

INK SLINGS.

—Also, what has become of the old fashioned fellow who asked "Is it hot enough for you?"

—Anyway, the hot weather of the week has made the season for ice cream and soda dispensers.

—The President is not going to openly favor any more candidates. All those he has supported thus far have been defeated.

—Visitors to Bellefonte on Wednesday and Saturday evenings have more trouble finding parking space for their cars than they do for themselves.

—The thrill that the modern girl seeks so determined to get unhappily isn't always the one that comes from making something out of ones self.

—Just when the country was prostrated with the greatest heat wave of record President Coolidge had himself interviewed on the coal problem. How timely.

—Only one hundred and two days remain in which to save Pennsylvania from Vore. Are Democrats and independents organizing as they should to accomplish this much to be desired end?

—With France heading for a dictatorship it behoves the world's other great Republic, meaning us, to have a care lest continued centralization of government leads the U. S. A. to the same end.

—There are many reasons why the next Congress should be Democratic but after next November second it will be found that the real one will be that the country is gradually absorbing the idea that it is time for a change.

—We know one thing that the President didn't say to Governor Al. Smith when the latter made the courtesy call on him at his summer camp in the Adirondacks. Cal. didn't say to Al. what the Governor of North Carolina said to the Governor of South Carolina.

—Arthur Brisbane predicts the nomination and re-election of President Coolidge. The suggestion is interesting because Mr. Brisbane would not have thought of such a thing had the last eight years of Republican rule developed a single prospect of Presidential size.

—As Judge Bonniwell, our nominee for Governor, aptly says: The debauchery of the recent primary in Pennsylvania "is not the fault of the law. It is the fault of the distinguished leaders of the Republican party, who determine to rule or ruin regardless of law."

—Some institute of animal economics suggests to farmers that their cows will produce much better if flies are kept off of them. We are not scientifically capable of passing judgment on this advice, but we do know that we'd be writing better stuff right now if some one were to keep the pestiferous musta domestica off our sticky pate.

—Senator Borah's promise to revive the Prohibition party is probably made in good faith, but will end in failure. There are too many Prohibitionists who believe in its principles three hundred and sixty-four days in the year and, on the three hundred and sixty-fifth, vote with the party they were aligned with before becoming Prohibs.

—It is our belief that for the next decade or two the paramount political issue in this country will be decentralization of government. We say decade or two because we have been a long time scrambling the eggs and it is going to take just as long to unscramble them, and, furthermore, it is the natural issue of our party, since centralization is abrogation of our fundamental tenet of States' Rights.

—The trend toward all kinds of labor saving devices for the kitchen came with the virtual disappearance of the once called "kitchen mechanic." Strange, isn't it. Just when a mechanic is needed most to keep the kitchen machinery in motion there ain't no such anymore. She'll be coming back soon, however, with an M. E. attached to her signature and taking down big money for telling the lady of the house what is wrong with her electrical sweeper and stove and toaster and what not.

—Ocean Grove has long been known as the center of summer refreshment for Methodist pilgrims. They gather in hordes there to clean up spiritually in the tabernacles and physically in the ocean. The resort has become the ever flowing fount of church movements, the latest of which is one to make the country understand that all that is of ill report is not due to the Volstead act. The Lutherans, it appears, are trying to horn into Ocean Grove too. At any rate they met there recently and approved a sermon by one of their foremost clergymen in which he declared that most everything of ill report in the country is due to the Volstead act. Here we have the situation of two great churches being diametrically opposed as to the cause of the crime wave that are wallowing in now. It might appear strange to some, but it doesn't to us. There are honest differences of opinion among people on all great questions. All of us can't see through the same glasses. If we did both Methodists and Lutherans would discover that neither has pre-empted the only way to Heaven.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Pinchot Still for Ballot Reform.

