

INK SLINGS.

Cherries and berries are a promising crop in Centre county just now.

The "ole swimmin' hole" isn't holding its own at all as a lure for the kids. Its' too cold.

As a means of getting money into circulation we can think of nothing more effective than the primary system in Pennsylvania.

Bellefonte is flirting with the lead in the Susquehanna league again. There's no use of argument. A good team can't be kept down.

Judge Bonniwell led the parade of Eagles at Wilkes-Barre, on Tuesday. Let us hope he leads the Democratic State ticket to success in November.

With the President opposed to the farm bill before Congress and the Vice President one of its sponsors some of "the best minds" had better step in to reconcile their differences.

The Republican primary scandal in Pennsylvania has now crossed the three million dollar mark and if all the money that was expended to buy votes could be checked up we have an idea that the amount would reach four million.

If the general opprobrium that is being heaped on the direct primary system should result in its repeal or modification there would also be an end of the reprehensible practice of the stronger parties stealing nominations on the ticket of the weaker.

The approaching anniversary of the birth of the Nation reminds us that it was also Mr. Volstead who put an end to the old fashioned Fourth of July celebration. Prohibition doesn't prevent celebrations, but it certainly isn't stimulating their effervescence, and what's a celebration without effervescence?

Evidently Mr. Beidleman thinks he was cheated out of the Republican nomination for Governor. At least he gave the Senate investigation committee that impression. And, up to the moment, Mr. Fisher, who is the beneficiary of the ballot chicanery, if such there was, hasn't shown any signs of declining to profit by it.

It is well that President Coolidge is a silent man. A reputation for being stingy with words stood him in good stead when the country was listening for something from him on Denby and Daugherty and Fall and now saves him from expressing an opinion of the doings of some of his Republican friends in Pennsylvania.

The congratulations, commendation and otherwise fulsomely expressed approbation that we extended the Sesqui directorate, when we heard, several weeks ago, that the centennial gates were to be kept closed on Sundays, are all respectfully withdrawn. We didn't think much of Bishop Berry's dabbling in the recent political orgie in Pennsylvania, and said so, but he does himself, and the Christian church at large, a great credit by resigning from the board now that it has voted to have a seven day week at the exposition.

Confirming the Watchman's persistent statements that there is nothing worthwhile to be seen at the Sesqui and that that exhibition shouldn't be visited before September, a gentleman dropped in here Monday to say that he couldn't even get a ten dollar bill changed on the grounds there last week. When none of the stands had taken in enough on a lovely day to break a ten spot there is pretty good evidence that those living nearest the show have not been hooked into spending money to see something that isn't ready.

The pardon of Henry G. Brock is one that will meet the approval of every law abiding citizen. As a wealthy man Mr. Brock did not try to use his money to escape punishment for his offense. Instead, he pleaded guilty, thereby drawing a longer term than the law could have given him had he elected to go to trial. He was a model prisoner, he made restitution for the sorrow he had caused in so far as it was humanly possible, and to a man of his sensibilities even one day in prison was as much punishment as ten year's confinement could have been.

The President's prediction that there will be a treasury surplus of three hundred and ninety million dollars on June 30th sounds pleasant. But the most of it will be on paper and not gold or liquid securities. That's one phase of what is regarded as good business management that we could never thoroughly see through. The books of many concerns show handsome surpluses, yet the contents of their strong boxes and their bank accounts are practically nil. We have always thought that a surplus is only real when it is tangible and not a mere book balance.

The contemplated departure of Miss Rhoads from Bellefonte will be regretted very much by many friends in Centre county. Especially will this column miss her, for whatever others may think it has always regarded her as a good sport. From the moment she entered politics in Centre county she recognized our right to make a target of her on occasion and was broad enough to see that a newspaper's relations with a public personage in nowise reflect the personal feelings its editors might have for him or her. And this much we can't say for a lot of men who dabble in politics.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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The Democratic Campaign.

At the meeting of the Democratic State committee, in Harrisburg last week, Judge Porter, of New Castle, one of the defeated candidates for the gubernatorial nomination, assumed the correct attitude on a most important question. Having been named by chairman Haggerty as a member of a committee to draft a platform he said the State committee had no authority to perform such a service. The State committee is an executive body and the adoption of a platform is a legislative function. The people of the State wrote the platform of the party in the selection of the candidates, and the State committee had no right to force any candidate to stand on a platform other than that upon which he ran at the primary.

