

INK SLINGS.

—Yes, last Friday's snow was the saplin bender. We know, because we saw some that were bent.

—Inasmuch as profane language doesn't appear to us as compatible with the dignity of a Judge of any court we're for firing George W. English, the East St. Louis jurist, who is trying to convince Congress that he doesn't deserve impeachment.

—Senator William I. Betts is an aspirant to succeed himself in the upper branch of the General Assembly and having given a very good account of himself during his first term in the Senate we are of the opinion that the voters of the District are going to give him another.

—We haven't heard of much Beideman strength in Centre county. There'll be some, of course, but as yet it has shown no signs of organization. At this distance from May 18th Centre county looks like Fisher for Governor and doubt as to which party the Republicans will prefer in the senatorial race.

—It was to be expected that his managers would try to capture the dry vote for Senator Pepper, but if the dry vote is smart it will stick to Pinchot, since he has the best chance of defeating Vane. And, besides, Senator Pepper isn't as dry as the exigencies of the campaign will paint him, nor is he so dry as to expect nothing from the wets.

—Talking about counting noses, it is some job to do it in Republican circles in Centre county these days. Leaders, lieutenants and rank and file are all alike. Very few of them will stand still long enough to be tagged with either the Pinchot, Pepper or Vane label. They're all between the devil and the deep sea. They want to be on the winning side and there is no one to tell them which one that will be.

—It'll become Republicans to look with holy horror on the Vane candidacy for United States Senator. Vane is no wetter, either personally or officially, than most of the other leaders of their party always were and, besides, his present traducers yell their heads off in partisan exultation everytime his Philadelphia machine stuffs enough fraudulent votes into the ballot boxes to count one of their party's candidates in.

—Uncle Sam is getting to be so much of a tight-wad that patrons of the Bellefonte post-office have every just reason for registering complaint. When it comes to the point that this newspaper, which is delivered to the office before six o'clock Thursday evening, can't be delivered to subscribers in Bellefonte until the following afternoon it is time for a shake-up one where or the employment of nough people in the office to give the public adequate service.

—Democrats should exercise their judgment in voting for nominees or Governor and Senator. Because chairman Bigelow and Vance McCormick point the finger of preference to certain aspirants there is no objection on the part of any Democrat to take his or her cue therefrom. The very fundamental of Democracy is the expression of the untrammelled will of the electorate and every action of the legislature and every action of the executive that principle works to the destruction, rather than the upbuilding of the party.

—The stock market has been in a ump for some weeks and is likely to maintain there until the middle or end of June when it will gather itself together for a rather appreciable rise. July. How do we know this? For thirty consecutive years we have had the greater part of the month of July in a fishing camp where we had little to do but chop wood, wash dishes, catch and clean up and figure out ways of beating the big market game. In all those years we recall only one when few shares of standard stocks left when we started to camp and when we came home would not have yielded enough profit to have paid the expenses of the expedition.

—We are of the opinion that the legislature of New York is about to do a very wise thing. It is apparently getting ready to take the Prohibition question out of politics by calling a State-wide referendum. By such procedure every Assembly and Senatorial district can vote directly on the question and go of record for the dance of those chosen to represent it in legislative halls. Then any successful candidate of any party, whether he be personally wet or dry, would know for a certainty the sentiment of a majority of his constituents on the prohibition legislation in their wishes in view. Were such a referendum to be held in Pennsylvania Centre county would undoubtedly vote dry. That would be notice anyone seeking legislative honors in the county that he would not represent his constituents as he voted dry on any Prohibition legislation originating at Harrisburg.

—It would end the tendency to medicore men merely because are known to be or have declared themselves to be dry. It would of the Prohibition question out of politics and stop the inconsistencies of a lot of dry fanatics who shout for enforcement from the back seats of their automobiles while their four-year old boys are sitting behind wheel on the front.

—Your enemy never gives short measure in making trouble.

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Senate Democrats in Agreement.

Both wings of the Democratic party in the United States Senate appear to be "flapping together" in the consideration of the Italian debt settlement. On Monday Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, Democratic leader, and Senator Reed, of Missouri, head of the insurgents, spoke on the subject and the only difference in the sentiment expressed was in the language employed. Senator Robinson declared the agreement made by the administration with Italy was a "cancellation and repudiation, not a settlement," and Senator Reed characterized it as "giving away the money of the American people to our European debtors."

There are a few Democrats in the Senate who for one reason or another favor this palatable deal for the Italian vote in the coming Congressional election. But happily there are more Republicans, not in accord with the administration, who will resist this scheme to trade American interests for Italian votes. Senator Reed called attention to the fact that the administration promised that "no debtor nation would be treated better than Great Britain," whereas Italy has been favored "at the ratio of eighty-six to twenty-three." The Italian vote and that of Great Britain in this country is in about the same ratio.