Governor Pinchot's latest effort to hold ballot reform legislation may prove as futile as that which failed in the extra session of the Legislature in January, but it reveals the right spirit. The investigation of the slush funds employed by the Republican candidates for Senator and Governor in the recent primary election has submerged the State in a flood of shame. It is the duty of the people, and is especially an obligation on the officials of the State to remove this stain, and Governor Pinchot's appeal to certain distinguished citizens to set the machinery in motion is a step in that direction. It is to be hoped the men and women who compose the committee in question will respond.

The Governor offers some remedial suggestions which might prove of value if the right sort of men are chosen to sit in the next Legislature. He proposes legislation to disqualify a candidate who had procured the election by excessive expenditure of money or other fraudulent practices from qualifying for the service. That would certainly "rob the organizations of their strongest incentive for violation." He also suggests a limit on expenditures which would be helpful in attaining good results. He suggests that each candidate be required to name a financial agent through whom all contributions shall be received and all disbursements made. Finally he would prohibit State, county or municipal employees from participating in campaign activities.

In striving for preventives of future ballot crimes the Governor doesn't propose to condone the past offenses. He informed the executive committee of the Committee of Seventy-six that he has instructed the Attorney General "to press prosecutions against persons who have violated the Corrupt Practices act." With the information gathered by the Senate committee already, and that which may be acquired by vigilant effort in the State and throughout the counties, it ought to be possible to mete out just punishment to the perpetrators of the crimes now under complaint, and in the last analysis that is the greatest deterrent of crime. A stiff jail sentence of a party boss would go a long way toward purification.

—Harry Mackey probably imagines he has thought up some things that will confuse Jim Reed.

Higher-ups the Worst Criminals.

Whether Bill Vore offered Magistrate O'Connor, of Philadelphia, \$75,000 or \$125,000, or any other sum of money to desert Senator Pepper in his primary campaign and support Vore is neither certain nor important. It is true that Mr. Pepper testified before the Senate committee that O'Connor so stated to him and that three newspaper correspondents declared under oath to the same committee that O'Connor so informed them. But Vore denies that he made such an offer and O'Connor denies that he made such a statement and the matter ends in mystery. If the story as told by Pepper and the newspaper men is true Vore attempted to bribe but failed. Whether a penalty attaches to the failure is uncertain.

But there is no uncertainty or even mystery concerning the pre-primary delations between Senator Pepper and Magistrate O'Connor. Mr. Pepper testified before the Senate committee that he had paid out of a fund contributed by business friends to Magistrate O'Connor, the sum of \$40,000. O'Connor corroborated this evidence and somebody else acquainted with the circumstances stated the contribution was \$43,000. It would be impossible to claim that such a sum of money was paid to O'Connor for "disseminating information" or for acting as "watcher at the polls." We can call to mind no other legal way in which a candidate may pay such a sum to a supporter even though competitive bidding were in order.

In view of these facts as they appear of record it seems to us that it is a mistake to waste time in searching for evidence that Magistrate O'Connor committed perjury or accepted a bribe from Vore. Senator Pepper is possibly guilty of bribery and if accepting a bribe is a crime Mr. O'Connor is guilty of accepting a bribe from Senator Pepper. The place to begin punishing criminals is at the top rather than at the bottom and Senator Pepper would be "a bright and shining light" for the shafts of legal action. The conviction and punishment of O'Connor would be a trivial matter compared with the conviction and punishment of Pepper. The "higher-ups" in political knavery are the proper targets for the law.

—Henry Ford has written a book but nobody has predicted that it will be a "best seller."

Democratic Forces Organized.

At a conference of leading Democrats, held in Philadelphia on Wednesday of last week, the most encouraging reports were made of the hopeful and healthful condition of the party. "Victory is in sight for Pennsylvania Democracy" was the spirit expressed by all present. There are no dissensions either among the leaders or in the rank and file of the party. The issue of the campaign was clearly expressed both by William B. Wilson, candidate for Senator in Congress, and Eugene C. Bonniwell, the nominee for Governor, which is the important question of "redeeming the Keystone State from the demoralizing and corrupt influences that are making it a by-word among her sister Commonwealths."

