and himself he would be beaten anywhere from a hundred-to-one up. The Senator would get only votes that were actually cast for him and probably not all of them. In Pittsburgh he would lose that substantial element of the voting population which stuffs the ballot boxes in "the strip," and that is a considerable element in the equation. But with Vare out of the fight Pepper would receive, and would gladly accept, all the fraudulent votes possible to get, and with the help of that contingent he might defeat Pinchot. But the Governor has a good fighting chance to win, even if the wet vote is solid for Pepper.

Those farmers who didn't sell their wheat when we told them that one-eighty was a good price and the chances were that it wouldn't go much higher are still holding the bag. Wheat is down to one sixty now and as the stock market is going down at a terrific rate grain will likely go into a further slump.

Secretary Davis Stages a Come-Back.

Something like a come-back has been staged at Washington for the boom started a year or so ago to make Secretary of Labor, John J. Davis, of Illinois, Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania. It is not certain at this time whether the friends of Mr. Davis or the enemies of State chairman W. Harry Baker, are responsible for the movement. In any event it centers around a personal enmity between those important figures in the political life of Pennsylvania. It is alleged that Mr. Baker said if Davis were nominated he wouldn't get three votes in Dauphin county and that Davis, having exhibited nomination petitions containing 3000 names challenged Baker to "put up or shut up."

The significance of this challenge, if it have any significance at all, is not apparent. It is true that Mr. Davis associates Mr. Baker with the management of the Pepper Senatorial campaign and there may be an implied threat that the offenses of Baker will be visited on the head of Pepper. That would be a surprising turn of affairs. Pepper is the one man in Pennsylvania politics who concerns President Coolidge, and Davis being a member of the Coolidge cabinet, would hardly punish the President to get even with the State chairman. Moreover the story has doubt cast about it in the language attributed to Baker. Mr. Baker has his faults and plenty of them, but they don't take the form of indiscrete speech.

It is true that in recent years Mr. Davis has not been a resident or a citizen of Pennsylvania. Many years ago he lived in the vicinity of Pittsburgh and was associated with the iron industry. He then became affiliated with the Loyal Order of Moose in an organizing capacity and located in Illinois. His connection with the Moose is highly creditable and his services to the organization have been helpful and valuable. But it must be admitted that such services establish a doubtful claim for the nomination or election to the office of Governor. In support of the statement that he is not a Pennsylvanian it is alleged that he was credited with being a resident of Illinois when he was appointed to the Cabinet.

Bellefonte and the Firemen.

The fire that broke out in the western section of Bellefonte at two o'clock last Friday morning, was in a district largely of frame structures where it might easily have spread and become a conflagration of disastrous proportions. Of course the wind was against that, for it was blowing away from immediately adjacent buildings, but that was not all. There was something else against it. There was a fire department, made up of willing, intelligent workers whose voluntary service to Bellefonte is of inestimable value.

We arrived on the scene very soon after the first general alarm was sounded and then both companies were in action as perfectly as if they had been set up on the spot and waiting for the first flicker of flame. It was a blustery, cold night, one of the kind that requires a fine spirit to make a man who has worked hard all day jump from a warm bed to rush to the work of saving another's property and we wondered whether the others in the crowds of curious onlookers standing about us were giving a thought to the unselfish work of those who were fighting to stop what we had merely come to see.

Very often we hear the remark: "Where are the firemen?" "Why don't they get here?" To us the query has always been: How do they get to a fire as promptly as they do. As a matter of fact they are under no obligation other than their will to help to go at all. Besides, the critic should remember, if he beats them to a conflagration, that he has only done it because he happened nearby at the time. He loses sight, entirely, of the fact that the fireman may live squares away from his engine house and must run there and thence to the scene of his activities.

Several years ago Marshall Robert Kline, in his annual report, brought to the attention of Bellefonte for the first time just what its fire department is doing, year by year. Prior to that time we had heard the alarms sounded, seen the boys rush past, inquired as to "where is the fire" and gone on about our business without a thought of what might be the consequence of even an incipient blaze. Marshall Kline's report of fire facts for the year gave us another view point. One fire might look inconsequential, but the aggregate for every year in Bellefonte is astounding, when viewed from the standpoint of combined losses that might result were it not for the promptness and efficiency of these voluntary firemen.

We are not appraising their service by comparison with the paid departments of the great cities, nor with volunteer departments in other towns. We are referring to only what we have personally observed and that convinces us that Bellefonte owes more to the splendid spirit of the members of her two fire companies than she has ever stopped long enough to fully realize.

How We Benefit.

