

INK SLINGS.

—The wets made rather a sorry showing in their skirmish with the dries in Congress on Tuesday.

—Before we greet you again the Fourth will be over. The next big event to look forward to then will be the Granger's picnic, but don't let's talk about that, it sounds too much like the approach of fall.

—It's all right for that dashing young flapper to roll her stockings down so far that they look like baby socks, but we wish some one would catch her and take a scrub brush and a little lye to her legs before she does it again.

—All we need to inspire the hope that we will have a safe and sane Fourth of July is the record of last year's casualties. One hundred and eleven persons killed, one hundred and forty-eight suffering the loss of one or both eyes and over a million more or less burned is the price the country paid for carelessness in celebrating the Fourth in 1925. Was it worth it?

—If the burges determines to carry out his plan of making drunks and other petty offenders work out fines on the streets, if they can't pay them in cash, one of two things is sure to happen: Either a lot of fellows for whom "the lock-up" seems to have no terrors will reform or borough manager Seibert will have his hands full keeping them busy on our thoroughfares.

All we have to say about Jeremiah Smith, the American economist, who spent two years in Hungary untangling the knotty financial affairs of that benighted country, and then declined to take a penny of the hundred thousand dollar fee he had earned because he thought Hungary needed it more than he does, is this: There are very few Jeremiah Smiths in this or any other land.

—Writing from Nelson, Nebraska, E. W. Kline says: "I am looking forward to the issue of November 5th, wherein you will announce the election of William B. Wilson as United States Senator. We are wearing the same kind of rose glasses that Mr. Kline evidently has and when November 5th arrives we hope that neither of us will discover that it is a mirage that we have been seeing."

—There will be no issue of the Watchman next week. Not solely because we're going fishing. Everybody else in the plant wants some time off, too, and they're going to have it. It might happen, however, that we'll mail a tabloid edition just to correct an advertising muddle we got into through no fault of ours. So if you receive a paper as abbreviated as the hair and the skirts now are don't write to know what's getting the matter with the Watchman. It will be flapperized only for a week.

—If ever the country needed a change in the political complexion of Congress it is now. A long drawn out session is drawing to its close and what is there to show for it? Nothing, whatever, but unfulfilled promises. There isn't a single piece of constructive legislation that the present Congress has to point to. All of its time has been devoted to fighting among the blocs of the majority party for their own advantage. Yes, the country needs a change and unless we misread the signs it's going to have one in the fall.

—This thing of saying that they want to keep the Sesqui open on Sunday so the laboring man can see it is all bunk. What they want to do is keep it open so the concessionaires can bally-hoo the laboring man out of a lot of money and, besides, the laboring man has about as many holidays as most other people we know of and a lot more than some, and when State and Federal proclamations and church pronouncements don't make all he wants he simply takes them. His only worry is as to how much is in the pay envelope. There is little thought of the long, blood sweating hours of the fellow who has to put it there. If he wants to see the Sesqui he'll be resourceful enough to do it without having a lot of sharks, cloaking their cupidity and desecrating the Sabbath, with this laboring man bunk.

—The statements of the Hon. William B. Wilson, our nominee for United States Senator, before the Senate investigation committee, were a splendid credit to himself and a matter of great pride to the party whose standard bearer he is. In simple, convincing answers he replied to his interrogators and showed that he personally had spent only eighty-eight dollars and that for the joint campaign with Judge Porter for Governor only ten thousand was spent. The figures look pathetic when compared with the millions paid out by his Republican rivals. They certainly show that Mr. Wilson had no aspiration to debauch an electorate or buy a nomination. In contrast with this straightforward honesty came another proof of corruption almost unbelievable. The committee proved through him that since his nomination the administration has offered him a position on the federal labor mediation board, with the hope, of course, of taking him out of the Senatorial race against Vare. What can a self-respecting Republican think of leaders who stoop to such practices to keep themselves in power.

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Democratic Hope and Harmony.

As comments come from various sections of the State with reference to the recent reorganization of the Democratic party it is gratifying to note a universal tone of confidence and expression of harmony. We have not a single discordant note from the press of the State. The new chairman Cornelius Haggerty Jr., has the cordial endorsement of all party workers. He has long been an efficient leader of the party and a willing worker in the ranks, and his selection as chairman this year has aroused the greatest enthusiasm. He has already entered upon the work of the campaign and invites all interested in the work to correspond with him and give him such help as they can.

