

INK SLINGS.

Nobody has been able to inveigle Senator Pepper into an expression of preference for Governor.

Like all other prohibition enforcement officers Mr. Baird, the new chief in this district, says he will accomplish results.

There is likely to be an unusually big vote at the primary election this year, but it will be more the result of selfishness than civic improvement.

It is easy to see that Governor Pinchot and Senator Pepper are fond of each other. They set their terms of endearment in such sarcastic phrases.

To distant piscatorial friends, whom we know are interested, we want to say that the old boy isn't down and out yet. We got nine last Friday afternoon and didn't half try.

Nobody will ever know the real reason for the resignation of Major Murdock, as prohibition director. He is too good a party man to tell the truth when it might damage the party plans.

After the lovely weather of the latter part of last week came the freezes of Monday and Tuesday and we were just about to remark "what a short summer we had," when it staged a come back on Wednesday.

We're not worrying a bit about the "Afaletics." We're disappointed, of course, that they haven't gotten away to a better start. The thing we can't rise above is the thought of the approaching day when we're going to be told that "the house is full of flies and the screen doors will have to be put on this very afternoon."

The Virginia parson who writes that he has seen "nothing better" on the death of Luther Burbank than "the last half" of our recent Preachment evidently didn't like the first half. That was probably because of the atmosphere of Lemp's beer. If we have guessed the eminent divine right we are of one mind with him. Neither did we. That was the reason it was "untouched."

Bulletins inform us that an added feature to the summer courses at Penn State this year will be music—specially voice. And that eminent instructors are being called from "down east" and out west. Its just a bit disappointing to think that we have not been invited to lend a hand. When it comes to picking voices and telling people how to sing: That's something we'd rather do than fish.

Gentlemen whose love of an argument leads them to take any side of any question sometimes find themselves in very embarrassing situations, as was the deserved experience of one in this place, Monday night, when he was broadcasting his opinion of a distinguished gentleman without knowing that a brother of the distinguished gentleman was on the fringe of the party he was entertaining.

The Rev. Maude Seymour, vice-president of the Pennsylvania W. C. T. U. is evidently from Missouri. She wants to know what Governor Pinchot has done with the \$250,000 the women raised to help him enforce the Volstead law. She might find that out, because there is probably nothing to hide, but she will also find out that the W. C. T. U. can get along without the Rev. Maude. It is for Pinchot and she is for Pepper and the W. C. T. U. has little patience with them that jump the traces.

The new Susquehanna base-ball league is composed of purely amateur teams. As such it will probably prove very interesting and successful, but the moment professionalism breaks into it there is going to be trouble, especially for those who are left "holding the bag." We were in that position ourselves, away back in the days of the old Mountain League, and we know how quickly one paid player leads to another and how certainly the team that employs them winds up in the slough of financial despond.

By way of looking over political fence building the Hon. Cyrus Woods, adopted Centre countian, Senator from Westmoreland county, Minister to Portugal, Secretary of the Commonwealth under Brumbaugh, Ambassador to Japan and what not, spent Monday night here. The Hon. Cyrus is managing the Pepper campaign in Pennsylvania and was here to see how the Senator fares in Centre. Inasmuch as the editor of the Republican is the local Pepper-Fisher-Smith-Woodward captain general all of the Republicans whom he rates as being able to deliver the goods were invited to his home Monday night to meet Mr. Campaignmanager Woods. Reports, of course, were very gratifying, but we're not so much interested in that as we are curious to know whether the editor of the Gazette was there. Tom, always, has been very loyal to Pinchot. He holds a "thank you" job under the Governor, but Gifford's days of job giving are waning and we've been distressed about his Water Commissioner. He's been such a good Republican and it would break our heart to see him without a kite to tie his tail to. Therefore, the wonderment as to whether the editor of the Republican gave the editor of the Gazette a chance to sit in with "the big cheese" when the conference was held Monday night.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Eleventh Hour Converts to Ballot Reform.

The most gratifying incident of the triangular contest for the Republican nomination for Senator is the development of an unexpected interest in honest elections and fair returns of the vote cast. Governor Pinchot has become almost hysterical in his anxiety on this subject and Senator Pepper is appealing to his friends to be watchful.

Four years ago Mr. Pinchot was elected Governor of the State by a vote which subsequent analysis proved to be fraudulent. It has been shown that 40,000 fraudulent votes were cast for him in Philadelphia, 20,000 in Pittsburgh and a considerable number in Scranton and other cities.