The proposed change of service rates for electricity by the Keystone Power Corporation will be glad news to many of its consumers. Any announcement of reduction of prices is hailed with delight by the consuming public, but we always have a fear of the Greeks bearing gifts.

The plan to charge all current through one meter will be a great saving for the corporation, since it will eliminate the expense of maintaining two and sometimes three meters in houses and industries where current for light, heat and power have been consumed and charged for at designated rates for each character of use. Instead of having to make out two, three or four bills to each consumer who uses electricity for as many different purposes the Corporation will save in time taken for meter reading, clerical cost of making up bills, and large sums in printing and postage.

So much for the advantage to the Corporation from the new system. Speaking from an application of the proposed rates to the February consumption of electricity at this office there will be some consumers who will have to juggle their mathematics a lot if they hope to figure anything but increase of cost out of this promise of decrease.

Here current is used for lighting, power and heating metal. Each service is rendered at a rate in ratio to amount consumed. Our total bill for all consumption in February was \$24.28. Applying the new rate to the same items our cost for the same amount of electricity after April 1, will be \$33.03, or an increase of \$8.75. While it will not operate against all users as disappointingly as it will against those in our class we are inclined to believe that the net result to the Corporation will be increased revenues and to no consumers except the exceptionally large ones any appreciable reduction.

Supt. Etters Gives Interesting School Statistics.

In another column of this issue of the Watchman will be found the legal call of county superintendent David O. Etters for a convention of school directors to be held in Bellefonte on Tuesday, April 13th, for the purpose of electing a county superintendent to serve from the first Monday in May, 1926, to the first Monday in July, 1930. As stated before in the Watchman Mr. Etters is not a candidate for re-election because he has reached the age of retirement and during the remainder of his life will be on the teachers' pension list. But there are seven other candidates, and as all of them have been making a pretty thorough canvass of the various school boards in the county there is no telling who the successful man may be.

As Supt. Etters' retirement he stated that in looking over the school records for Centre county recently he discovered that the first school appropriation granted by the State was in 1857, when Centre county's apportionment was \$2100.70. This amount was not increased much for a number of years. In fact it was not until within the past quarter of a century that the appropriation was increased to a sum where it has become a decisive factor in the upkeep of the schools, as the annual appropriation now received by Centre county is \$170,000. In 1857 the average monthly salary paid teachers was \$28.73. Men teachers drew 26.75 a month and women \$20.70. Now the minimum salary is \$85.00 and the average \$131.00 a month.

Mr. Etters has had a longer career as county superintendent than any other man who has held the office. All told he will have served twenty-two years when his term expires the first Monday in May. And notwithstanding the fact that he has reached the age where he has been compelled to retire from the superintendency he does not propose to spend the remainder of his life in idleness, principally because he believes in the adage that an idle man would soon be a dead one. He has one or two things in view but has not yet decided on which one to take.

Spring creek carried a three foot flood, last Thursday, and for a few hours it looked very much as if the Watchman would have to take water—in its press room—but fortunately it blew up somewhat colder in time to stop the rapid thaw and we were left dry as ever. And now we can breathe a little easier, as the danger point is probably past for this year. The most damage done so far by high water in Bellefonte is out on east Howard and Wilson streets. The melting snow and rain formed a small lake in the hollow on the east side of Wilson street between Howard and High, and the water ran out onto the road and followed the deep ruts in the ice north on Wilson street to Howard then west on Howard several hundred feet where it cut off in to the field. So swift was the current that deep holes were cut in the street at various places, the limestone filling being carried into the field north of Howard street. Bald Eagle creek was also quite high and while it overflowed a little at several places down the valley it was not enough to do any great amount of damage.

Notwithstanding the fact that a fairly good crop of potatoes was grown in Centre county last year the tubers are not only unusually high in price but apparently scarce as hen teeth. Either the farmers disposed of their crop during the fall and early winter or are holding them in the hope of getting a still higher price than prevails at this time. Grocers in Bellefonte have a hard time getting a sufficient supply to meet the demands of their customers and are compelled to parcel them out in small lots in order that they may go further and last longer.

John M. Bullock, of the Montgomery & Co. store, Bellefonte, was elected president of the Pennsylvania Retail Clothing Dealers' association in Philadelphia last week. As the president is ordinarily selected from one of the larger towns or cities the election of Mr. Bullock is a deserved compliment to the interest he has always manifested in the association.

We hope that winter gets it all out of her system by March 21, so there'll be no lingering in the lap of spring.

Bellefonte High is at the top of the League basket-ball race right now. Here's hoping that the local boys stay there.