The reasons given for the generous terms to Italy are that Italy has been impoverished by the world war and cannot pay more than the meagre sum agreed upon. But as a matter of fact the impoverishment of Italy is not ascribable to the world war. It is due to the militarism that has taken possession of the dominant power in Italy. Senator Robinson declares that the purpose of this element in the life of the people is to provoke and wage wars of aggression and conquest for the aggrandizement of Italy. Mussolini maintains a standing army far beyond the needs of a peaceful purpose, and if she can do that she can pay debts.

—It's lucky that the public memory is short. The evidence brought out in the Teapot Dome investigation will be forgotten before that of the Tariff Commission is completed.

Governor Pinchot's Platform.

Governor Pinchot's platform as candidate for United States Senator is brief and to the point. Whether it will appeal to the Republicans of Pennsylvania is a question. His first pledge is to "carry out the principles laid down in the Republican national platform and President Coolidge's inaugural address." This opens up a wide field of conjecture. It goes further than the President himself has gone and promises more than the Republicans in Congress have done. But in the circumstances it was a necessary figure of speech. There will be little objection to his promise to "strengthen law enforcement and resist every attempt to weaken the existing liquor laws."

His next pledge is to "drive the gang out of control in the Republican party of Pennsylvania." That is an herculean undertaking. The gang is strongly entrenched. He will find it equally difficult to "secure a national law to punish ballot-box frauds in elections for federal office," so long as his party controls Congress. He will recommend no one for federal office whom he knows to be unfit, will "stand by the people against the monopolists and gangsters" and will "do his level best to give the people a Roosevelt square deal." The rest of his platform is made up of "glittering generalities" about justice to farmers, world peace and "conservation of natural resources."

These neatly rounded phrases and briefly paraphrased pledges sound well and possibly are a sincere expression of a fine purpose. But the Governor is not always dependable. When he was a candidate for Governor he promised to "clean up the mess" at Harrisburg, but after election set about to form combinations with the crooks in office for his personal advantage. After it was too late to accomplish results he did the best he could to redeem his pledges by calling an extra session of the Legislature but the result was failure. If he had demanded ballot reform legislation during the session of 1923 the ballot thieves of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh would be less a menace now.

—It will be noticed that the big bankers attach no importance to a slump in values amounting to billions during a Republican administration.

—All the parties have candidates for all the offices and it is now up to the voters to pick the fittest for the service.

—Your enemy never gives short measure in making trouble.

Mr. Fisher and His Platform.

Former Banking Commissioner John S. Fisher, of Indiana, the Mellon-Grundty candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor, announced his platform at a largely attended public meeting in his home town on Monday evening. After pleading unqualified support to President Coolidge he rather fulsomely praised Secretary of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon, whom he appraises as "a financial leader and genius who had been years in silent preparation for just such a supreme national crisis as the financial aftermath of the world war." This ought to recompense Mr. Mellon for the favor bestowed on Fisher in hitching him up with Pepper and attaching Grundty to the fortunes of the combination.

But the real platform is expressed in a promise to continue the budget system organized by Governor Pinchot; to "faithfully observe and enforce the provisions of the Eighteenth amendment and all the laws growing out of it; check the rising tide of crime; foster public education, the welfare of the farmers and protect the free use and fair count of the ballot." Finally, he declares, that he "will not bring any undue pressure to influence the freedom of action of the legislative body or the fiscal officers," which might be construed as an aspersion both on the former Governor Sproul and the present Governor Pinchot. It will be remembered that in the closing hours of the session of 1921 there were some "high jinks" along that line.

These are "fair promises" and probably well meant. But it will likely be remembered that it was during the period in which he exercised control over the banking department of the State that State Treasurer Kephart and John A. Bell, of the now defunct Carnegie Trust company, juggled the finances of the State. Of course Mr. Fisher was not inculpated in the scandal but he certainly revealed an absence of that vigilance necessary "to check the rising tide of crime." However the interests that are behind his ambitions measure money by millions and pay little, if any, attention to trifles of that sort. Having satisfied General Atterbury that he "is safe," nothing else matters.

—Italy has stood for Mussolini for seven years. But Italians are proverbially partial to monkeys and hand organs.

Senator Reed's Surprising Claim.

