

INK SLINGS.

—The old liver hasn't been functioning well for a few days. We're seeing double. Little black disks are flying before our eyes like clay pigeons. We're in no mood to say nice things to anyone or about anything. So this shall be crab week.

—Maybe the same fellow who stole Charley Ross let out that diplomatic secret at Washington the other day.

—Filling stations are rising up like mushroom along the highways and we poor dubs neglect our work, cheat our stomachs and strip our backs to fill them.

—One of the big garages in town would look bigger if enough electric lamps were put in the sign that surmounts it to let the night world know what the five letters that precede the final E are.

—The first day of spring certainly was a "pet," but we want few more of that kind at this season. They'd start the sap flowing and the buds swelling and then along will come an April freeze and all the fruit will be bloeey again.

—To those who think there's another town of its size in Pennsylvania, or any other State, that has anything on Bellefonte we want to say that there are three rail routes and four splendid highways leading directly out of here.

—Yesterday was another of those grand days. It was all right, but far too warm. We're going to kick the stuff out of the weather man if he doesn't leave the arctic door open far enough to keep things cool enough to hold the fruit back.

—Our Bellefonte Episcopalian friends are still without a rector. We just can't see red enough tonight to say that they need one bad enough, so we'll let this ride, with the admission that they want one the worst kind of a way, and the prophesy that they won't get any until they immunize themselves against Bellefonte's chronic malady of champagne tastes and beer pocket-books.

—Opportunity is knocking at the door of the Democratic party in Centre county. If there ever was a time for it to be up and doing that time is right now. Three factions of Republicans are at each others throats and two of them are certain to be sore enough, after the primaries, to be hunting balm for their wounds. Let us provide it for them. Let us put a strong, clean ticket in the field, both county and State, and then get behind it with genuine determination.

—The scalled plight of the American farmer is mostly bunk, conjured up by traveling lecturers, secretaries and office forces of organizations that depend on exploitation of agriculture for their salaries. Many of these agitators bear the same relation to the farmer that the "walking delegate" does to labor. Most of them are nothing more than parasites on industry. The farmer isn't in a plight. He has his ups and downs like everybody else and, if let alone, will work out his own problems just the same as the rest of us do.

—Feeling that the Hon. Holmes, of State College, won't be happy unless we make some fuss over him about this time of the year we are going to build a big Holmes bonfire. We want all the Pinchot, Pepper and Vane Republicans in the county to gather round. And just when the glare properly illumines our Representative and he is aglow with its warmth we're going to douse it with a bucket of water and smoke the statesman out. It makes no difference to us, but we're just mean enough tonight to want to know whether he is going to try to ride three horses at once.

—When we stated, in January, that John S. Fisher would not be endorsed as a candidate for Governor until Mr. Atterbury had been shifted from his "thumbs down" position on John a pseudo-wise Republican remarked: "It's a lot you know about it." If you read last Sunday's metropolitan papers you probably noticed that about everybody in Pennsylvania who thinks he's a Governor maker started for New York on Saturday to talk it over with Bill and that was after it was announced that the Mellons had ordered a special train and a clear track to Harrisburg for the gentleman from Indiana.

—Salacious books, pornographic art, jazz and synthetic gin are undermining the moral and physical stamina of the country because of the indifference and fanatical intolerance of the very people who lament it most. If decent folks would buy enough of the good books to make them "best sellers" the other kind wouldn't be written. If the pulpits and the pews were to endorse and patronize decent theatrical productions they would be on the road today instead of level productions that are. If parental interest in children were such as to make homes something more than a place to stop while hunting some place else to go there'd be fewer road houses, night clubs and less sorrow in the world.

—The thought that really started the crabbing column is the fact that the opening of the trout season is only twenty days off and our "private bootlegger" is two thousand miles away.

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Encouraging Signs for the County Democracy.