This is certainly a gratifying state of affairs. It is not expected that the real work of the campaign will begin before September but the chairman doesn't intend to sleep during the interval, and sees how much may be gained now by getting acquainted through correspondence between the chairman and local committeemen. A great deal of the local organization work, such as urging voters to register and enroll may be done now and being reported by letter to the chairman the preliminary work is well advanced before the usual time for campaign activity has arrived. Chairman Haggerty will greatly appreciate this advance work, and strongly urges it upon all party workers.

With the demoralization in the Republican party and this hopefulness in our own party we have every right to expect victory even in Pennsylvania. Our candidates are of the highest type. William B. Wilson, our nominee for Senator, has won distinction in every public service he has performed. In Congress as member of the Committee on Labor and in the Cabinet as Secretary of Labor, he has conserved the interests of labor and striven in season and out to lighten the burden of the working man. Our candidate for Governor, Eugene C. Bonniwell, has been equally faithful to his obligations. With such a ticket and such an organization, it ought to be a pleasure for Democrats to work.

—There will be no excessive expenditures for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Ohio. Donahey is the unanimous choice.

Looks Like Conspiracy.

The low estate into which Vareism has reduced the Republican party of Pennsylvania is revealed in the attempt to entice the Democratic nominee for Senator in Congress, Hon. William B. Wilson, to abandon the contest. Having spent more than half a million dollars to get the nomination Mr. Vare realizes that his election is doubtful and with the object of making the election certain, he organized a conspiracy to clear the field of opposition. Happily William B. Wilson isn't that sort of an office seeker and he promptly declined to enter into the conspiracy. Having accepted a service with the Democratic party Mr. Wilson will fulfill his obligations.

The enticement held out to Mr. Wilson was an alluring one. All his life he has directed his mind toward aiding and assisting labor. In early life, as an official in the United Mine Workers, he wrought, in the interest of labor and his service in President Wilson's Cabinet as Secretary of Labor afforded him opportunity to continue his beneficent efforts in the same direction. The tender of a seat on the mediation board held out the enticement of a new form of service in the interest of labor and must have been very alluring. But his nomination as the Democratic candidate for Senator put him under obligations, which, though less promising financially, were more binding morally.

The obvious purpose of the offer of a seat on the mediation board, with its generous emolument, was to remove the only competitor Mr. Vare could have had for the seat in the Senate for which he has paid so liberally. He knows that William B. Wilson is a formidable candidate and feels that in the present temper of public sentiment he will be successful. It may be that President Coolidge had no part in what seems like a party conspiracy to prostitute public office. But it is not easy to see how the deal could have been pulled off without executive connivance for the power of appointing members of the mediation board lies in the President. In any event it is a strange situation.

—The Senate committee hasn't found out everything concerning the Vare expenditures yet, but Senator Reed is on the trail.

—The Philadelphia Public Ledger is straining somewhat but it will be supporting Vare before the campaign is warmed up.

Make Sure of an Uncertainty.

There is a wide difference of opinion, among lawyers and statesmen, as to the eligibility of William S. Vare for the office of Senator. It has been clearly shown that his campaign expenses for the nomination were far in excess of what might be regarded as legitimate. Senator Reed, of Missouri, an eminent lawyer and among the foremost figures in the Senate, is said to have expressed the opinion that he is ineligible. So far as we have been able to see, however, no convincing legal arguments have been advanced in support of the opinion. Excessive expenditures may be immoral and may even suggest the unlawful employment of money. But they are not legal evidence of crime.

Senator Lorimer, of Illinois, was expelled from the Senate after he had been elected by excessive use of money, not in the primary campaign but in the election. But it wasn't the excessive amount used by Lorimer that influenced the vote. It was proved that he had bought votes directly which disqualified him and that he was morally unfit for membership of the body. He had, in collusion with another banker of Chicago, fraudulently organized a trust company that swindled the public out of a million dollars. Senator Newberry, of Michigan, spent money too freely at the primary but he didn't lose the seat on that account. After due consideration of the subject the Senate awarded him the seat and he subsequently resigned it.

The idea of William S. Vare occupying a seat in the Senate is plainly repugnant to a vast majority of the voters of Pennsylvania. Even a large number of Republicans are averse to it and are conjuring up expedients to prevent it. But there is only one certain way to achieve the result and that is to vote for the admirable candidate who is competing with him for the office. If Vare gets a majority of the votes there may be found a legal process of preventing his qualification. But if Wilson gets a majority of the votes the matter will be finally settled and rightly settled, and those opposed to Vare should bend their energies to elect that sturdy citizen and honest man, William B. Wilson.