Take the question of prohibition, for example, or the enforcement of existing prohibition legislation. It is not a political question in the sense that the tariff or centralization or home rule is a political question. There are prohibition Democrats and Democrats who are not prohibitionists. The prohibition Democrats have a right to their opinions as those who are not prohibitionists have a right to theirs. But so long as Democrats who are not prohibitionists do not undertake to coerce the Democrats who are prohibitionists there seems no ground of conflict. The fundamental principle involved is that of majority rule and the nominees express the voice of the majority.

Though the State committee didn't adopt the idea expressed by Judge Porter and refrain from adopting a platform it did scrupulously avoid any antagonisms on questions that are not political. The committee, in the language of an esteemed contemporary, the Philadelphia Record, "adopted a declaration of principles on which every Democrat and all unbossed Republicans may safely stand." We have an experienced, energetic and capable chairman, and a ticket that not only commands respect but challenges admiration. With the Republican party torn to tatters and demoralized beyond description we ought to win, and will win, if we are true to ourselves and faithful to each other.

Senator Pepper only spent \$2500 of his own money but the Mellon machine paid that much for a single county in his interest.

Senator Dave Reed's Broad Charge.

In a recent speech Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, declared that the Republican voters of Pennsylvania are "dunderheads" and "unfit for self-government." The Senator undoubtedly could summon a vast amount of evidence in support of his proposition. But being new in State politics and limited in his observations to "the strip" and the leadership of Max Leslie, his is probably a perverted appraisal of the subject which we are not at present able to endorse. The future is likely to reveal additional facts bearing upon the question, however, which may completely vindicate Senator Reed's estimate. In that event we will have no alternative but to acknowledge the Senator is right.

For example, the Senate committee which has been engaged for ten days or more in an investigation of the expenses of candidates for Republican nominations in Pennsylvania, has already shown that the three candidates for Senator spent upward of three million dollars in a competitive vote-buying contest. It has been clearly proved that much of this slush fund was used in buying votes in violation of the letter of the law. It has been demonstrated that candidates have given money to others to contribute in violation of the spirit of the law and it has been proved that ballot boxes have been stuffed both in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. But the facts only prove some voters are corrupt and not that all are "dunderheads."

But the final test of the accuracy of Senator Reed's estimate of the mental and moral qualities of the Republican voters of Pennsylvania will come in November when the question of ratifying the iniquities perpetrated at the primaries is voted on. If Vare and Fisher are elected in the face of the revelations made in Washington there will be no escape from the conviction that at least a majority of the Republican voters of Pennsylvania are not only "dunderheads" and "unfit to govern themselves" but that a considerable number of them are criminals, and that the candidates themselves are accessories both before and after the crimes as well as receivers of stolen goods. We are waiting patiently.

There is a growing suspicion that the French people are incapable of self-government.

Governor Pinchot's Present Duty.

Those who are trying to entice Governor Pinchot into an independent candidacy for Senator in Congress are neither well-wishers of the Governor nor supporters of prohibition legislation. The lines on this subject are clearly drawn between the nominees of the two parties. Mr. Vare is openly demanding modification of the Volstead law and Mr. Wilson as distinctly favors the enforcement of that measure. The voters can have no misunderstanding. Men and women who favor prohibition may express their faith by works in voting for Mr. Wilson, who is well qualified to meet the obligations of the office. On the other hand those opposed to prohibition have a candidate of their own type.

The vote in the primary election proves clearly that a very considerable majority of the Republicans of the State are in favor of the Volstead law. If they express their honest and sincere convictions at the polls in November the vast majority of those who voted for Pinchot and Pepper at the primary will support Wilson. The question of party loyalty is not involved. All the leading Republican newspapers of the State have denounced Mr. Vare as "unfit for the office" and declared that his election "would be a disgrace." This eliminates the question of party fealty and leaves nothing else than the moral principal involved in the enforcement of the Volstead law and prohibition to be considered.

William B. Wilson, the Democratic nominee for the office, is a statesman of fine ability, high character and wide experience. As a member of Congress he is familiar with legislative requirements and as head of the Department of Labor in President Wilson's cabinet he knows what is needed in executive service. He never bought a nomination or sacrificed a principal to obtain a favor. In view of these facts, if Governor Pinchot is sincere in his profession of prohibition, he will give all the support he can command to William B. Wilson, and instead of diverting votes by running independent he will offer his leadership to the prohibition Republicans in a crusade to elect the Democratic candidate.

Possibly "Jim" Reed, of Missouri, has persuaded "Dave" Reed, of Pennsylvania, that the Republican voters of this State are "dunderheads."

Friend of Pennsylvania Politics.