Events within the week give hope of a revival in the Democratic party in the county. As the time for the primaries approaches there seems to be encouraging indications of an awakening interest, especially on the part of formerly active Democrats who now feel it time for them to get back into the harness again.

Certainly conditions are ripe and opportunities are aplenty for a militant Democratic organization. County chairman G. Oscar Gray expects to retire after long and conscientious service and selecting a capable successor is the first and most important work of reconstruction. Charles Freeman, young, very popular and a go-getter Democrat, of Philipsburg, is being talked of as Mr. Gray's successor. The party would be very well advised to try him for leader in the county. With Philipsburg only a little over an hour away from Bellefonte now there is no longer any real reason why the chairman should be located at the county seat.

We understand that Mr. Freeman, should he be chosen chairman, has a very comprehensive plan for year-round organization and activity in the county, a thing much to be desired, for the party to live at all must be building continually.

In this connection we want to suggest that our entire ticket be filled. The opposition may be sadly demoralized by the internal fight it is having and disappointed factions of it will certainly come over to us.

Up to the moment we have no candidate for the Legislature. Certainly this office ought not to go by default and we want to suggest that Randall Miller, sterling young Democrat of Millheim, might be persuaded to stand for it. Mr. Miller is a college man, a banker and both by personality and ability is, to our mind, the type of man who ought to be sent to Harrisburg and kept there.

One of the strange things is that while every Republican professes to idolize President Coolidge nearly every wish he expresses is refused.

The State's Memorial Bridge.

Long delayed work on the soldiers' and sailors' memorial bridge at Harrisburg will be started in the near future, according to information from the State capitol. This project is a part of a plan adopted by the Legislature some years ago in connection with the enlistment and beautification of Capitol Park as a suitable setting for the capitol building. From the rear entrance of the building to the right of way of the Pennsylvania railroad there is a dip and east of the tracks to Thirteenth and State streets an incline to the level of the building. The centre of this dip is an unattractive spectacle and the memorial bridge was proposed to make it attractive.

The Legislature of 1919 made an appropriation of some three or four hundred thousand dollars as the nucleus of a fund to pay the cost of the enterprise. Bids were asked and a contract awarded for the work with the understanding that subsequent Legislatures would provide the additional funds as required. But the administrations which have been in control since found so many other places to invest the funds and so lightly appraised the value of a memorial to the soldiers and sailors of the world war that the contract to build the bridge was revoked and it was believed the original appropriation had lapsed. A recent investigation, however, revealed the fact that the money is still available and Governor Pinchot announces that the work will be begun this year.

Arnold W. Brunner, a famous landscape architect, made the plans for the structure and it has been pronounced by capable scientists as one of the greatest engineering and architectural achievements of the world. It will not only perfect the scheme for the setting and adornment of the capitol building but admirably fulfill the purpose for which it was conceived, of fittingly honoring the men and women of Pennsylvania who participated in and made sacrifices for the world war. That its construction after the years of delay is now possible is substantial proof that Governor Pinchot has conserved the financial interests of the State, as he claims, rather than squandered them as charged by his enemies.

—Every once in a while a pot rises to call the kettle black. It happened at the Kiwanis luncheon last week, when a gentleman who couldn't even catch the measles until he was away on his wedding trip told his auditors that Bellefonte isn't a progressive town.

Pinchot's Political Rating.

The esteemed Philadelphia Public Ledger protests that "the Keystone State cannot afford to send Gifford Pinchot to the Senate" for the reason that "he is a Republican in name only." Coming from that source this is a rather surprising statement. Mr. Pinchot is a consistent supporter of the political philosophy expressed by Lincoln. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the policies of the late Theodore Roosevelt and unequivocally declares his adherence to the national Republican platform and the purposes of President Coolidge as expressed in his inaugural address. He has always voted the Republican ticket and for many years enjoyed the favors of the party.