March came in quite lamb-like on Monday, but let us hope that it won't go out like a lion.

Work for the Prisoners.

The statement from the western penitentiary that within a month ninety per cent. of the more than 1,200 prisoners will be working at some trade is one of the most satisfactory that has come from that institution in a long time. Idleness has always been recognized as not only one of the most baneful features of prison life to the inmates themselves, but also as an economic waste and an injustice alike to families of the convicts and the public. No one thinks of putting the prisoners into money-making activities in competition with free labor. The aim is simply the common sense one of serving the three-fold purpose of improving the condition of the prisoner himself, of enabling him to earn something for himself or dependents and reducing his expense to the public. The desirability of keeping the mind of a prisoner occupied with the wholesome thoughts of work, distracting it from the things that cause brooding, is so generally recognized as to require no comment. It is alike cheering and instructive, however, to hear of the progress of the policy to teach trades to the unskilled workers among the inmates, particularly the younger.

An insight into this policy is obtained from the fact that making of automobile tags, of which the State now requires about 2,000,000 annually, has been transferred from the industrial reformatory at Huntingdon to the western penitentiary. There obviously is not so much trade training value in that work. It is more suitable to the older prisoners. The Huntingdon reformatory, we read, is being equipped with shops having greater trade-training opportunity for the boys. In a recent statement distributed by the State Public Charities Association on the work of the Welfare Department emphasis is laid upon the fact that experienced trade superintendency and modern equipment are furnished to the institutions. The prison industries include shoemaking, weaving, knitting, garment-making, tailoring, printing and license making. A tailoring shop is now a feature of the western penitentiary. In addition to the farming and gardening at Rockview, there have been established a forest tree nursery, a concrete block plant and a capping factory. As a reminder of the care of the prison management to guard against encroachment upon outside activities, Warden Ashe announces that the broom and brush department of the western penitentiary is to be discontinued. There is enough work the broom and brush-making of the kind involved to the institutions for the blind.

The policy all around commends itself.

The Davis Boom Launched.

It may be accepted as a settled fact, in our judgment, that Secretary of Labor James J. Davis is an aspirant for the Republican nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania.

"Are you going to become a candidate?" the Secretary was asked recently. Note the implications of the reply. "I am more interested right now in the new baby coming to our home. We have five children already, the youngest two and a half years old."

It was not necessary for the Secretary to enlarge, as he thereupon did, upon his deep infatuation for children. He need not have told the interviewer that he was going on Sunday to Wilkes-Barre to look over the new Moose home site there, or that "we have 1500 children now at Mooseheart, our national home, and my one thought right now is taking care of those children." A man may be fond of children—his own and other people's—and desire nothing under the sun that his fellow-citizens can give him. But when he begins to talk about children to newspaper reporters he will soon be going around kissing babies, and you can paste in your hat a memorandum that he wants votes.

Senator Betts a Candidate for Second Term.

Senator W. I. Betts has practically determined to ask the Democrats of the Thirty-fourth senatorial district, Clearfield and Centre counties, to give him the nomination again at the May primaries. The Senator has been a hard and consistent worker for the best interests of his district ever since elected. His record is an open book and all who wish can read for themselves. He has nothing to explain or apologize for and is quite willing to be judged by what he has done and attempted to do for the people of the district and the Commonwealth.

Quite a number of Bellefonte people motored to Lock Haven, on Sunday, to see the flood in the Susquehanna river, and were somewhat disappointed to find it not at all dangerous. But those who continued down the river to the big ice jam were amazed to see ponderous cakes of ice fully three feet in thickness. It is the jam that is causing the greatest uneasiness to residents of Lock Haven.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The Vulcan Trading company's store, at Chester Hill, was broken into and robbed Saturday night.

One hundred and fourteen children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all except one living within a radius of 50 miles, survive Mrs. Harrie Manchester who died at Potterville, near Towanda, on Sunday. She was 90 years and 23 days old.

Engineer John R. Brett, of Pittsburgh, and C. R. Welsh, of Altoona, who were scalded when the locomotive hauling the Pennsylvania passenger train known as the Gotham Limited side-swiped a derailed freight train near Kittanning Point on Saturday died in the Altoona hospital on Sunday.

When her clothing became ignited while playing with matches in her home near York, Pa., last Wednesday, a 3-year-old child ran more than 100 yards to a nearby woods where she burned to death. The mother found the charred body a few minutes later after tracing the child's footsteps through the snow.