When Senator David A. Reed, of Pittsburgh, claimed deduction from his income tax of the amount he had contributed during the tax period to the slush fund of his party considerable surprise was expressed throughout the State. The income tax law provides for deduction of such sums as are contributed to churches, charities and educational institutions but makes no mention of contributions to party organizations. Senator Reed, being a lawyer, was supposed to be able to accurately interpret this rather ambiguous Act of Congress and when he set up a claim for exemption on account of a fairly liberal donation to the Republican State and county committees a good many others imagined that they had missed something.

In Philadelphia, some years ago, the Republican organization set up a variety of "schools" in which the phantom and other bogus voters were taught how to evade restriction in the election laws and control the results of elections by fraud. At first it was conjectured that Senator Reed had construed this provision of the income tax law as covering such "schools." But he promptly and frankly disavowed that purpose and openly declared that his claim for exemption on his campaign contributions was based on an entirely different and much more substantial foundation. He claimed the exemption on the ground that it was a necessary or reasonable item of expense incurred in his business.

The income tax law provides for certain deductions on account of business expenses. For example, interest on capital employed, rents, depreciation in values, repairs of automobiles and other vehicles used in the operation of the business, clerk hire and wages of labor employed. Senator Reed, being counsel for various industrial trusts and concerned in the prosperity of several manufacturing plants, in and about Pittsburgh, reasons that the continued control of the Republican machine is essential to the prosperity of his business and his contribution to the slush fund of that party is a legitimate part of the expenses of his business. It was a bold step but Reed is a daring person.

—Now that April is here we are entitled to expectations of more spring-like weather.

Pepper, Pinchot and Prohibition.

Obviously some of the leading prohibition advocates are influenced more by party prejudice than moral principles in their attitude on the pending contest between Senator Pepper and Governor Pinchot with respect to the enforcement of prohibition laws, fundamental and statutory. For example, the Rev. Dr. Watchorn, chairman of the Temperance committee and others of the Methodist conference, accept Mr. Pepper's perfunctory statement that "I am under a constitutional duty imposed upon me in the name of all the people to do all I can to effectuate the prohibitory policy," as a perfect balance for Governor Pinchot's militant service of a life time in the interest of prohibition principles and legislation.

Senator Pepper is a fine lawyer, a ripe scholar and an intelligent public official. In many respects he may be better equipped for the service in which he hopes to continue than the Governor. But in allegiance to the cause of prohibition, in effort and achievement in preaching and practicing total abstinence, he is not in, or any way near, the same class. During the three years of Governor Pinchot's administration Senator Pepper has not uttered a word or emitted a sound that directly or indirectly promoted the purpose of "driving the saloons out of Pennsylvania," to which the Governor has dedicated his mental and physical energies constantly. The temperance leaders have a right to preference but false pretense is "bad form."

We admit that prohibition is a poor standard upon which to measure the fitness of candidates for Senator in Congress. Total abstinence is a virtue of much value but not a complete qualification for Senatorial service. There have been distinguished and efficient Senators who indulged, and some time too frequently, in the exhilaration of the "flowing cup." But if that standard is to be accepted or adopted in the selection of a Republican candidate for Senator in Pennsylvania this year there can be no question as to which of the three candidates in the field should be chosen. Mr. Vane is boastfully wet, Pepper complacently moist and Pinchot an energetic crusader, a veritable "hot spur" in the cause of prohibition.

—A recent issue of the Morgantown W. Va., Post carries an interesting story of the blowing away of an entire mountain top near the plant of the Greer Limestone Co., at Greer, in that State. It was an experimental blast in that it was made by tunnels into the side of the mountain, rather than from a series of drill holes from the surface. 6,375 pounds of dynamite and black powder constituted the charge and when it was set off the mountain top just seemed to heave up and then settled back into place, a pulverized mass of rock ready to be handily removed by the steam shovels used in the operation. This is the plant of which David J. Kelly, formerly of Bellefonte, is making so much of a success of as manager.

—A mail robbery of three years' standing was cleared up last Thursday with the arrest in Mansfield, Ohio, of Daniel S. Hoover, reported to be the son of a minister. On March 27th, 1923, the sum of \$12,000 was stolen from a mail pouch while in transit from Colver, Cambria county, to Ebensburg. The robbery occurred on a gasoline car in use on the Cambria and Indiana railroad on which Hoover was a demonstrator, and although he was suspected it took federal agents three years to gather sufficient evidence to warrant his arrest. Over \$2,900 of the stolen cash has been recovered.

—Ten counties produced over half of Pennsylvania's 1925 wheat crop and Centre county was not among them. They were all southeastern counties and they averaged from 28.2 bushels per acre in Lancaster county, down to 19.2 bushels per acre in Berks.

—More people might be in sympathy with "modification" if they were convinced that that's all the modificationists are after.