Nevertheless the esteemed Public Ledger may be correct in its analysis. It is a question of interpretation. Governor Pinchot boldly proclaims himself "an enemy of the gang" for the reason that it is "not on the level with the people" and is "for everything that is bad in Pennsylvania politics." He adds that the gang "has thrown its whole strength against clean elections, against taking proper care of the school children, against protection of depositors in banks and Building and Loan associations." He promises cordial support of "every forward step for world peace, the reduction of armaments and the safeguarding of the United States, the protection of American industries and justice to the American farmer," as well as economy and efficiency in government and enforcement of law.

But those things do not constitute fidelity to the Republican party in fact, as interpreted by the "gang" and the esteemed Public Ledger. A Republican in fact must be a miscreant who favors fraudulent elections and predatory corporations under the euphemism of business. To qualify under the popular construction of machine politicians a candidate must be ready and willing to "spit in the eye of a bull dog," stuff a ballot box, substitute a servile tool for a dying candidate by fraudulent methods, protect crime as a reward for perpetrating their crimes and yield obedience to the party bosses rather than serve the people. Governor Pinchot can well afford to accept this rating of his Republicanism.

—If Pepper can induce three or four hundred thousand independent voters in Philadelphia to register Vane's hope of an overwhelming majority in that city may miscarry.

Atterbury Objects to Fisher.

At a conference held in Pittsburgh, last week, the corporate interests which are supporting Senator Pepper for re-election decided to support former State Senator and Banking Commissioner John S. Fisher, of Indiana, as their candidate for Governor. The conference was held in the office of W. L. Mellon and was attended by Joseph R. Grundy, president of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' association, Mr. Fisher and a group of Pittsburgh politicians. As part of the deal Mr. Grundy agreed to support Pepper for Senator, though heretofore they have been bitter enemies. This combination exemplifies the adage: "Politics makes strange bed fellows."

But there is a "fly in the ointment." General Atterbury, president of the Pennsylvania railroad, and a very important cog in the political machine, is not willing to accept Fisher as his candidate. There are two reasons for Mr. Atterbury's attitude. Four years ago Fisher promised to support George E. Alter for the gubernatorial nomination but under the persuasion of Grundy turned his influence to Pinchot. This perfidy so incensed Atterbury that he has not forgiven it yet. Besides Mr. Fisher has long been beset in Pennsylvania for the New York Central railroad, and there are grave differences present and prospective between that corporation and the Pennsylvania railroad.

Emissaries have been at work ever since the conference at Pittsburgh trying to persuade General Atterbury to take a seat on the Mellon band wagon but the result of their efforts is not known as yet. It is known that the Pennsylvania president is greatly attached to Pepper. In fact Mr. Atterbury procured the appointment of Pepper after the death of Penrose and attended his installation in office. But the projection of Fisher into the fight creates an issue between Fisher and Beidleman. The Harrisburg man is known as a friend of the Pennsylvania corporation and "a bird in hand is worth two in the bush."

—General Atterbury has a deep interest in Senator Pepper but a New York Central attorney in the office of Governor of Pennsylvania is a serious matter.

Real Victims of the Confusion.

The real victims of the present Republican confusion are not the candidates for Governor and Senator. The candidates for Senator are having a fine time throwing verbal brickbats at each other and the candidates for Governor are so absorbed in the work of "feathering their own nests" that they have no time to measure the troubles of their friends. In the case of State chairman Baker, for example, there is a pathetic situation. For nearly a year he has been practically managing the campaign of Senator Pepper. Now he is confronted with the alternative of abandoning Pepper or sacrificing his life time friend, E. E. Beidleman, who has been tendered the Vane support for Governor in consideration of Baker's support of Vane for Senator.

The Vane support for Governor, with the machinery for fraudulent voting in Philadelphia in working condition, would afford a vast leverage toward the fulfillment of a long and fondly cherished hope. Baker and Beidleman were schoolboys together and advanced in politics hand-in-hand. When Baker became chairman of the party the opportunity to promote Beidleman to the office of Governor dawned. Four years ago the hope almost developed into full bloom. But a confusion similar to that now causing trouble intervened and to prevent the nomination of Gifford Pinchot Beidleman was withdrawn from the contest. It was inferentially agreed, however, that chairman Baker's friend would be rewarded for his self-immolation this year. But the fates are unkind.