Secretary of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon seems to favor a standard price for votes. Because there are 1,500,000 Republican voters in Pennsylvania he thinks three million dollars is not too much to pay for a nomination when there are three competitors. But it is enough to limit the aspirants to four or five men if candidates were obliged to pay their own expenses. Here and there there may be found a man willing to mortgage his conscience as one of those in the recent contest who surrendered to the Mellon family. But it is not a usual condition. As a rule when vast expenses are incurred "angels" are reluctant to pay the freight.

One of the most bitter contests for a seat in the United States Senate in recent years was that in Iowa a few days ago. Senator Brookhart, the successful candidate, spent less than one hundred dollars for traveling expenses, postage and hotel bills. He was unquestionably the choice of the people but if conditions there were as in this State he couldn't have come "within hailing distance" of the nomination because the "interests," financial and political, were against him. Probably in no other State in the Union would it have been possible to stage such a contest of profligacy and corruption as that which Mr. Mellon has approved.

But the primary election in Pennsylvania this year may be accepted as an expression of the Mellon method. It is in pursuit of an era of money management in politics not only in Pennsylvania but throughout the country. The election of W. L. Mellon to the chairmanship of the party organization is in accordance with a plan to submerge the "pikers" and give the millionaires complete sway. It has been "shaping up" ever since the election of Coolidge in 1924, and will end in the creation of an "autocracy of wealth" and the placing of poor men in political and social servitude. Placing a standard price on votes is the finishing touch.

If Vare should fail to secure the Senatorial seat he will never forgive himself for wasting so much money.

It may be true that a man can fly four times as fast as a bird but a bird doesn't have to buy gasoline.

Beidleman's Equivocal Position.

The refusal, on Monday, of E. E. Beidleman, of Harrisburg, to give the Senate committee investigating the Pennsylvania primaries details concerning the ballot frauds in Pittsburgh confirms the suspicion that an agreement promising mutual advantage has been concluded between Mr. Fisher and his defeated rival for the nomination. Immediately after the vote Mr. Beidleman charged fraud and promptly appealed to the courts for redress. But after a brief sojourn in Pittsburgh he withdrew the charge and permitted the false return to stand. In his testimony on Monday he repeated his allegation of fraud but refused to indicate the form it took or give his reason for withdrawing his action in court.

In the beginning we shared the opinion of others that Mr. Beidleman was influenced by consideration for his friend, W. Harry Baker, in acquiescing in the fraud. Baker, who had made sacrifices for Beidleman, was a candidate for re-election to the chairmanship of the State committee. The fulfillment of this ambition would not only have "held his place in the sun," but afforded opportunity to restore both himself and his friend to leadership. The subsequent crushing of Baker exploded this notion and the alternative that Beidleman has taken care of himself is forced upon thoughtful observers. The Mellon machine has probably agreed to guarantee Mr. Beidleman substantial recognition in the Fisher administration.

While the Beidleman inquiry was pending in the Allegheny county court the fact was brought out in one precinct, in which nearly two hundred votes were returned, the ballot box was opened and found empty. The evidence in Washington on Monday disclosed that in a precinct in which the Beidleman watcher had gone out for lunch the vote had been increased within a period of twenty minutes from twenty-five to 458, all for the opposition. Obviously there was some sinister reason for stopping an investigation so promising in results. If stuffing ballot boxes were a felony Mr. Beidleman's action would seem like "compounding a felony." In any event it suggests accessory to crime.

James R. Hughes and his Sunday school class of nine boys returned last Saturday from a ten days automobile trip to Washington, D. C., Mount Vernon, Annapolis and Philadelphia. Unfortunately Mr. Hughes was indisposed for several days with an attack of indigestion while in Philadelphia which marred the pleasure of the trip for him, but it did not interfere with the regular program of sightseeing so far as the boys were concerned. Mr. Hughes recovered sufficiently to spend one day on the Sesqui grounds and he brings to Bellefonte corroboration of what the Watchman has been telling its readers right along, and that is, if you want to see the big centennial don't go down before the first of September notwithstanding the glowing reports published in the Philadelphia papers every day. Mr. Hughes says the big buildings are not yet completed and there is practically nothing in them to see. Some of the smaller buildings have just been started and it will be two months, at least, before there will be any centennial worth seeing.

The Republican voters of Pennsylvania may not be all "dunderheads" as Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, declares, but most of the Republican leaders of the State are champion "forgetters."

It may be worth while to remember that the first purchased Senatorial seat in the history of the country was acquired by Simon Cameron nearly a hundred years ago.

We are not authorized to speak on the subject but it is a safe tip that Cornelia rather than Gifford will decide the question of running as an independent candidate.

Those who are urging Governor Pinchot to run for the Senate as an independent candidate are concerned more for the Republican party than for Pinchot.

Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, will be a candidate for re-election two years hence and he probably wants to buy votes in the cheapest market.

When Max Leslie gets on the witness stand he will be able to show Senator Reed, of Missouri, a lot of things concerning politics.

The most optimistic of the Sesqui managers are beginning to hope that it will be completed by the time fixed for closing it.

Forgery in Politics.

There are worse things than the lavish use of money in politics, though that is scandalous, even without the purchase of votes, and no one doubts that the hiring of watchers in the recent Republican primary election covered the purchase of votes. Few persons doubt that there was the purchase of votes without any covering at all, except secrecy. Many Pennsylvania Republicans do not think that their party's enormous expenditure of money—which is likely to amount to \$3,000,000—is scandalous, or open to any criticism. They have become so accustomed to the lavish use of money in elections that it doesn't disturb them at all. Senator David A. Reed and Secretary Mellon justify the expenditures, and the State Committee elected W. L. Mellon chairman. Of course, the Secretary and the Senator do not approve of buying votes, but the vast expenditures in this State last month arouse no suspicions on their part. It seems natural enough, and quite reasonable. Quite in line with the prodigal use of money in the primary is the resort to forgery. Colonel Eric Fisher, Wood, chairman, and Vernon Taylor, treasurer, of the committee in charge of the Pepper-Fisher campaign in the 31 counties of West Pennsylvania admit the publication of a paid advertisement in which there was a forged letter bearing the signature of William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Messrs. Wood and Taylor are honorable men. They would not countenance the buying of votes, and still less would they sanction the use of forged letters to win the votes for the Pepper-Fisher combination. But they admit the fact. The advertisement was inserted by their organization and was paid for. But they knew nothing about it. It was just a part of the routine business to which they did not feel the need of giving their personal attention.

The Federation of Labor has a very large membership, and its officers are known to be careful of its influence and discriminating in the use of its name. If the president of the Federation endorsed the Pepper-Fisher combination it was a very important fact. It would turn a large number of votes. Members of the Federation in great numbers would feel that they were safe in following the leadership of Mr. Green.

Probably little harm was done by the advertisement. Mr. Green promptly denounced the forgery. But it was published May 14th and 15th, and the primary was held on the 18th. It was evidently intended to publish the advertisement early enough to reach wage-earners all over the State and late enough to make the exposure of the fraud ineffective, or only partially effective. The probability is that Mr. Green's repudiation of the forgery reached all the industrial centres and a great number of voters were misled.

But the forgery by somebody is admitted. From some standpoint this is a far more serious matter than the prodigal use of money. If the Republican organization has any sense of the enormity of the crime committed under its authority it will discover the guilty person and procure his punishment.

That Everlasting French Debt.

The French debt settlement has been approved by the House, but it is said at Washington that there is little prospect of action by the Senate before this session ends. The reason given for delay is the inaction of the French Parliament.

Meanwhile French political leaders are justifying postponement by alleging the inaction of the United States Senate.

Both cannot be right. It looks as if both are wrong. The wise and patriotic thing in either country is to get that troublesome problem out of the way as soon as possible. That would prompt better relations between the two countries. It would help to stabilize French finance and stimulate international business. If either side is to be responsible for further delay, it should not be the United States.

Money on the Side.

Between Wayne B. Wheeler and Senator Reed of Missouri, a good deal of interesting history ought to come out about Anti-Saloon League activities and its financial rewards for Senators and Congressmen who fought its battles at Washington and elsewhere. It is not pleasant to think that the people's representatives are carried on the payroll of a private organization seeking to influence legislation, but if that is the case the whole truth should be known. There is nothing sacrosanct about the Anti-Saloon League, and it is high time its work should be exposed to public view.

Good may come of the late profligate campaign. It is not likely that similar debauchery will ever come again.

Cornelia's contribution of \$50,000.00 to the slush fund proves that she is not the "piker" of the family.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Seth E. Gordon has resigned as Secretary of the State Game Commission, effective July 15th, to become affiliated with the Isaac Walton League of the State.

The brick making plant at Gramplan, owned by the Harbison-Walker Refractories Company, was badly damaged by fire shortly after mid-night Saturday night, entailing an estimated loss of \$35,000. The fire originated in the drying room.

Miss Mary Hancock, 55 years old, suffered a severe injury while playing golf at the Wannago Country Club, at Franklin, last Thursday, when a ball hit an oil line, rebounded and struck her on the head, felling her and inflicting a deep wound.

Purchase of the entire oil field holdings of the J. T. Jones estate, consisting of 2,500 acres in fee scattered throughout the Bradford field, was consummated by the Forest Oil corporation of Bradford, last week. The purchase price is unknown. This is the largest oil land transaction in the history of Pennsylvania fields.