—Say, Mr. Mayor and you gentlemen of the Water and Street committees, there's such a thing as making the town look too pretty and clean. You'll all fool away until we'll feel guilty when we flick our cigar ashes on the street and be looking for door mats at either sides of the crossings in order to wipe our shoes before stepping onto a pavement. It's getting so darned lovely around here that the first thing we know those scientists who are trying to locate the original Garden of Eden will be swooping down here and exclaiming: Why, Bellefonte! You're it.

Writing Movie Plays Coming to be a Profession.

All of the screen magazines are of one opinion on the question as to where the movie plays of the future must come from. To them it is apparent that rapid exhaustion of adaptations from books and stage plays leaves no other source of supply for the ever consuming studios of the country than stories written especially for the films.

"How to Write a Motion Picture Story" is the subject of a sixty page pamphlet soon to be published by Karl Coolidge, of Hollywood and New York. Mr. Coolidge is the youngest son of Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Coolidge, of Los Angeles, California, his mother having been, before her marriage, Miss Nannie McGinley, of this place. After his graduation from the University of California he became interested in screen work and spent a dozen years in Hollywood as a photographer and scenario writer. Several years ago he came east and has since been engaged in the same work in New York city.

Recognizing the inevitable situation of a dearth of screen material, unless it be written specially, Mr. Coolidge has thrown the sifted knowledge of years of experience into the pamphlet he has published with the hope that it might prove an inspiration, guide and help to all who feel the urge to acquire fame and riches through the writing of a screen success.

We have read his pamphlet with great interest and only its length deters us from publishing it in these columns for the stimulation of whatever budding talent there may be among the Watchman readers.

—There is enough mystery about the W. C. T. U. fund to excite suspicion.

—Money talks all right and too frequently it speaks in discordant tones.

High Priced Nominations Dangerous.

Secretary of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon's estimate that a million dollars or more may be spent legitimately in campaigning for a nomination for Senator is supported by aspirants for that office in Illinois. It has been charged that one of the candidates out there spent \$1,000,000 and the other "twice as much," the favor going to the highest bidder. On the other hand we have a record of Senator Brookhart's expenditure of less than one hundred dollars for the nomination in Iowa and William B. Wilson spending eighty-eight dollars for the Democratic nomination in Pennsylvania while John K. Tenner spent only \$10,000 as a candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania.

It would seem that the right way to measure the campaign expense of a candidate is on what the office is worth to the candidate or his backer. It seems that in Illinois the friends of one candidate gave \$100,000 on an agreement that he would "turn in" a graft of twenty million while on an agreement to turn in greater graft, the other candidate got several millions. In Pennsylvania Senator Pepper would have been worth at least a million to the Aluminum trust. Senator Brookhart wouldn't have been worth a nickel and William B. Wilson even less to the interests and are referred to here because they "adorn a tale." They show what is possible.

Brookhart, at an expense of less than one hundred dollars, obtained a nomination for Senator in an actively contested fight, with the chance favorable to his election, Wilson obtained a nomination in Pennsylvania, for less than a hundred dollars with fair chance of his election. But Pepper's friends paid more than a million dollar for a nomination he didn't get in order that they might use him to procure legislation worth millions to them and detrimental to the public. High priced nominations produce corrupt government and wise voters will not encourage them by voting for candidates whose nominations were expensive. A nomination that costs more than an office is worth is a danger.

—Mr. Mellon is a keen business man but he is not likely to realize on his investment in Senator Pepper.

Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers.

The Millheim Journal made a real contribution to the local history of its community when it published in its issue for May 20, 1926, the official roster of the Revolutionary soldier dead of the district as a part of the Memorial Day program, prepared under the direction of the Sons of the American Revolution, by Dr. Fred E. Futelius, Burgess of Millheim. It also gave this information a wider use when it made a reprint of it and sent a copy to the State Library. This reprint has been placed on file in the Archives and History section of the State Library where it becomes a part of the permanent genealogical records of that office.

—In compliance with a request of Burgess Hardman P. Harris, the Warner Billboard Advertising company, of Lewistown, last Friday moved the large billboard from the corner of the Lush Arcade, on south Water street, to the Triangle, out beyond the old aviation field. The request for its removal is the beginning of a plan of Burgess Harris to beautify south Water street. Borough employees are now cleaning away the dirt and rubbish that had accumulated behind the old billboard, and an effort will be made to have the old buildings on that thoroughfare either removed or freshened up with an application of the paint brush.

—Gratuitous advice is about the only thing that can be got for nothing, and usually it isn't worth what it costs.

—Maybe the Reed investigation will provide a way that a man worth less than a million dollars may aspire to office.

—The sad thing about it is that the Vare seat in the House of Representatives is gone beyond recall.

