

INK SLINGS.

—We can save Pennsylvania from Vire-ism by electing William B. Wilson to the United States Senate. Let's do it.

—The Dunkirk, N. Y., Judge who spanked a forty-two year old culprit, has another way of demonstrating "the strong arm of the law."

—The faculty of Princeton has voted in favor of modification of the Volstead law. Goodness, gosh, Agnes, isn't it awful? That old blue-stockin knittin' mill doing a thing like that.

—With frosts almost every morning the beans and the lettuce and parsley that won't poke heads through the ground must be given credit with more wit than we thought they had.

—Charles M. Schwab blames the poor earnings of the steel industry on high priced management. Charley ought to know. He's taken down some mighty handsome pay checks in his day.

—Even Senator Stanchfield, of Oregon, who made his campaign on stand back of Coolidge because I did is in the discard. This doesn't seem to be the season for supporting the President.

—Our friend Eugene C. Bonniwell also seems to have gone to the well once to often with his pitcher.—No, the container Eugene carries into his political forays isn't a pitcher. It's a "growler."

—With Judge Shull as our candidate for Governor and William B. Wilson for United States Senator we Democrats are sitting pretty. Well, the cards are on the table and we invite everybody to sit in the game.

—The Haugen bill was a ridiculous attempt to do something for a class that needs to be let alone more than it needs anything else legislatively, but its defeat in Congress will lick the next Republican candidate for President.

—How many of the Republicans who were praying for Maj. H. Laird Curtin when he essayed the management of Vare's campaign in Centre county are there who are going to get down on their knees in November and ask for forgiveness.

—For Heaven's sake, Democrats, now that we have a chance to do something for Pennsylvania, don't listen to the plan that the Anti-Saloon League has of taking over the management of our party in the State. We haven't much, but what there is of it will be shot to pieces if Homer W. Tope and his gang gets to driving from the back seat.

—Our dear old friend Mrs. Hannah E. Osman again writes from State College that she can't get along without the Watchman and we write this paragraph to tell her and all others that it isn't the dollar and a half they send us annually that makes the Watchman requisite to them. It is the assurance that it is read and appreciated by a class whose opinion counts for something that inspires us to make the Watchman what it is.

—The last Democratic Senator Pennsylvania had was the late William A. Wallace, of Clearfield, who served from 1875 to 1881. Senator Wallace didn't wreck the government. He didn't disgrace—he honored the State. The Republicans who helped send him to Washington never had cause to regret it. Let us hope that there are enough Republicans in 1926 as broadminded as were those of fifty-one years ago to save Pennsylvania in a greater crisis than confronted the State then.

—Naturally England doesn't like the American made film "The Big Parade." John Bull is indignant because he reads between the "titles" that America won the war. The matter of who won the war interests America about as much today as the identity of "who struck Billy Patterson" does. But we'd like to ask England, France and all the rest of our Allies what would have become of them if Germany hadn't realized, when it was too late, what America means when she gets up on her ear?

—Old Howard Sargent is still a kid. He's never put away childish things. He's still goofy over circuses. An excess baggage letter we got from him Wednesday was full of Ringling publicity and subtle insinuation that we are slipping. Howard had only to walk across the street from his home in Pittsburgh to get the smell of the menagerie in his nostrils. We drove clear to Williamsport for the same thrill and came home convinced that a circus chair in 1926 isn't any more of an anatomical easement than was a circus bleacher in 1878.

—Brother Dorworth, of the Republican, really pulled a big thing. He worked the county out for Fisher when it was set up for Beidleman. But what is that going to get for C. E. D.? Fisher isn't elected yet and if he is he'll have to make terms with the very people who gave brother Dorworth the position he held under the Sproul administration and will have a lot to do with his ambition to land on the Public Service Commission. Mr. Scott is the state committeeman—as you will notice from the primary returns—and Mr. Scott is one of the kind whose desires will not be treated lightly by whatever faction gets in control of the Republican State organization.