While a rescue party headed by William A. Geise, chief mining engineer for the Susquehanna Collieries company, scoured the mines of the Hickory Swamp colliery, last Friday, for Philip and Joseph Rodgers, diamond drill contractors, who were thought to have been drowned in the workings there, both youths were visiting friends in a neighboring town.

Driving his automobile into the rear of another machine, an unidentified man was killed last week on the State highway near Milton. He was about 50 years old. The car bore a Pennsylvania license 659-459 issued to Walter Crownover, of Newmanstown. He crashed into the machine of William Beidlespach, of Point Township, who was turning into a lane.

It cost \$80 to remove a nickel from the throat of Robert Kushinsky, 3 years old, of High Park, near Greensburg. Edward Kushinsky, the lad's father, gave his son the coin and instructed him not to put it into his mouth. Robert did. The coin lodged in his throat. A specialist spent nine minutes removing the coin after an X-ray picture showed where it had lodged.

When one of two hold-up men feligned illness early on Saturday, they gained entrance to the home of John Huzzard, a grocer, at East Altoona, and at the point of a revolver demanded his money. Huzzard put up a fight and was beaten so badly he had to be taken to the hospital for treatment. The bandits jumped through a window and escaped, empty-handed.

H. T. McFadden, of Juniata, who with his family had a narrow escape from death at the Mann's Narrows bridge two weeks ago, is now improving at the Lewisstown hospital. Mr. McFadden, who was driving the car when it went over the bridge, was at first thought uninjured, but later it was found that he was seriously hurt. Mrs. McFadden and children have left the hospital and are with friends near Lewisstown.

Four children, the oldest 4 years and the youngest 3 and one-half months, were burned to death near Indian Head, about 10 miles from Connelisville, when a fire partially destroyed the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Travis Snyder, it was learned last week when telephone service, disrupted by a storm, was reported. The home took fire while the father was at the barn and the mother at a nearby store. The former made an attempt to reach his children, but was forced back by the flames.

S. M. Woodring, merchant of Drums, a farming community near Hazleton, turned the tables on a hold-up man who entered his store last Thursday afternoon. The stranger who had refused to pay for some refreshments he had purchased, pulled a gun and told the proprietor to throw up his hands. Woodring, who is 65 years old, quickly reached for a gun he had under the counter and taking the stranger by surprise was able to hold him at bay, until a call was sent for the State police who placed the man under arrest and lodged him in the Hazleton lock-up.

In the will of the late Stoddard L. Driggs, Clearfield theatre owner, filed last week, it is revealed that he leaves an estate valued at about \$250,000. Among the bequests is one leaving \$5,000 to the Presbyterian church of Clearfield, \$5,000 for the Children's Home and \$10,000 to be invested for maintenance of room or ward at the Clearfield hospital to be known as the Stoddard L. Driggs room or ward for the free use of poor children admitted. The balance of the estate is to be divided between his sister, Mrs. Flora A. Hartman, and his brother, Frank L. Driggs.

Mrs. Sarah G. Turets, 100 years old, died on Monday in the Jewish home for the Aged, in Pittsburgh. She passed away as she lay sleeping in her bed. Mrs. Turets was born in Russia. She came to this country in 1866 and lived nearly 60 years in the Hill district, Pittsburgh. Up to three years ago, she did not wear glasses and walked with a firm step. A short time ago she took to her bed. She was known among hundreds of Jewish families in Pittsburgh, especially on the Hill where her philanthropies are widely remembered. Until two years ago Mrs. Turets visited her great-grandchildren in Chicago and Atlantic City nearly every year, going alone every time. Three years ago she went to Atlantic City to see one of her great-grandchildren married and her last appearance at a great-grandchild's wedding was March 2, 1924, in Pittsburgh.

Mystery still surrounds the finding of \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills, so far to the amount of \$800, each torn in three pieces, along the tracks of the Pennsylvania railroad, near Lewisstown, since February 12. All were Federal Reserve notes, all were torn clean and could not have been cut by the wheels of passing trains. The bills have been wind-tossed, snow-covered and picked up from time to time along the eastbound track used by passenger trains. The Greensburg robbery first was suggested, but no currency of that kind was missing there. Then the post office robbery at Millin was investigated, but postmaster S. C. McClellan stated that no money was missing there. The money has been found by railroad employees in amounts from \$1 to \$120 each. All of the torn notes have been turned into the office of Superintendent N. B. Pitcairn, at Altoona, where it will be held for 30 days, after which it will be returned to the finders, who are Charles Reynolds, Walter Pennebaker, W. T. Hollenback, T. E. Kirk, W. W. Dannerd and C. B. Hart.