But at that he got ahead of Senator Pepper in pleading for honest elections. After Senator Newberry had been convicted in a federal court of procuring an election by fraudulent votes, Senator Pepper voted for his retention of the tarnished seat, and while the honest men and women of both parties were urging ballot reform legislation during the extra session he was as silent as a Sphinx for the reason that he then probably expected the ballot frauds of the Vore machine to be employed to his advantage in what then promised to be a single-handed contest between the Governor and himself for the Senatorial nomination.

A contemporary asks how Secretary Hoover can tell how much the people pay for imported liquors that are not reported at the custom house? As he does with most things, he guesses at it.

Surprising Campaign Claims.

One of the surprising things in the campaign for the Republican nomination for Senator is the persistence with which all the candidates profess allegiance to President Coolidge. The first plank in the Pinchot platform is, "if elected United States Senator I will use the power of my office to carry out the principles laid down in the Republican national platform and President Coolidge's inaugural address."

If it makes any difference what Mr. Vore says or thinks on this or any other subject it may be recalled that in the announcement of his candidacy he declared that he had always been a faithful supporter of President Coolidge, and in the event of his election to the Senate, he will continue his fidelity to the President. If President Coolidge were the idol of his party, as the late Colonel Roosevelt was, this servility to him might be easily understood. But as a matter of record President Coolidge is not highly influential or extremely popular in his party or throughout the country.

Senator McKinley, of Illinois, was a faithful and efficient supporter of President Coolidge. His term of office expires with the end of the present Congress and he was a candidate for renomination at the recent primary. He was defeated by upward of 100,000 votes, and the only reason put forward by the opposition was his unwavering fidelity to the President. The President's nominee for Attorney General lost the office because of the refusal of the Senate to confirm him. The man who nominated Coolidge for Vice President was named by him for district judge and rejected by the Senate. Yet Republican candidates in Pennsylvania cling to the Coolidge coat tail.

Grundy "Turned Down" by Mellon.

Mr. Grundy, president of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' association and Republican boss in Bucks county, may fulfill his agreement made with Mellon to support Pepper for Senator but he is not enthusiastic or even cordial about it. Ever since Pepper was catapulted into public life, after the death of Penrose, Grundy has been bitterly antagonistic to the scholarly churchman, though his reasons for enmity have not been revealed.

The cause of quarrel between Grundy and Baker is well known. Grundy has always been inflexibly opposed to labor and welfare legislation and Baker has invariably favored such measures. While the late Senator Crow was chairman of the Republican State committee Grundy blamed Baker with influencing Crow to support labor and welfare bills. After Crow died and Baker became chairman of the committee Grundy openly declared war upon him. It was because of this enmity to Baker that Grundy spent \$80,000 to nominate Pinchot four years ago. Baker was actively for Alter, who had a record in favor of welfare legislation and a friendly feeling for Baker. Grundy took Fisher with him into the Pinchot camp.

Since Mr. Mellon negotiated an agreement with Grundy to put Fisher on the Pepper ticket in consideration of Grundy's self-stultification by promising to support Pepper, Grundy has been trying to force Mellon and Pepper to drive Baker into the Vore camp. Baker is supporting his fellow townsman Beidleman for Governor and neutral on the Senatorship, and Grundy is mortally afraid that Pepper and Beidleman will be nominated and his servile candidate, Mr. Fisher, defeated. He reasons, plausibly, that if Baker would turn in for Vore many supporters of Pepper who are friendly to Beidleman might switch over to Fisher. But Mellon and Pepper, who are wiser if not less selfish, have bluntly refused to attack Baker.

This weather may be bad for vegetation but that is unimportant compared with the effect it has on base ball.

Republican Senatorial Muddle.

The Mellon management of the Pepper campaign is proving its efficiency. Max Leslie has been hauled off the fence onto the Pepper side and State Senator P. F. Joyce, of Luzerne county, has deserted Vore and gone over to his Philadelphia opponent. Other politicians of the same type, Mr. Pinchot declares they represent "the worst in politics," are "rallying around" the same standard. They have been persuaded that the contest is between Pepper and Pinchot and that Pepper is more likely to serve them than the Governor. In this appraisalment they are probably right. The scholarly churchman voted for Newberry and offered to "spit in the eye of a bull dog." Pinchot would hardly do either.