After living three days after a current of electricity of 23,000 volts had passed through his body, James Philip Blude, 40 years old, of Warren, died on Friday night at the Warren General hospital. He was injured Tuesday when he came in contact with a high tension wire at the Penn Public Service company power plant.

The longest prison term ever imposed in a Fayette county court for a violation of the prohibition laws was handed down by Judge C. W. Henderson on Monday when he sentenced Thomas Salvetti, of Carlisle, to serve three years in the Allegheny county workhouse and pay a fine of \$1,500. Salvetti had pleaded guilty to charges of prohibition agents that he was arrested while transporting a still and moonshine near Uniontown.

Attacked by a gigantic blacksnake in her chicken-house in Chancetownship, York county, Mrs. Cynthia Chronister ran a mile over the hills and through woodlands for aid, with the reptile girdled about her body and almost choking her. She was almost exhausted from fright and shock and the physical pain to which she was subjected by the strength and weight of the snake, before it was killed by men who responded to her cries for help.

William Prettyman, 34 years old, night superintendent of Lock No. 4 Natrona, lost his life while attempting to save the life of Annie Kinzie, 14 years old, of Braeburn, who was drowning in the Allegheny river near the dam, on Friday night. He heard the girl's screams and went to her aid fully clothed. He disappeared in the water. Another man, whose name was not ascertained, rescued the girl. The body was recovered. Prettyman resided in Valley Heights, near New Kensington.

The handsome new Methodist church at Mt. Union, costing about \$130,000, independent of the Sunday school unit, was dedicated on Sunday, with a comparatively small indebtedness. Bishop McDowell preached in the morning and made an address and conducted the dedicatory service in the afternoon. The district superintendent, Rev. Dr. J. McK. Rellly, preached at night. Big crowds were present at all services, which were very impressive. The church is one of the finest in Central Pennsylvania, and has as its pastor Rev. David Y. Brouse.

Believed to have been crazed by moonshine, Frank Snyder, 45, the father of seven children, entered the basement of his home in Johnstown, on Sunday afternoon and exploded a box of dynamite, blowing himself to pieces and wrecking the building. The children were attending a baseball game, while Mrs. Snyder and another woman were sitting on the front porch. They were caught under the fallen roof but were rescued without serious injury. The limbs and pelvis of the man were found in the garden, but there was no trace of either head, trunk or arms.

The State Banking Department at Pittsburgh on Monday announced the arrest of C. J. Newman, cashier of the People's State Bank of Boswell, Somerset county, charged with misappropriation of \$18,000 of bank funds. The charge, filed by C. T. F. Lancaster, an examiner, before Justice of the peace R. E. Caber, at Somerset, was said by banking department officials to involve an overdraft. After the announcement was made Mr. Newman stated at the bank that the "charge was technical and not a dollar was out of place." He provided bail when the warrant was served.

Convicted of highway robbery in connection with the theft of the payroll of the West knitting mill at Plymouth, Joseph Kostanzo on Saturday received a sentence that may keep him in jail for many years. Judge McLean ordered him to pay a fine of \$1000 and the costs and to serve five to ten years in the Eastern Penitentiary. "Then," the Court added, "you must return and pay to the knitting company the property that was taken, namely, \$8279.08, unless you have already done so, and you stand committed until this sentence be complied with." The payroll has not been returned, and Kostanzo says he is innocent.

Joseph O'Brien, Frank Curto and Robert Simmons, young Patton men charged with murder in connection with the death of Mary Elizabeth Bogan in a joy-ride last Thursday night, were given a hearing Friday and were held without bail. A coroner's jury late Friday afternoon, however, presided over by Deputy Coroner Russell R. Yost, recommended that he be exonerated on manslaughter and murder charges, but that they be held to answer for violations of the liquor laws. The jury apparently accepted the claim that the three young men and the girl had been drinking and that the victim's neck was broken when she jumped from the automobile.

Little Alpha Osborne, 7 years old, of Mifflin county, may live despite the belief among surgeons that when two-thirds of the skin surface has been destroyed death is considered inevitable. Miss Osborne was dressing her younger brother, Clyde, in front of the range at the parental home in McVeytown a month ago when her dress became ignited at the back. Her mother smothered the flames, but not before her entire body, from the soles of her feet to her chin, had been blistered. The child is now improving. Three times a day three of the nurses pick her up and give her a medicated bath in a special bed room, and on Monday Dr. Cassidy asked for volunteers to furnish one hundred inches of healthy skin to graft over the scars left by the terrible blisters.