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What Will Our New County Chairman Do?

William D. Zerby Esq. has been chosen chairman of the Democratic organization in Centre county. Before the primaries we expressed the opinion that it would be better for our party to select a chairman located somewhere else than in Bellefonte and since the gratuitous advice was not accepted by the voters we hope that Mr. Zerby's constructive efforts for the party will be such as to demonstrate that the voters were wiser on primary day than we thought ourselves to be prior to that date.

Our reason for personally favoring the candidacy of Mr. Freeman, of Phillipsburg, was not personal either as to him or Mr. Zerby. It was only because we felt that party unity has not been as it should be and the virile, winning organization of twenty-five years ago has been in a decline that has left it a mere shadow. Just why this should have occurred we shall not discuss at this time. But those intimately acquainted with local conditions know enough as to its cause to understand why we thought a chairman removed from Bellefonte and without interest in or knowledge of the squabbles the various Bellefonte leaders of our party have had, one with another, would have been able to arouse more earnest co-operation among them. It has been voted otherwise and we here record our acceptance of the verdict of the ballot and pledge our wholehearted, unselfish support to every unselfish move Mr. Zerby makes to build up the county organization and revive the militancy of years ago.

This is a great opportunity. Not within our memory has such a one presented itself to any chairman. There isn't a shadow of doubt but that Centre county can be brought to give William B. Wilson a majority of two thousand or more next fall. And what a heartening effect such a result would have on the Democracy of the county and what a feather it would be in the cap of the new chairman.

Political laurels look easy to win just now and political laurels are some times very valuable assets. Within the week dozens of Republicans have come into this office to say that they are with us to the finish in the support of Mr. Wilson. Not one of them has been of the type we know so well, that jumps over the fence in June and then jumps back in November. Every one of them will vote for Wilson in November and there are thousands like them in Centre county.

All that is needed is an organization that will get out the solid Democratic vote so that the accessions to the party strength will be reflected in the result.

Mr. Vare can be defeated. The county counties of Pennsylvania can do it, if in every one of them there is a local Democratic organization ready to lead the fight.

We're hoping that Mr. Zerby will begin now, right now, to cultivate the fertile soil that lies before him.

We want to see Pennsylvania saved from Vireism and we'd like to see Mr. Zerby prove to us that we were wrong in thinking that the chairmanship of our party ought to have been moved out of Bellefonte for a while.

The opportunity—and it is a great one—is his. Will he rise to it?

Wasting the Taxpayers' Money.

The law is the law, of course, but what a sorry and expensive figure it makes of itself at times. Justice has been holding the scales in the Centre county court house for almost two weeks. Thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money have been spent in order to give every man "his day in court." And the sum and substance of it all is a lot of petty cases that should never have been there at all.

Last week two entire days were devoted to a controversy over a dog that might have been worth ten dollars. This week two entire days were taken up with a claim that was satisfied with a verdict of twenty dollars. The two cases probably cost the county five hundred and why?

All because Justices send cases to court that never should get there. Of course the committing magistrate gets more in fees, but has he no thought of what it costs the taxpayer? We have always been of the opinion that there are too many laws but in the light of litigation in our own court recently we think we would favor a law that would permit juries to place costs on Justices, instead of the county, in certain cases.

That would have the effect of settling petty controversies where they should be settled. It would be a constant admonition to Justices that the expensive machinery of a county court is not to be put in operation for every trivial controversy that comes before them.

Wilson Can be Elected, Pennsylvania Can be Saved from Vire.

Those who think that William S. Vare, Philadelphia Congressman, who is now the candidate of a minority of the Republican party for United States Senator, cannot be beaten endently jump at conclusions. They think because he can apparently count as many votes as he likes in Philadelphia county and is reasonably certain of carrying Allegheny, Lancaster, Dauphin, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware and Bucks that a real fight against him is tilting at windmills.