The moment Secretary Mellon's resourceful nephew set up a trading post in Philadelphia political conditions changed, not only in that city but throughout the State. The farmer who had managed the Pepper campaign up to that time was removed and a more sophisticated politician installed in the service. The drive for a big registration was stimulated to greater vigor by the assurance of ample funds and the Vore tide receded in the exact ratio that the Pepper confidence increased. The mercenary soon sensed the situation and turned toward the Mellon recruiting stations. Max Leslie led the procession and Joyce promptly followed. It has developed into a spectacular parade.

Two weeks ago the signs indicated Pepper trailing along a rather poor third in the race. To-day it appears as if Vore is in the third place and Pinchot and Pepper "neck and neck" for the lead. This situation will force a considerable number of the moist voters to abandon Vore and unite with Pepper. The ultra wets will stick to Vore as a matter of principle. But those like Joyce, whose brewery is closed under padlock ordered by the federal court, will turn to Pepper as the most likely to be considerate for them. But it is a pretty fight and still an uncertain quantity. Pinchot also has "money to burn."

Now if Mr. Vore had milked the plow instead of the cow it would be an achievement worth while.

Joking on a Serious Subject.

The playful letter of Governor Pinchot to "Dear George," which appears to be "short" for Senator George Wharton Pepper, congratulating the Senator upon the acquisition to his force of supporters of State Senator Max Leslie, of Pittsburgh, and State Senator Pat Joyce, of Luzerne county, indicates a more or less keen sense of humor as well as a rather natural apprehension of danger. He says these new converts to the Pepper cause represent "the very worst in politics," and that their drift in the direction of Pepper is not only natural but a sign of self-preservation. Mr. Vore's declining strength, he intimates, has admonished the political bandits that Pepper is their only hope.

As a matter of fact Pinchot has more reasons for fear than for fun in these acquisitions to the Pepper force. Without venturing to deny the accuracy of the Governor's appraisalment of the State Senators in question it is certain that they exercise a potent influence on the vote of the communities in which they live. Even Vore has nothing on Leslie as a manipulator of election returns and it may be safely said that if he turns to the work earnestly his support of Pepper will be good for 20,000 votes. And if Senator Joyce's change of heart expresses the attitude of all the friends of pad-locked breweries in the State his desertion of Vore and attachment to Pepper may mean a good deal.

With Pepper gaining every day from among the wet voters and Pinchot losing every day from the dry forces and the women voters, the relative position of the candidates which a week ago was Pinchot, Vore and Pepper may be completely reversed, or at least put Pepper and Pinchot into a very close contest. In any event one thing may be set down as certain. That is that the action of Max Leslie in this or any other partisan battle is anything else than a joke. It means business at any cost in morals or risk of consequences. If he has been forced into a position unwillingly it may mean little. But if he is voluntarily enlisted and earnestly engaged, he is a dangerous antagonist.

Many people in Bellefonte are wondering what has become of the dining car proposition that caused some excitement a few months ago over the sale of the Cohen lot between the Richelieu theatre and the Casement property. While the dining car may not be badly needed as an eating place in Bellefonte it must be admitted that the property, if fixed up as outlined at the time of the sale, would look a lot better than the present unsightly bill board that now adorns (?) the front. The lot back of the bill board has never been cleaned up but is still covered with piles of broken lumber, rubbish of most every description, old iron, etc., and adjacent property owners are not keen on the outlook and also consider it a fire menace.

Expulsion from college for the balance of the college year will be the penalty to students at the Pennsylvania State College who are convicted of violation of the rule established two years ago that no students shall keep or operate an automobile at the college without special permit from college officers. The original ruling by the Board of Trustees has not been observed closely in recent months and the college council of administration has decided to take this step as an enforcement measure. They take the stand that pleasant spring days, studies and automobiles do not tend to improve the scholastic standing of students.

Now that we had a snow storm on Sunday night and a heavy frost on Tuesday morning, when the temperature dropped several degrees below freezing, probably we will have more seasonable weather. From the backwardness of all kinds of buds and blossoms we will cling to the hope that the fruit crop has not been materially damaged.

Over 500 young ladies from all parts of Pennsylvania and from near by States attended the annual Junior Prom at the Pennsylvania State College last week-end. It was the formal social farewell given by the Juniors to the fourth year class which is to be graduated in June.

It is a safe bet that Cyrus Woods didn't propose the investigation of the W. C. T. U. enforcement fund. Cyrus may have faults but he's not crazy.

No judge has yet been censured by the press or the public for giving severe sentences to drunken or reckless automobile drivers.

To a Friend.