—The Governor of New Jersey wisely believes that forty-five years is too long a period between a crime and the punishment.

—It may now be said that the pretense of the Duke of Orleans to a throne in France was not only false but futile.

—That Cornelia would be brought into the Senatorial contest was inevitable. Cornelia can't stay out of anything.

Uniform Traffic Laws.

From The Philadelphia Record. If complete records could be published daily of the persons killed or injured in traffic accidents in the United States they would look like the casualty lists of the great war. For that reason every community, and indeed, every citizen, is deeply concerned in the program for reducing these dreadful losses which has been formulated by the National Conference on Street and Highway Safety. This body, with its 1000 delegates representing the Governments of 46 States, scores of municipalities and many civic organizations and transportation interests, has just held its second annual meeting in Washington, the sessions covering three days. Its plan, the result of two years' work by many committees, embodies a model traffic code which will be recommended for adoption by all the States and cities.

As Secretary Hoover told the conference, there is obvious need for uniformity of traffic laws as among the States and as among municipalities in the same State; and it is equally manifest that the regulations should apply the principles learned by the experience. He declared that in States which have adopted scientific measures of control the ratio of accidents is lower by 25 per cent. than in those with backward laws.

The code recommended comprises three complete laws, drafted by experts, the first covering the registration of vehicles and titles, the second the licensing of operators and chauffeurs, the third the operation of vehicles on the highways. After considerable debate the conference fixed 16 years as the minimum age for the drivers of automobiles. In eight States the limit is now 15 years, in six States it is 14, and twelve States have no age restriction. The code would make the maximum speed in business districts 20 miles an hour where there is traffic control, 15 miles where there is no control, and on rural roads 35 miles. By a close vote it was recommended that on cars sold henceforth the tail lights be yellow, red being reserved for the warning "stop" lights. The conference urged strict regulation of pedestrian traffic, with fines for violators.

The drafting of these laws represents a work of high value. Yet two tasks of far greater magnitude remain—first, to procure uniformity through their enactment by all States and municipalities, and second, their strict enforcement, without which there can be no advance in safety. As Secretary Hoover justly said, there must be intelligent, persistent cooperation by the entire public if there is to be a reduction in the highway hazards caused by "the criminally reckless, the negligent and the incompetent."

Information the Public Should Have.

From The Pittsburgh Post. The call upon the Department of Justice by the Senate, by a vote of sixty-one to thirteen, for an accounting of the money spent in the prosecution of Senator Wheeler, of Montana, deals with a subject upon which the public should have light. This recalls the unhappy administration of Harry M. Daugherty as attorney general. Wheeler headed the Senate committee that inquired into charges against the Daugherty administration. While that investigation was at its height the Department of Justice obtained an indictment of Wheeler in Montana on charges of misusing his official influence in private business. At the time Wheeler flatly declared the prosecution a "frame-up" designed to discredit his investigation of the attorney general. Investigators were declared to have been sent into Montana to "get Wheeler."

Accordingly the case never sat well with the public. Fears were raised that the Department of Justice was being used to vent a private grudge or serve a mean partisan purpose. This impression was deepened when body after body that inquired into Wheeler's record exonerated him. The United States Senate cleared him so far as it was concerned, and finally, when the case was put on trial in Montana, the Senator was acquitted. Still the Department of Justice pursued him, and even after Daugherty retired.

It would be a frightful thing if the Department which is supposed to serve justice in the most dignified and most impartial manner should fall in any instance to such a mean use as that of a weapon for private or partisan hate. At the same time, of course, the public money is supposed to be used strictly for public purposes. The public has the right to know how much of its money went into the undignified and futile proceedings of the Department of Justice against Wheeler.

—Maybe if the Republican machine were less opposed to Governor Pinchot those Philadelphia clergymen would estimate the relative merits of the Governor and the Senator as Prohibitionists differently.

—Fishermen evidently have not started the rush to procure their licenses. Up to Wednesday county treasurer Heverly had issued only a few over six hundred.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—There now are 74 cases of typhoid fever in New Milford, which has a population of 600.

—Sixty locomotives, involving an expenditure of \$2,000,000, will be built by the Pennsylvania Railroad at its Altoona shops.

—Morrison Firth, 17, of Chester, was held up and beaten by two highwaymen as he was returning home, and robbed of \$15, a watch and valuables. He was found unconscious by John Sloan, a neighbor.

—Awakened by a noise in his bed-room, Daniel McKinney, a Chester patrolman, found a burglar ransacking his house. Rushing to grab his gun, the patrolman found that the burglar, who escaped, also had the weapon.