Banish the thought. Vare can be beaten and easily. He carried only two counties—Dauphin and Philadelphia—in the recent primaries and his vote in one of them will be less in November than it was in May. Pennsylvania can defeat Vare. But will it? That is the question that is up to Pennsylvania.

The State is overwhelmingly Republican. Vare is one of the politicians whose methods gave rise to the thought in the mind of the late Elihu Root that his kind is only masquerading as Republican. They are Republicans because it is the dominant party in the State and the only political cow that can be milked with the hope of getting a good percentage of fat. That is the spirit that brought the Vares into politics in Pennsylvania. Undoubtedly they would have been Democrats or Prohibitionists or Bolsheviks had any of the latter parties been in control of the government of Philadelphia when they sought city street cleaning contracts as a stepping stone to their knew not what. There's nothing to them, there never was—more than the admirable trait of nobody trying to become somebody. We call the trait admirable because it is when the nobody—with native genius such as Lincoln's—read and studied until he became somebody. Vare has never done that. His only thought is as to where political control is going to get him. If he can force himself into the United States Senate he will name every postmaster, every revenue collector, every federal appointee to which the State is entitled—and they are many because Pennsylvania's votes in the electoral column are potential.

Vare is in politics for what there is in it. All he will ever become will have been made out of politics in Pennsylvania if Republicans of our State are ready to admit that their party is so much their fetish that the worst Republican looks better to them than the best Democrat.

We don't believe all of them are. There were enough who were not, away back in 1875, to help us elect William A. Wallace to be Senator for Pennsylvania in Congress. There were enough who were not to help us elect Pattison Governor in 1883 and again in 1891. There were enough who were not to help us elect Berry State Treasurer in 1906. And there are enough who are not to help us elect William B. Wilson as our Senator next fall.

All of the Republican opponents of Mr. Vare in the recent primaries, with the exception of Gov. Pinchot, and practically all of the leaders who fought his nomination will come out with pledges of their support of his candidacy. That will mean nothing. It is only political ethics. They would be poor sports if they didn't, but it will be mere lip service and their followers will go where they please. Thousands of them are already looking to our party as the only salvation for the State from its most consummate disgrace.

Yes, Vare can be beaten, notwithstanding the fact that he carries so much of the electorate of Philadelphia in his vest pocket. We are not ready to believe that in the forty-four thousand square miles of Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia there are not enough people to overwhelm those inhabitants of its one hundred and thirty-three square miles who vote not principle but at the crack of the contractor's whip.

Some Democrats, because they are wet, might go to Vare in the general election, but very few. On the other hand many Republicans will come to Wilson, not so much because he is dry as because they think too much of Pennsylvania to have it go on record as having sent a man like Vare to represent it in the United States Senate.

Bellefonte got away to a poor start in the new Susquehanna baseball league, but we'll show the river towns how to play the game before the season is over.

Pennsylvania railroad painters have been at work the past two weeks repainting the interior of the passenger depot in Bellefonte, which naturally is a decided improvement.

Not a Referendum on the Volstead Act.

The Vare nomination was not a referendum on modification of the Volstead act. In the first place, his campaign was among Republican voters only. In the second, he had two hundred thousand less votes than his two opponents combined. Doubtless numbers who voted for Pinchot and Pepper would vote "wet" on a straight "wet" or "dry" issue. Certainly some who voted for Vare would vote "dry" on the same question, so that the result of the recent primary cannot be regarded as a determination of sentiment in Pennsylvania.

It is significant, however, that Mr. Vare should have gotten as many votes as he did when he had nothing else to recommend him to the State than his declaration for modification. Everybody knew that. In his own city and in Dauphin, the only two counties in the State he actually carried, it was machine politics that rolled up great majorities for him. The results there would have been the same had he been running on a "dry" platform. In all of the other counties of the State his vote can properly be regarded as favoring modification. While the aggregate of it is not alarming it is impressive, none the less.