State Senator Max Leslie, boss of the Pittsburgh "strip" and controller of the alleged bogus voting machines of that city, is said to be under financial as well as political obligations to the Mellons. He is congenitally attached to Vane and the sympathies of his followers flow in that direction. But the Mellons are for Pepper and insist on Max's co-operation. If he yields to the Mellons he forfeits his control of the "strip" and automatically fades out of the political life of the city and State. If he fails to yield the consequences are equally disastrous. He is literally "between the devil and the deep sea," and with chairman Baker is a real sufferer from the political demoralization that threatens the Republican machine with deserved destruction.

—It is rather gratifying to feel that Senator Sites will be disappointed in his expectation of reward for going over to the machine in the extra session of the Legislature.

A Misleading Resolution.

Those Philadelphia Methodist clergymen who appealed by resolution to either Pepper or Pinchot to withdraw from the contest for the Senatorial nomination in order that the dry vote might be centered against Vane reveal a meager understanding of the subject. The resolution says, "It is a regrettable fact that our dry forces are represented by two candidates thus dividing our strength, lending aid to the enemy and bringing possible defeat in Pennsylvania to our cause." The obvious purpose of the resolution is to create the impression that Pepper and Pinchot are equally deserving of the favor of the dry voters, which is not only unjust but absurd.

Governor Pinchot is and has been a militant, consistent and aggressive advocate of prohibition all his life. Since the adoption of the Eighteenth amendment and the passage of the Volstead law he has been an earnest and practical worker for law enforcement. During the recent extra session of the Legislature he kept the subject constantly before the law makers and the people while Senator Pepper remained silent. Previous to his entrance into the Senate Mr. Pepper never even pretended to be a prohibitionist. Since that time he has declared abstinence but done nothing toward promoting the cause or influencing others to adopt it. On this question there is no analogy between them.

To please the Prohibitionists Senator Pepper some time ago declared that he is now a teetotaler, just as he had previously offered to "spit in the eye of a bull dog" to please the roughnecks in South Philadelphia. Such statements signify nothing. They are meaningless figures of speech employed to serve a purpose, sometimes harmless and sometimes sinister. In the case in point, however, Mr. Pepper put the prohibition voters under no obligation to support him as against Pinchot, who has been an active advocate of the cause for years. No prohibitionist can find valid reason for supporting Pepper against Pinchot in the record Pepper has made in or out of office.

The Farmer and His Corn.

From the Philadelphia Record.
A few months ago a large number of friends of the farmer, especially the Western farmer, persons who depended on his votes and his subscriptions, were making the welkin ring with their lamentations over the ruin that had befallen him in a huge corn crop. Iowa was the State most mourned over, because that State had the biggest corn crop it ever put in the crib. The Iowa farmers were not making a noise; they were buying more stock and turning cheap corn into relatively high-priced pork and beef.

But the Congressmen and Senators from farm States did not relax their demand for Governmental assistance for the farmers who were ruined by cheap corn. After they had shouted loud and long the editor of a farm paper in Iowa, who was corroborated in his general facts by a professor in the State Agricultural College, pointed out that Iowa farmers sold only about 15 per cent. of their corn; 85 per cent. they fed to stock, and on the basis of the values of pork and beef the huge and cheap corn crop of 1925 was worth \$101,000,000 more than the scanty and high-priced corn crop of 1924.

Now the Department of Agriculture has been asking the farmers how much of each crop they intended to sow or plant, and has learned that their intentions on March 1 were to plant almost identically the same area with corn that they planted last year. In other words, they know nothing about their own business and need a guardian, or they did very well with that ruinous crop of 1925 corn and are willing to take their chances on another bumper crop.