The first speaker at the conference was Mr. Wilson and at the outset he refuted an invention of the enemy to the effect that he will retire from the contest in order that Governor Pinchot might become a fusion candidate. "My answer to all this is that I am in this fight to the finish," he said. Differences which may exist between candidates on collateral questions are of no value in the face of the more important question of honest government and the faithful execution of the laws of the Commonwealth. On this subject there is no division of opinion among the candidates or the voters of the party. As the late Sam Randall put it, on this subject "both wings of the party flop together."

The conference in Philadelphia was certainly an auspicious beginning of what promises to be an eventful campaign. The new chairman, Cornelius Haggerty Jr., proved an efficient organizer and his plans of campaign were cordially endorsed not only by the candidates but by all those in attendance. The official opening of the campaign will be held in Dorney's Park, near Allentown, on August 21st, and from that moment to the closing of the polls the air will be filled with Democratic voices proclaiming "the redemption of the State of Pennsylvania from the shame which has been placed upon it" and that "the one great thing to do is to see that those responsible for the corruption are repudiated."

—Ten election officers in Pittsburgh have been arrested for violating the law at the recent primaries. Unless the trial is conducted with great care some important frauds may be exposed.

Losing Faith in Reformers.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Record writes: "Another strong and inconsistent thing in Pennsylvania politics is the action of the Pennsylvania Anti-Saloon League's meeting at Pittsburgh condemning and deploring the lavish expenditure of money in the recent primaries in one breath, and then endorsing for Governor John S. Fisher, whose nomination was put across with the assistance of a slush fund of over \$1,000,000, in the next. Is it any wonder," the correspondent remarks, "that people are losing faith in such reformers and uplifters?"

In his testimony taken before the Senate committee on expenditures in the Pennsylvania primaries Mr. Joseph R. Grundy stated that he had contributed in cash and credit to the Mellon campaign organization some \$400,000. He also declared that he had only a languid interest in the success of Senator Pepper and that his reason for contributing so generously was that he wanted to guarantee by the defeat of Mr. Beidleman for Governor, that the threatened tax on manufacturing corporations would be averted. That just tax if imposed would relieve the farmers of a burden amounting to \$10,000,000 a year and leave undisturbed in the corporation treasuries the enormous sum of \$40,000,000 in the four years next ensuing.

In endorsing the candidacy of John S. Fisher, for Governor, therefore, the Pennsylvania Anti-Saloon League not only condones the political crime of the century "in the lavish expenditure of money in the recent primaries," but it ratifies the corrupt bargain between Mr. Fisher and Mr. Grundy under which the corporations, amply able to pay their full share of the cost of the State government, are exempted to the extent of \$40,000,000 in four years and the burden of meeting the deficit is put upon the backs of farmers and others less able to pay.

In view of these facts the inquiry of the Record correspondent as to losing faith in reformers and uplifters is both pertinent and timely. Such inconsistencies destroy faith.

—Senator Borah declines to make any comment on the Pennsylvania primary. The Idaho statesman is entirely too cautious to be sincere.

Mackey Has Revised Figures.

Mr. Harry Mackey, who was manager of Vore's recent primary campaign, having perfected an agreement with the Mellon contingent is anxious to give a revised version of the Vore expenses to the Senate committee on primary campaign expenses. After consultation with Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, who is concerned as a prospective candidate in the near future, Mr. Mackey has declared that he is "getting up a review that will cover every detail of the expenditures on behalf of Congressman Vore." In this supplemental statement he will try to show that the considerable sums of money collected and disbursed in behalf of Mr. Beidleman, Vore's running mate, were not used in the interest of Vore.