Recently, in these columns, we expressed the hope that Pennsylvania will have a referendum on the question. It ought to be taken out of politics and the only way to accomplish that end is through a yes and no vote of the people. Once that question is definitely settled there will be an end of electing unfit men to office simply because they have been tricky enough to capitalize "wet" and "dry" sentiment as it might most effectively further their own ends. Vare would probably have been nominated just the same, but he certainly would not have received as many votes as he did had he been running purely on his own merits and not on an issue that appealed to a class who can never be brought to believe that the Volstead act is not a curtailment of their personal liberty.

Centre county would undoubtedly vote dry. It voted for local option years ago and every time since that there has been an opportunity for a square expression on the question the result has been the same, yet, year in and year out, the old bogey: "Is he wet or dry?" is trotted out to elect unfit men for office by accomplishing the defeat of their superiors, simply because they have declined to take a stand on a question that by no distortion of the mind could have anything to do with the duties they aspire to perform. We have seen the Prohibition ballot stolen and prostituted to the support of soaking wet candidates. We can cite half a dozen public officials in Centre county, all personally wet as water, whose election was accomplished solely by the votes they received on the Prohibition ticket which had been stolen from them.

Really it makes a travesty of the franchise. And it will continue so to do as long as politicians can keep the question in politics.

A referendum would settle the question at once. If Pennsylvania should vote "dry" there would be no candidates for the United States Senate talking about modification of the Volstead act. Every Congressman, every State Senator, every member of the Legislature would know the sentiment of his constituency and act accordingly or suffer defeat should he attempt to succeed himself. Then worthwhile men would not be sacrificed and nondescripts put in high places all because a fanaticism has warped the judgment of a great people.

Figure It Out.

Let those who think there is no chance of defeating Vare for Senator take a look at it this way.

Cleveland had 452,000 votes in Pennsylvania in 1892. Bryan had 427,000 in 1896, and 424,000 in 1900, and 448,000 in 1908. So there must be, to say the least, 450,000 Democrats in the State.

At the recent primaries Vare polled 592,000 votes, Pepper 509,000 and Pinchot 336,000.

Now give Vare his 592,000 primary vote, give him half of the Pepper vote 254,000 and give him a quarter—he ought not to get one—of the Pinchot vote, 84,000, and he will have 930,000. To meet this give Wilson the 450,000 Democrats—and we believe there are more—in the State, give him half of Pepper's vote, 254,000, and only three quarters of Pinchot's and he will muster 956,000 against Vare's 930,000.

—What this community needs, and needs badly, right now is a rain maker and one who can really make it rain.

There's a Way.

From the Harrisburg Evening News.

Pennsylvanians whose sense of decency has been outraged by the nomination in the Republican primaries of a man like Bill Vare for United States Senator need not despair if they are in earnest about wanting a real man to represent them at Washington. Of course if they are party-bound, politically provincial and preferably Republican than right, theirs is a dismal state of mind.

But for those men and women who believed that both the Republican party and Pennsylvania have been disgraced by what took place Tuesday there is balm for their souls next November for with William B. Wilson remaining as a candidate for the Senate, Pennsylvania and the Republican party need not be humiliated at the sight of Bill Vare, as a Senator.

There is no need for despair in Pennsylvania over the outcome of the senatorial primary. In Mr. Wilson the people of the State have a man, fully able to represent them admirably. He is a man of great experience in public life. He knows problems, national and international. As Congressman and Secretary of Labor during some of the most critical years in the nation's history he came in contact and determined problems and policies a man of Vare's experience would not recognize if charted for him.

Mr. Wilson is eminently equipped for the office of United States Senator from Pennsylvania. He has courage. He has character. He has the qualities and experience of statesmanship.

After all that has been said in condemnation of Vare and Vireism, their triumph in the primaries is less a threat to the good name of Pennsylvania than if William B. Wilson's candidacy were not an opportunity and protection for the people.