The Department gives them a word of warning. They are proposing to raise as much corn as last year and more oats and barley. In these three feed grains they intend to plant and sow 1.6 per cent. more than last year. The Department is perhaps justified in cautioning them not to increase their stock unduly, because the prices of pork and beef may come down.

Philadelphia and Allegheny County Vote.

From the Pittsburgh Post.

It must arouse the citizenship of the big cities and counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny to hear itself discussed as if it were below the standard of voters in the other counties of the State. In Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are the main educational institutions of the State, great libraries and a multiplicity of civic bodies to aid in instructing the public in political affairs. Yet independent candidates of all parties have frequently sighed over the abnormal voting conditions in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties. Not only is the voting rate in the two big city communities below that of some other counties, but it also usually submits to an amazing degree to machine control. Voters in the other counties may divide almost equally in their views on the public questions and in the support of candidates. Party alignments may change.

The candidates in State-wide contests may reach Philadelphia and Allegheny county closely matched. Then the Republican machine pours out its vote upon a quantity basis to its candidates and abnormal majorities are piled up for them.

Who will say that the intelligence standard of Philadelphia and Allegheny counties is below that of the other counties? The fact is that the people of the big city counties are well to the front educationally. Nevertheless they do not as a rule show their independence in voting or their recognition of the two-party system as do the citizens of the other communities of the State.

The need in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties is to build up the minority party in them as in the other sections. A strong minority party not only would assure contests that would promote independence in voting. Likewise it would furnish a check for the Republican factionalism nuisance.

The End of Forbes.

From the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Charles R. Forbes, former Director of the Veterans' Bureau, has gone to prison. John W. Thompson, St. Louis contractor, convicted with Forbes of conspiracy in connection with hospital contracts, must also go to prison, unless he procures a stay because of his physical condition. As regards Thompson, public opinion is not especially concerned. He was but an unsavory episode in the wretched story of Forbes.

Public opinion may feel that, in the case of Forbes, the punishment of two years in the penitentiary by no means fits the crime. Indeed it is difficult to say just what punishment would be adequate for Forbes' betrayal of his trust as guardian of the wounded soldiers. Here was an obligation that challenged the very best of head and heart that a man could bring to the task. Instead of meeting it Forbes failed loathsomely. His administration of the office was a round of carousal and corruption.

But for Forbes the verdict is the sentence of death. It silences a grisly echo of Harding's tragical Presidency. It reasserts the truth that influence and position cannot save the transgressor from justice.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Thieves broke the window of John H. Senzig's jewelry store at New Holland, and stole diamonds valued at \$200.

—Grant Miller, of Annville, was sentenced to from three to six years in the Eastern Penitentiary for stealing an automobile and meat.

—Chocolate and cocoa valued at \$20,000 were lost when fire last Wednesday destroyed the mixing room of the Ideal Cocoa and Chocolate Company at Lititz.

—A fall of three stories from one of the dormitory windows of the Allentown Prep School a week ago proved fatal to Joseph Williams, Jr., of Philadelphia, who died at the Allentown hospital on Sunday from a broken back.

—Thirty to sixty years in the Eastern penitentiary was the sentence imposed last week on Robert Anderson, 23, of Philadelphia, who confessed to a number of bandit acts. He smiled when sentence was pronounced on him.

—The unification of the Penn State Telephone lines with the Bell Telephone Company, in the vicinity of Pottsville, was started on Monday and will be completed by June 1. The merger will affect the boroughs of St. Clair and Tamaqua.

—Surprised in the act of chiseling the hinges off the doors of the safe at the office of the Keystone Storage company, at Lancaster, James "Red" Evans, 37, and Lewis Smith, 42, both of that city, were arrested on Sunday by Chief of Police Eckman and four detectives.

—The will of Dr. David Reiter of Philadelphia just probated, leaves \$1 of his \$15,000 estate to his wife with the recommendation that she hang herself. The will, found in Reiter's effects a year after his death, charges his wife had nagged him for the twenty years of their married life.