I shall not sing to you
In rhymes of birds and trees
And out-door things
As dear to each of us as sweetness,
In the peace of May-time breeze.
But rather let me give back to you,
The reflex of your thought for me
Tis sweeter far than all the songs
Of winds in trees or passionately
Longed for hopes in Spring's warm
breeze.

—Winifred B. Meek-Morris.

How Do Pennsylvanians Vote?

The evidences of fraud that are brought out practically every time a re-count of ballots is obtained in a dispute over returns in a Pennsylvania district ought to fire the citizenship to a determination to exhaust every means this year to secure an honest count. For instance, there is the startling experience of Benjamin H. Renshaw as a Democratic candidate last fall for a judgeship in Philadelphia. In division after division in which there was a certainty he had received votes, zeroes were given him in the returns. It was found impossible for him to get anything like a serious re-opening of the boxes. It was the multiplicity of instances like this that constituted one of the reasons behind the attempt to get the special session of the Legislature to make the opening of ballot boxes in such cases compulsory instead of leaving it merely at the discretion of the judges. The response of the Legislature was so unsatisfactory to Governor Pinchot that he vetoed the bill. So far as the boxes were opened in the Renshaw case, the original returns bore scarcely any resemblance to the vote cast. In one division in which he was represented as having received only 20 votes, it was found that 113 had been cast for him. He gained 333 votes by the opening of just three boxes. As it is, nobody knows what his vote in Philadelphia last fall was. The many citizens who cast fall was.

This may well raise the question as to whether the minority party in the State is in fact as far below the majority in numbers as indicated in the figures. In Philadelphia it long has been suspected that practically no count of Democratic votes there has been made, the minority candidates simply being "allowed" a few occasionally in the making up of returns. Last fall not even this recognition was given them in many districts, zeroes being set down brazenly. With instances of this throughout the State, the foundation of government in Pennsylvania surely needs attention. Well has Judge William E. Porter, candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, emphasized:

Where the mechanic in the mills, the men on the farm or the business man honestly cast ballots for what they believe is right these honest votes have in many cases been cancelled by fictitious votes which were not cast, but which were counted by corrupt organizations in populous centers.

This draws attention to one of the greatest needs for a strong minority party in the State, or for proper support of those who undertake to rid election returns of fraud. In a State where there are two parties well matched each keeps such a watch on the other that no risks can be run in the making of election returns. Imagine attempting to give the candidates of either such parties zeroes in any election district! The opening of every election box where returns were disputed would be forced. There would be no stealing of elections with a strong minority party on guard. In any event, the citizens should be alert to prevent any miscounting of their votes in the coming primaries and election.

Running Wild.

Congress persists in its efforts to appropriate more money than there is in sight for the next fiscal year. Apparently it has forgotten all about the \$370,000,000 cut in revenues made by the Revenue Act of 1926. Proposed appropriations are piling up alarmingly. In the House legislation is now actually pending which will, if passed, require more than \$200,000,000.

Other bills are crowding forward—pension bills, veterans' bills, retirement bills and numerous others—with demands that will total more than \$150,000,000. Farm-relief anywhere from \$100,000,000 to \$250,000,000. Approximately \$500,000,000 must be found by the Treasury if all these measures pass.

Congress is trying to eat its tax-cake and also keep it. The situation is so menacing that the White House has again been compelled to threaten a general veto of all pension and veterans' bills unless these are kept within reason. Has Congress forgotten that it cut at least \$70,000,000 below the safety line of tax reduction drawn by the Administration? Is it unable to realize that all this money about to be appropriated is bound to mean a revenue deficit? Is it foolish enough to believe that a deficit will not force an increase in the very taxes that have been so recently reduced?

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Francis Fisher, 36, of Bechtelsville, Berks county, died on Friday at his home from lockjaw, caused by a splinter of wood entering his hand while he was working with a fork in his garden last week.

Miss Irene Dean, who has been acting postmaster at Lemont-Furnace, Fayette county, Pa., since the death of former postmaster John G. Harford, was given a permanent appointment Monday by Postmaster General Harry S. New.

A terrific explosion early on Sunday wrecked the building of the Belleville, Pa., "Times." Chase Allison, the editor, who resided in the building, with his wife and two children, and two other families, escaped injury, but the plant was wrecked.

While in a delirious condition, Russell Hartman, 23, of Pittsburgh last Friday attacked his nurse, Miss Clara Hoch, knocked her down, smashed the glass of a window pane with his hands and then hurled himself twenty feet to the concrete sidewalk below.