—An alleged attempt of a mother to kill herself and four other members of the family is now being investigated by the Reading police as the result of the finding of the family of five near asphyxiation at their home there.

—Jewelry and clothing, including two shotguns, a revolver and a diamond necklace, valued at \$1500, were taken from the home of Dr. G. Cherry, of Ambler, by thieves who gained entrance through a rear cellar door.

—Pleading guilty to shooting and killing Floyd Craft, 23, several weeks ago, Louis Chambrone, of Carbonade, was sentenced to serve from ten to twenty years in the Eastern Penitentiary, after the court fixed the degree at second degree murder.

—Mrs. Violet Clayberger, Fisher's Ferry, near Sunbury, was last week awarded \$3568.50 by the State Compensation Board for the death of her husband, who contracted tuberculosis while at work in the Cameron anthracite mines at Shamokin.

—Two months after the office of the Norristown Machine Works was broken into and ransacked, George Scott, negro, of Bridgeport, was arrested and confessed to police that he stole \$2500 from a desk of C. W. Gardner, superintendent of the plant.

—Just as he had finished singing "Nearer My God to Thee" in Lenten services at St. Mary's Church in Erie last Friday night, Prof. Alexander Senger, soloist and vocal instructor, dropped dead. A sudden attack of heart disease was the cause of death.

—Mrs. Mary D. Camwell, a former clerk in the Midland Savings and Trust company bank, at Beaver, Pa., was convicted by a jury last Thursday on embezzlement and forgery charges involving \$5,200 of funds of the institution. The indictment against Mrs. Camwell contained 218 counts. The jury was composed of seven women and five men.

—Salvatore Vereria of Girardville, Pa., is living with a bullet in his heart. He is at the Fountain Springs hospital, where an X-ray on Friday showed that the bullet is being constantly whirled about his heart as it beats. Vereria was shot February 12. He apparently has recovered from the effects of the shooting, but is being detained for observation by physicians. He is able to be about the corridors of the hospital.

—Stating in a will probated at Doylestown, on Saturday, that his wife tried to poison him twenty-three years ago, and because she three years ago cooked the meals for his family without salt, resulting in sickness he claims to be the cause of death of one of his children, George Kasparitis, who died at his home in Bensalem township, Bucks county, on March 7, has put off his wife from a share in the estate, valued at \$21,500. The will, dated February 10, 1926, lists the personal property at \$6500 and real estate, a farm, at \$15,000. Three daughters share the estate. They are Anna, Elsie, and Mary Kasparitis.

—Charles Baranowski, aged 11, of Scranton, was awarded a verdict of \$20,000 in Common Pleas court last Saturday against the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley railroad for loss of an arm and burns about the body. The boy tripped and fell on the heavily charged overhead wire of the Laurel Line railroad, owned by the Lackawanna company, and was later cooked by a passenger train near the Virginia station in June, 1923. The third rail system operates between that city and Wilkes-Barre. The boy's father, John Baranowski, was given a verdict of \$5000. Former Governor William C. Sproul is president of the Laurel line.

—Northumberland county commissioners appealed to the Supreme court on Monday from an order of Judge Whitehead, of Lycoming county, especially presiding, that it join with Union county in building a \$600,000 bridge across the Susquehanna river, between Watsonstown and White Deer. The allegation of Northumberland county, is that the structure would not be used by 200 persons a week, that the county which it would serve is sparsely settled, and that the building of such a structure would impoverish Union county for many years to come. It is also declared that it is not necessary as a good bridge exists four miles on either side.

—"I love you—but I am going to take my life as well as the baby's" Mrs. Helen Gerssey, 19 years old, of Florida street, Farrell, wrote the above brief message on Monday morning to her husband, Steve Gerssey, and leaving it where he would find it when he returned from work, dressed her 10-day-old son and went to Sharon. Two hours later with the child nesting in her arms, she climbed the rail and poisoning momentarily plunged to death in the cold waters of the Shenango river below Budd street bridge in the latter city. Policemen and firemen found her body a half hour later near the bridge, but efforts to revive her were futile. An hour later the body of the infant was found two miles down-stream.

—Mystery attends the disappearance of Mrs. Florence Wrigley, 32 years old and mother of six children, who has been missing from her home in Clearfield since Tuesday March 16. Police have searched Tyrone, Altoona and Williamsport. They say they have discovered that the woman participated in a party with two strange men and a woman, on the night of her disappearance, and have traced her to Woodland, ten miles away. Men who admitted they were in her company, told the police she had refused to leave their automobile when they attempted to take her home, but after coaxing her at length, she asked to be taken to a store to make a purchase before going home. This was done and from the point where she left the automobile, police have lost all trace of her.