—The accumulator at the rolled steel wheel department of the Standard Steel works, at Burnham, collapsed on Saturday. The debris included 925,000 tons of scrap iron and steel used as a balance to the hydraulic power used to stamp a solid steel car wheel out of a billet of cherry red steel.

—The Postoffice Department has issued warning to banks and merchants of Pennsylvania to be on the lookout for bogus postal money orders, the forms for which are reported to have been stolen from the Baltimore postoffice. There are eighty-six of them, the forms numbering from 33,114 to 33,200, inclusive.

—Northumberland county justice speeded rapidly recently when Quentin Tarr was found guilty of murder in the second degree just a month to the day after his alleged victim died. The shooting occurred eight days before the victim's death, and Tarr was sentenced a week after his conviction.

—Cambria county physicians are after that class of patients who "shop around" for medical service as a means of avoiding payment of doctor bills. They have established a Physicians' Credit Bureau to which each doctor will report monthly the names of delinquent patients of others who cannot be relied upon to pay bills.

—The largest mortgage ever filed in Chester county was entered of record last Thursday when a 126-page mortgage of the Philadelphia Electric Power company and the Susquehanna Power company with the Fidelity Trust company of Philadelphia was left with the recorder of deeds. The amount of the mortgage is \$800,000,000.

—Quentin Bolis, aged two, was drowned in French creek, near Franklin, on Monday afternoon when he fell into the water while trying to escape from his mother who sought to keep him away from the creek where he had been playing. Owing to the high water for the past few days grappling hooks could not be used and efforts to recover the body were abandoned at darkness.

—Temporary receivers appointed March 13 for the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad and Coal company were dismissed on Monday by Judge Bailey after a hearing on a bondholders bill in equity which alleged that the semi-annual interest on certain bonds was in default. The court fixed April 16 for a hearing to determine whether permanent receivers shall be appointed. The company denied the necessity for receivers.

—Sale of the United States Refractories corporation, operating brick plants at Mt. Union and at Barrett, to a new controlling company, headed by Thomas N. Kuriz, was announced in Altoona a few days ago. The sale was made Wednesday of last week. The Mt. Union plant has a capacity of 140,000 fire brick. Other properties of the company are deposits of gneiss on Jack's Mountain near Mt. Union, and fire clay and coal deposits near Barrett, Clearfield county.

—Announcement has been made of the purchase of the Gazette and Bulletin, Williamsport's morning newspaper, by the Sun and News Publishing company, which will publish the morning paper from its own plant, in addition to its present evening paper, the Williamsport Sun. There will be no change in the personnel of the editorial force of the morning paper and no change in the paper's policy. The Gazette and Bulletin is one of the oldest papers in the country, having been established in 1801.

—Herman Opawski, 19 years old, of Pittsburgh, Northside, died Sunday shortly after 6 o'clock in the Allegheny General hospital, from injuries suffered in a terrific blast that occurred in the rear of his home, Saturday, while he was experimenting with chemicals. The youth's body was terribly mangled in the explosion, which wrecked a concrete wall and broke a score of windows in the neighborhood. What chemicals he was using when the blast occurred could not be determined. He was reputed a brilliant student in the chemical and electrical sciences at Carnegie Institute of Technology.

—The gift to the State of twenty acres of virgin white pine, comprising what is known as "Heart's Content" tract in Warren county, was announced on Tuesday by the State Forestry Department. Donors of the tract are Wheeler and Duseberry, of Endeavor, Forest county. The twenty acres of virgin timber comprise one of the few remaining stands of the original timberlands which made up Penn's Woods. N. P. Wheeler, Jr., a member of the State Forest Commission, is manager of the firm, which made the donation to the State. He is assisted in the management by his brother, Capt. Alexander R. Wheeler, who is the Forest county member in the Legislature.