The palpable purpose of this gesture is to make Beidleman the "goat." The Grundy antipathy to Baker and Beidleman has not been satisfied by the demotion of Baker. The entire destruction of Beidleman is also demanded and it is expected that this result may be achieved by showing that Beidleman was unfaithful to his obligations to Vore as running partner. Mackey will attempt to show that the \$109,000 collected by Beidleman's friends to be used jointly by Vore and Beidleman were used in the interest of Beidleman alone. This would reduce the Vore slush fund from \$800,114.16 to \$691,114.16, which both Mellon and Dave Reed regard as a reasonable sum for a Senatorial candidate to spend.

Mackey, who is an expert in figures, has had plenty of time since he testified before the Senate committee several weeks ago to juggle the accounts so as to confuse the average mind. He has been striving to perfect a community of interest between Mellon and Vore, and as Senator Dave Reed is the Mellon candidate for Senator at the next election, he has arranged with Reed to get his statement of the Vore expenditures into the Senate records. It is not a very promising enterprise, however. Even if he does show that Beidleman was treacherous he will not be able to prove that the Vore expenditures were within the limit of legitimacy.

—John Murphy was nominated for Secretary of Internal Affairs, Representative in Congress and member of the State and county committees on the 18th of May, and with the idea of equalizing things he has decided to decline the Congressional nomination.

Huckleberries and Copperheads Both are Plentiful.

Huckleberries are very plentiful on the mountains this year and the early blue variety brought into the Bellefonte market are of unusually fine quality. The greater part of the berries are picked in the foothills of the Allegheny mountains, but some of the pickers aver that it is a thrilling and dangerous job this year because of snakes.

Cyrus Shope, who lives out in Holt's Hollow, declares he never saw so many snakes on the mountain as there are this year, the prevailing variety being copperheads. As these are a poisonous species berry pickers are compelled to be on the alert every minute. While out picking on Tuesday Mr. Shope had his young son with him and while the lad was sitting on the ground a copperhead as thick as a man's wrist and fully three feet in length crawled over his foot. Another snake struck at Mr. Shope but fortunately missed him by two inches. In fact, Mr. Shope avers, that the snakes are beginning to get on his nerves.

—A terrific electric storm passed over portions of Centre county on Monday night. The heavy peals of thunder and vivid and almost incessant flashes of lightning were accompanied by a downpour of rain. Up at Snow Shoe intersection two trees were struck by lightning but fortunately no buildings. The storm, however, knocked out the electric service of the Keystone Power corporation and it was after three o'clock in the morning when the current was again flowing smoothly.

—If you enjoy something clever in jingle don't fail to read "Dennis Shay, the Witness" at the head of column 1, page 2 of this issue. It was written for the Watchman many years ago and because it was so clever is revived for the enjoyment of the present generation of readers.

—The special election held in Phillipsburg, on Tuesday to determine whether a bond issue of \$35,000 should be authorized for the purpose of widening and paving Front street was lost by the small margin of four votes.

Election Frauds in Illinois.

From the Pittsburgh Post. It is, of course, no excuse for Pennsylvania, whose political methods, as exposed by the Senate committee investigating the primary election, have shocked the Nation, that corruption also exists elsewhere. But it is only just that attention should be directed to the fact that not ours alone is the shame. Pennsylvania has been singled out as though it were a unique example of rottenness in politics. The point has almost been reached, if the comment of editors in other States is to be accepted, where the name of Pennsylvania has become a byword and a hissing. But revelations of crookedness have also been made in Illinois, and crookedness of so scandalous a nature and of such vast proportions that the Chicago Tribune frankly and sardonically admits that in comparison "Pennsylvania seems to be backward and inefficient."

The falsification of the returns in the contest between Frank J. Zak and Daniel A. Malie for the Republican nomination for the House of Representatives in the Seventh Legislative District of Allegheny county was a small swindle when set alongside what occurred in the Twentieth ward of Chicago in the recent election. There, according to the Tribune, "the judges and clerks in the various precincts juggled 85,640 votes, distributing them as they saw fit to candidates of the two factions." The voters might just as well have stayed at home, if the Chicago paper has the facts straight. "We are developing a system of elections," it says, "in which it will be sufficient for ward headquarters to send a tally sheet to the election commissioners."