If half the things said by Republicans about Vare are true, if the 800,000 Pepper-Pinchot votes were protests against Vare, if the people really are disgusted with Vare's candidacy, the alternative is support in November for Mr. Wilson. Between now and then the degree of sincerity of demand for appropriate representation of Pennsylvania in the United States Senate will be determined.

Immigration Law Silliness.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Some laws in this country may admit of humanitarian elasticity, but never the immigration law. Whether it is because the mere fact of one's being an alien is such a heinous offense, or because the officials entrusted with enforcement of the law are chosen for their lack of a sense of humor—or even of plain common sense—it does seem that no other law in our statute books is so plentifully productive of bad breaks which are either utterly ridiculous or atrociously unjust, or both.

The news columns not long ago carried the strange story of Raffaele Morello, who had been paroled and released from the State prison at Trenton after serving eight years for a crime which he did not commit. It was through his inability to command the English language that he was not able to speak up for himself when arraigned in Court. He was charged with the murder of his wife. It seems now that he was not even aware of the charge against him when he stood up before the Judge, for the Court interpreter himself did not understand the particular Italian dialect that Morello spoke. The interpreter, guessing at the meaning of the man's words, took them for a confession of guilt. So Morello went to prison. But in the eight years that have followed he has learned the English language. Thus, belatedly, he was able to tell his story. The Pardon Board heard it, and he was released. There is no redress for the injustice of those long years of confinement, although it must be admitted that something by way of amends is due to him.

Morello was happy to be free—but his happiness has been short-lived. For now come the immigration authorities, who insist that he must be deported. Oh, yes, he has been adjudged innocent, but he was once convicted, and, having been convicted of a grave crime of course he must be deported. The law says so and the immigration authorities are great sticklers for the law. Could anything be more ridiculous? Scarcely; but if anything could the immigration officials will eventually perpetrate it, no doubt.

It Was Not a Genuine Referendum.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

As was to have been expected, all newspapers with wet tendencies hail the nomination of Mr. Vare as a great victory for the modification of the Volstead act. They persist in looking on it as a referendum. But it was such only in a limited degree. It may be accepted as a fact that the votes cast for Vare were wet votes. But if those cast against him are to be counted as dry then the verdict is opposed to Volstead amendment for Vare wins on a minority ballot. He is in the minority by upwards of 200,000.

—It's all in the "Watchman" and it's all true.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Sunbury went on a tiger hunt Tuesday and also corralled a herd of elephants that stampeded with the tiger from a circus.

—A Pottsville jury directed the Reading Railroad to pay Mrs. Mary Onell, of Ashland, \$3476 for the death of her son at a crossing.

—The corner stone of the new Most Holy Sacrament church, being erected at Greensburg, at a cost of \$100,000, was laid on Sunday afternoon.

—A herd of twenty-four deer destroyed 700 cabbage plants in a single night on the farm of the Rev. C. D. Peachey, in the Kishacoquillas valley.

—Mrs. John Rachefski, aged 55, of Shenandoah, was critically burned when she attempted to hurry a slow fire in her kitchen range with kerosene.

—Elias Ashkan, of 2105 Trenton avenue, Williamsport, on Sunday reported to the police he had been knocked down and robbed by two masked men of \$79 in money, and that jewelry valued at \$4,500 had been taken from his home.

—A stone hurled by a child in Montoursville, struck the rear window of an automobile just as Mrs. Wilson Mendenhall turned to look out of it. Broken glass embedded itself in her eyeball. It is thought the sight of one eye may be saved.

—Leaving a note asking to be buried in his new suit and that there be no flowers at his funeral, John A. Burkey, 55, of Reading, committed suicide by gas on Sunday evening. His daughter, Mrs. Edna Longacre, with whom he lived, found him dead in his room, one end of a rubber tube, attached to a gas fixture, in his mouth.

—A quartet of bandits, two girls and two boys, "stuck up" Harold Wise, Millinburg young man, on the State highway just west of that city, but got only \$4 and a comb and knife. After raking him over the bandits ordered him to beat it towards town, which he did. When he got back to the scene of the crime accompanied by a young posse, the quartet was gone.