—An investigation of affairs in Cuba might develop some interesting facts in reference to sugar.

—The most prosperous business in the country at present is that conducted by bootleggers.

—There ought to be a Democratic committee in every township in Centre county.

—Events in France seem to point in the direction of a dictator.

A Cynical Expenditure.

From the Kansas City Star.

The most revealing feature of the \$2,000,000 Pennsylvania Republican primary is the cynicism displayed by those who collected and spent the money. They seem genuinely surprised that there should be Americans so naive as to be shocked by the knowledge that political contests in this country have become big business and high finance.

The price of the primary shocked and shamed the public. Plain Americans who liked to think their institutions were "free," that democracy was an expression of the public will and not of the dollar, learn with amazement and indignation that a single Senatorial candidate spent—or the interests behind him spent—\$1,620,000 in an effort to get just the nomination. Another candidate spent nobody yet knows how much, but probably not much less, and a third spent \$123,000. The election is yet to be held.

The managers of these candidates seek to justify these expenditures. They are raising their eyebrows at the outcry over them. They say, in effect, that the American people have consented to the piling up of the vast political machinery now necessary to be operated and that they must expect it to cost money. There is reason in this defense, but it is very illuminating. The interests that seek to control the political machinery, and through it the Government, are at least acting openly. They are putting their millions into the industry (and will later take them out with a profit) and are asking what the American people propose to do about it. The primary system was a challenge to these interests and they have taken new parts to the political machinery, the same increase will put price tags on them that will keep all but themselves from handling them. A \$2,000,000 primary is no longer a popular device. It's more expensive and exclusive than the old convention system, but there are those who can afford to pay it, and they will—unless Government and an aroused public sentiment find a way to stop them.

Turning Down a \$12,000 Job.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Members of the newly authorized Railway Mediation Board are to be paid \$12,000 a year. That means that only men of exceptional ability are wanted to represent the Government in the capacity of mediators.

The fact that William B. Wilson, Democratic candidate for the Senate from Pennsylvania, was offered a place on the board is susceptible of two interpretations. One is that the Administration wished to get him out of the Senatorial race to clear the track for Vare. The other is that the President recognized his capacity for service in an important office and wished to organize the Railway Mediation Board with the best available material.

We prefer to accept the latter view. Some small-fry politician may have conceived the brilliant idea that it would be helpful to sidetrack Wilson from the Senatorial contest, but we do not believe the President would be a party to so shifty a move. It is more reasonable to suppose that the Senatorial nominee was "sounded out" at the instance of the President because the President thought his knowledge of economic and industrial conditions peculiarly fitted him for the job.

Naturally Mr. Wilson declined. Financially a bird in the hand would be worth two in the bush; but we fancy that the ex-Secretary of Labor is less anxious about material reward than about the opportunity for the greatest service. A man of Mr. Wilson's type is needed to represent Pennsylvania in the United States Senate. We have been accustomed to choosing rich men for Senators. It would be an agreeable novelty to many Pennsylvanians to be represented there by a man whose limited means would help him to see things from their point of view.

The Democratic Issues.

From the Providence Journal.

The Democrats should be grateful to the Republicans for furnishing them with two valuable issues.

The first of these issues has to do with the excessive campaign fund expended in the Republican primary in Pennsylvania. No matter how the contributors may explain it, the public is bound to disapprove of the use of so much money for such a purpose. The reaction against the Republican party on account of it is already evident. Naturally, thousands of Republican voters in that State will desert their party on this issue and cast their votes for William B. Wilson, the Democratic candidate for United States Senator.

Not only this—Democratic orators and newspapers will attempt to show that conditions in Pennsylvania are of a piece with conditions elsewhere. At any rate, what the Republicans have done in Pennsylvania with what they have left undone in Washington has given the Democrats new courage and hope.

—Grundy appears to have been the only politician who cashed in on everything at the primaries.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The skeleton of a man in the forests near Cressona three days ago was identified as that of Israel Shimach, a former patient of the Schuylkill county Hospital.

—Three boys were burned, one perhaps fatally, by the explosion of a culm bank at the Ellsworth, Pa., mines of the Bethlehem Mines corporation, at Washington, Pa.

—Thelma Eislager, aged 12, was drowned in the Columbia, Pa., reservoir on Saturday afternoon when one of the concrete slabs covering the water gave way. Playmates made a desperate attempt at rescue with an improvised rope of neckties and belts, but the girl was too weak to grasp the line when it was thrown to her.