Well, the voters will not submit to being bamboozled perpetually. Revolt is bound to come. If there were any doubt of it, the conclusion would be inevitable that self-government is not a success.

But the National conscience is being touched by scandalous disclosures. People are objecting to being swindled by crooked election boards. In Allegheny county the fraud perpetrated in Malie's interest has been remedied. It is hardly likely that Chicago will tamely submit to being cheated either.

Farming Troubles.

From the Altoona Tribune. Former Governor Lowden, of Illinois, who knows farming, says: "The farmer cannot go on producing unless he gets at least the cost of production of the thing he sells."

"If he does not get enough return to enable him to keep on producing, disaster will result for everyone. The result will be fewer farmers. This is already in evidence, and this trend cannot go on long until there will be a shortage of food, with abnormal and needlessly high prices."

This seems to be the gist of the situation. Yet there may not be indicated such "disaster for everyone" as Mr. Lowden foresees. For the very process he indicates shows the operation of an economic law tending to cure the existing malady. Economic law operates as surely with agriculture as with manufacturing, though the evidence may not always be so clear.

Today farming plainly doesn't pay. The average farmer can't get enough for the things he raises and sells to pay for the things he has to buy. He fails to get as much return as other classes do for his labor, skill and money. So what happens? The farmers naturally tend to leave the farms. They go to the cities and join the ranks of industry. This is not fatal, but curative, as far as agriculture is concerned.

By decreasing the forces of farm production, it raises the price of farm products, so the remaining farmers can make more money. At the same time, by increasing the forces of industrial production, it decreases the price of manufactured goods that farmers have to buy.

The farming industry benefits from having fewer farmers and fewer farms, as the coal industry would benefit from having fewer miners and fewer mines.

Eventually this process in turn, will probably go too far. Farm products will be too dear for consumers. Then the same double-acting economic law will tend to cure that malady, by drawing more men and capital to the farms, in quest of high profits being made, until in time a balance is struck again.

Look Out for the Children.

From the Kansas City Star. Every year thousands of child lives are sacrificed in motor vehicle accidents.

In summer, when small children play outdoors, the dangers of fatal accidents in the streets are greatly increased. In other cities, as in Kansas City, there recently have been child deaths occasioned by children running into or playing in the streets. It is not easy to put the blame directly in such cases. But a few things are certain. First of all, the street is no place for children to play, in any season, and parents who fail to exercise the care sufficient to keep the children away from these danger spots do so at the risk of the children's lives and are only inviting grief and suffering for themselves.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Running to see his father cultivate a field of potatoes with a team of horses, Durrell Dotter, 2-year-old son of Albert Dotter, of Stroudsburg, was knocked down and fatally injured by one of the animals. The child died a half hour afterward in a physician's office.

—While his bride of a month looked on, H. A. Smith, 22, shot himself to death in their Swissvale home late last Friday night. His wife said she had reprimanded him for being extravagant and that before she could prevent it he had secured a revolver and shot himself.

—The jaw bone of an animal of mammoth size was found by William Lohr on his farm near Sycamore, Greene county. Teeth in the jaw bone measured one and a half inches in width and more than three inches in length. Other parts of the skull crumbled into dust as soon as exposed in the air.

—Robert, 14-year-old son of Frank Scarlett, a contractor, of No. 661 Bennett street, Luzerne, died on Saturday morning from lockjaw due to a flesh wound caused by a blank cartridge while celebrating the Fourth of July. The wound apparently healed until a week ago, when he complained of a growing stiffness in his back and neck.

—Kicked and gored by a bull, Francis Long, 7 years old, of Lower Augusta township, Northumberland county, just south of Sunbury, was injured probably fatally on Sunday. He is in the Mary Baker hospital. His father suffered a fractured skull recently when kicked by a mule and is a patient in the same institution where his son was taken.