Lawrence H. Rupp, formerly State Democratic chairman, was injured when the automobile of Wilson Shankweiler, in which he was riding, upset after being struck by another car on the Stratington pike. He was cut when hurled through the windshield of the machine.

Falling off the Shenandoah station of the Pennsylvania railroad to the track below directly in the path of a shifting engine, John Pescavage, 14, miraculously escaped injury when his clothing was caught in the brake rigging of the tender and he was dragged several yards until the engine could be stopped. He walked away uninjured.

Manipulating the comb-rotation lock on the safe in the Brillhart post office, in the store of Clinton Myers, thieves last Thursday night escaped with about \$50 in cash. A number of U. S. Government bonds, kept in the safe, were overlooked by the robbers. The thieves also took about \$8 in cash from the till in the store and a number of bananas. A. C. Dubbs is postmaster.

Daniel S. Hoover, 49 years old, of Mansfield, O., was sentenced on Saturday to two years in the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta, by Judge F. P. Schoonmaker, of Pittsburgh, in United States district court. Hoover pleaded guilty to the theft of two registered letters containing \$10,640 from a mail pouch in a baggage car between Nantyglo and Colver, Indiana county, March 27, 1923.

Although he underwent nine operations for a fracture of the leg which failed to knit, Victor Keiffer, well-known resident and carpenter, of Shamokin, who followed his trade up to three years ago, when a fall from the roof of a house disabled him, died at his home in that place Sunday, Keiffer was injured on November 29th, 1922, and repeated operations since that time had sapped his strength to the point where he could not recover.

Scotty Campbell, who escaped from the eastern penitentiary in Philadelphia, in January, 1925, was sent back to prison by a Philadelphia judge, on Monday, to serve from "90 to 120 years." Campbell, who is 25 years old, was serving 25 to 50 years for highway robbery when he escaped in a load of hot ashes. He was recaptured in Los Angeles last month. A Pennsylvania law permits doubling a prisoner's sentence if he escapes.

After throwing \$800 into a stove at his home in Jessup, near Scranton, last Friday, Peter Cruciani, 40, calmly picked up a rope, walked to the woods a half mile away and hanged himself. Cruciani's body was found by his sister-in-law and neighbors who rushed to the woods trying to save the man from carrying out his threat. The coroner, after pronouncing the man dead, expressed the opinion that Cruciani, who returned from Italy a few days ago, was demented.

The body of a man found floating along the river below Dalmatia, Columbia county, has been identified as that of Lester Mill, of New Berlin, by his father Daniel Mill. The body was buried at Salem on Sunday. The man was drowned March 23, when he was plunged into the river from the Bainbridge street toll bridge when a broken cotter pin caused his car to crash into the guard rail of the bridge and into the river high and swift from the spring flood.

J. Dingee Penneck, a farmer of West Bradford township, in Chester county, is seeking a safe and sure method of evicting a large colony of honey bees from the loft in the farm house on the Penneck homestead. A year or two since a stray swarm found an entrance to the attic through a crack in the weather-boarding. The colony prospered and now the loft is full of bees, which have become a menace to the people about the house. Several persons have been stung, and an energetic effort was made to evict the bees, a bee keeper assisting, but the effort was a failure. A tub full of honey and stings were the result. Penneck doesn't want to burn off the roof and he doesn't want to be stung.

A cement worker by day, the father of four children and held in high esteem by neighbors of Bleakley Hill, near Franklin, Pa., Ollie E. Snyder, 45 years old, lies dead as the climax to what county officials believe has been a series of nightly marauding expeditions and preying upon chicken coops. Snyder was killed early Sunday morning as he and a companion, believed to be his brother-in-law, Albert Woods, raided the chicken coop of Delmer Carter, at Galloway, four miles from Franklin. Two men attacked Carter as he came to the coop to investigate, and the full contents of his double-barreled shotgun almost ripped Snyder's head from his body. The other man fled, after trying to choke Carter.

Gröver Cleveland Bair, principal of the public schools at Mount Joy, Lancaster county, has defied more than 125 residents of the borough, who are asking him to resign, by saying he is going to "carry on," and improve the town's educational system. A movement to oust Professor Bair got under way several weeks ago, after he had been re-elected unanimously for another term by the school board. A petition asking him to resign was circulated and presented to him with an open letter, which cited he had failed to organize a school orchestra, or carry on other extra curriculum work. He replied that crowded conditions at the schools forbade additional work, and that extra hours are being given by teachers in an effort to overcome the handicap resulting from over-crowded class rooms.