—Thomas James, aged 44, of Lebanon, fell dead last Friday afternoon as he was in the act of going to bat at the opening of the annual game of baseball featuring the Centenary Methodist Sunday school outing at Penryn Park. He apparently had been enjoying good health, and death was attributed to heart failure, due to excitement.

—The contest for the \$500 reward for the arrest of the three negroes, executed last February at Rockview penitentiary for the murder of Jonathan Kloop, a Berks county merchant, almost two years ago, was complicated today by the filing of two more claims, making fifteen in all. The new claimants are Jacob M. Greth and Henry Drebbels, of Wernersville.

—Surgeons at the State hospital at Shamokin have discovered that the heart of Earl M. Persing, of that place, is on his right side. The discovery was made when he complained of severe pains on his right side. The doctors attributed the pain to diseased tonsils and made an X-ray, which showed the location of the heart. His tonsils were removed and the pains have left him.

—Miss Mary Marcavage, a patient at the Anthracite hospital, Pottsville, started out in terror when she saw a white robed surgeon approach to begin an operation. With a loud cry she dashed out of the hospital and ran frantically down a street, into the strong arms of a policeman. She was persuaded to go back to the hospital and the operation, a minor one, was successfully performed.

—Approval of the incorporation of the Pennsylvania General Transit company, a subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, was announced on Tuesday by the Public Service Commission. The company was organized for the operation of motor buses. The approval gives the company charter rights in 55 counties but each proposed route must be approved by the commission before buses may be placed in operation.

—Mrs. Bertha Kifert, a tax-collector of Irona borough, Clearfield county, arrested and placed in jail last Friday Mrs. Katherine Lucas, of her district, for non-payment of taxes, Constable McCulley made the arrest. Mrs. Lucas is the mother of ten children, the youngest being only seven weeks old, and her husband has earned only seven dollars during the past seven weeks. She is an Austrian and can neither read or write.

—Edward M. Beers, member of Congress from the Eighteenth district, is expected that work on the new post office building at Lewistown will be started within a month. Fifty thousand dollars of the appropriation will be available this year and the balance of \$58,000 next year. The site purchased ten years ago for \$15,500 is now worth \$60,000, that amount having been offered the government by Henry Kreitzman from whom it was purchased.

—Scranton policemen with pulmonary on Tuesday saved the lives of John Flannery, Sr., 62, retired merchant, and his son John Jr., 28 when both were found overcome by gas in their home at West Scranton. The flames under a water heater had gone out and gas flooded the building. When another member of the Flannery family was awakened by the gas odor the police were called and after a half hour revived the father and son, who were unconscious.

—Otto M. Logan, court stenographer, in Philadelphia, has confessed, police said, to having defrauded the municipal court of approximately \$15,000 in a period of two years said his system was to induce Judge Charles L. Brown to sign pay vouchers for work done, without the work having been checked by the presiding judge. Logan's confession told of his having been paid for hundreds of pages of stenographic work that was never performed. He was held for the grand jury.

—That Mrs. Anna H. Brannon lived but two weeks to enjoy the \$50,000 estate of A. D. Koch, prominent Shamokin resident, was indicated in the will book at the office of register John I. Carr, at Sunbury. Mrs. Brannon's will was probated last Friday and that of Mr. Koch several days previous. Dates of the deaths of the two were just that much apart, the record shows. Mrs. Brannon in her will bequeathed all her estate to her daughter, Mrs. S. F. A. Braller, wife of a Conemaugh doctor, and she is named executrix, without bond.

—To be buried to her neck in mud was the experience of Mrs. Charles Grace, of Chester, last Wednesday. She was rescued from her perilous position by a workman and a patrol load of police. Mrs. Grace, who says she weighs 320 pounds, stepped into a freshly filled in ditch at Tenth and Tighman streets. Because of the heavy rain, the ground had been undermined, and before she could retract her steps, she found herself sinking. The more she struggled to free herself, the deeper she went in the mud, and she screamed for help. Word of the woman's plight was received at police headquarters and Patrol Driver Talbot, with half a dozen volunteers, hurried to the scene.

—Gas and oil circles of Southwestern Pennsylvania received added thrills last week when it was announced that the gasser on the Hopkins lease, in Greene county, had increased its production to 10,000,000 cubic feet daily and that the Natural Gas company of West Virginia had brought in an oil well on the Frank Rutan farm near Ninevah, which was flowing at the rate of 45 barrels an hour. Both are located in Greene county, the Rutan well being in the field recently developed, which has proven one of the richest tapped in that district since the first oil boom 40 years ago. The Hopkins gasser is the biggest secured in Greene county operations in the last five years. It was drilled by the Manufacturers Light and Heat company, of Pittsburgh.