—John Reisinger, 41, employed by the Edison Light and Power company at York, was instantly killed on Monday when he fell forty feet from a pole while repairing damage caused by Sunday's electrical storms. In the fall the lineman landed on concrete and his head was crushed. Death was instantaneous. He is survived by his widow and seven children.

—A series of hail and rain storms which swept over Lancaster county Saturday night halted traffic, inundated the Lincoln highway for stretches of 200 yards and more, broke window panes in the vicinity of Elizabethtown and Mt. Joy and flattened wheat fields. Hailstones as large as baseballs were reported at Elizabethtown and wind damage to chimneys, awnings and parked automobiles were common within Lancaster.

—Plunging 67 feet to the ground from a scaffold on which he was working on the new Liberty-Tunnel Bridge, at Pittsburgh, Frank Patch, aged 35 of Madera, Clearfield county, a concrete finisher, was killed on Saturday. Patch, an employe of the Vang Construction company, was working on one of the highest piers of the new structure, at South Sixth street, below Carson street, when, according to fellow workmen, he lost his balance and fell. He was taken to St. Joseph's hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

—Dependent because he could not find employment, William Sipe, 38 years old, New Kensington, went to the kitchen of his home on Saturday, wrote a note asking that his two children be placed in the Mooseheart home, Mooseheart, Ind., and then slashed his throat with a razor. He was found about noon by his aged father and taken to the Citizens' General hospital, where it was stated that he could not live. Mrs. Sipe and their children were not at home at the time. It is thought that they are visiting relatives in Lewistown, Pa.

—J. B. McMillan, of Kane, was the victim of an accident two miles south of Johnstown at 1:30 o'clock on Friday afternoon that is unparalleled in the annals of highway casualties in the State. A large buck deer jumped from the roadside directly in the path of the car and when touched by the auto sprang directly through the windshield, demolishing the steering gear and landed square in the lap of the astonished driver. McMillan was compelled to throw the deer out of the machine, when it scampered off into the woods, apparently unhurt.

—Howell Brockie, a wealthy insurance broker, and member of a socially prominent family in Philadelphia, was found dead on Sunday night at the bottom of the Walnut Lane bridge, spanning Wissahickon Creek. The police theory that he had jumped from the bridge was discredited by members of the Brockie family and Dr. Charles Schwartz who examined the body. Dr. Schwartz expressed the opinion that death had not resulted from a fall and that heart disease might have been the cause. There were no marks on the body except a small scratch on the head.

—One girl is in a serious condition suffering from shock, and two others were knocked unconscious when a bolt of lightning struck near the porch on which they were sitting during a heavy thunder-storm Sunday night in Pleasant Grove, near York Haven, York county. Phyllis Koch, 6, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koch, remained unconscious for several hours after being buried into a mud puddle several feet away in company with another sister, Dolores, 4, and a cousin, Minerva Koch, 5, who were sitting on the Koch front porch. All of the girls were unconscious.

—David E. Yoder, 43, of Belleville, was electrocuted at 9:45 Thursday morning while working as a machinist at the Gibson Woolen mills in the Kishacoquillas valley, Mifflin county. Mr. Yoder, who had a weak heart, was drilling a hole through a steel girder in the mill when the electricity short circuited turning 110 volts of electric current through his body. The man's body crumpled and fell, the drill driving its way through his right leg before the current could be shut off. The surviving relatives are his wife, Nancy, his mother, Mrs. Mary Yoder, and three sisters, all of the Kishacoquillas valley.

—For several years police of Pittsburgh turned their heads away as they strode past Harry Marshall, who advertised himself as deaf, dumb and blind and who solicited alms from passersby, a violation of the city ordinance. On Saturday, however, motorcycle detective Burke arrested Marshall, and brother officers were on the verge of ostracizing Burke, until the latter explained that in visiting a downtown garage to have a tire repaired he found Marshall and several negro car washers hanging over a pair of dice in a darkened corner. "From the way he called his points he isn't blind; from the speed with which he faded the others he isn't deaf, and from the size of his roll he isn't very dumb," Burke remarked.