—John A. Bell, former head of the Carnegie Trust company, of Pittsburgh, convicted of embezzlement as a result of the failure of the institution, has been allowed an appeal from the decision of the State Superior court under an order of the Pennsylvania Supreme court in session at Harrisburg, this week. The case is to be argued at the next session of the court in Pittsburgh.

—The will of the late Mrs. Eva M. Hoffman, who met death in a fire in the home of a relative with whom she was visiting at Tioga, several weeks ago, probated last week, shows that most of the estate, estimated at between \$600,000 and \$700,000, has been left to local charities. The Trinity Memorial Episcopal church, Warren General hospital, Children's Aid Society, and Visiting Nurses Association, share in bequests.

—A discarded soap box left by a dog in the middle of the street in West Chester, the other day caused excitement and damage there for a time. An automobile came along, a tire pinched the bone which flew across the sidewalk, smashed a \$200 plate glass pane in a show window of the place of Harry Slavitz and wrecked the display. Slavitz has failed to discover the driver of the car who, unaware of the accident, kept on his way.

—The flaming form of Samuel D. Overfield, aged 88, a pioneer summer resort proprietor of the Delaware Water Gap section, was found by a neighbor in the chicken yard of his home on Saturday after his wife, frightened by his absence, had summoned aid. It is believed Overfield was using kerosene to rid the chickens of vermin when it became ignited and set his clothes afire. He died shortly after his removal to a hospital.

—Earl Hunsicker, of Allentown, a Lehigh Valley railroad trainman, had a remarkable escape from serious injury, on Saturday, when he fell thirty-five feet from a trestle at Phillipsburg, N. J. Hunsicker, believing that the engine on which he was riding had cleared a roadbed, stepped off the tender. His fall to a bed of mud below was broken by telephone wires. He had a slight scratch on his right leg, but hastily scrambled up the bank and caught the caboose of his train, completing his run.

—A block and tackle, used to transfer pianos, was called into service last Saturday, at Pottsville, to remove the coffin containing the body of Mrs. Elwood Hughes from the third story of her home to a waiting hearse. Mrs. Hughes weighed 300 pounds and because of the size of the coffin, it was impossible to remove it from the house through the doors. The apparatus swung the coffin high in the air, while the mourners looked on. Mrs. Hughes was the wife of the librarian of Schuylkill county court.

—Nine children and an adult were bitten when a mad dog ran wild through West Scranton on Friday afternoon. The dog rushed into a group of children on their way from school and bit them on the face, hands and legs. All those attacked were treated at the State and Westside hospitals. Police headquarters sent a squad of motorcycle men to the scene and the enraged animal was shot. Four other dogs were bitten by the mad canine before it was killed. Three of them were captured by the police and killed.

—When Herman Kugler, aged 29, of Harrison City, was sentenced by Judge Charles E. Whitten in court at Greensburg on Tuesday forenoon to serve three months in the county jail, his mother, Mrs. Mary Kugler, aged 67, suffered a stroke of paralysis and collapsed in the court room. Physicians were summoned and found that it would be impossible to remove the woman to a hospital. Judge Whitten then ordered that a cot be brought into the courtroom and placed there for her. He adjourned court for the remainder of the day.

—Melvin Miller, 19, Lewistown, was fatally wounded in the abdomen on Monday night when Mrs. Vinton L. Hess, also of Lewistown, walked into the Earl B. Strange poolroom in that place looking for her husband with a revolver concealed in the folds of her coat. Mrs. Hess made no remarks, but opened fire at her husband. Four shots were fired before the husband got close enough to grasp her arm, and the fifth was fired through the ceiling into the Millin County Hardware Store above. One of the bullets, all of which went wild, struck Miller in the left side of the abdomen, passing through his intestines and lodged in his spine. His condition is regarded as serious. Mrs. Hess, when placed under arrest, charged her husband with gambling and drinking in the poolroom.