

INK SLINGS.

—About all there is in a vacation is change and the landlords and fakers in the place one takes it generally get that.

—After all, what do the girls get who are attempting to swim the English channel? Brief notoriety until some one does it in less time.

—Senator Jim Reed, of Missouri, will make speeches for the Democratic ticket in this State this year, and he will give the people some inside and interesting information.

—These are the days that shake our faith in the Wisenhammers who were telling us, only a few months ago, that the earth is cooling off because of the many new spots they had discovered on the sun.

—There was more money spent to secure Fisher's nomination than there was to win a place on the Republican ticket for Vare, so why talk of Vare being ineligible should he be elected without including Fisher.

—It seems to us that the Associated Business men do themselves injustice by advertising August 11 as "Opportunity Day" in Bellefonte. To our mind every day ought to be an opportunity day in a town blessed as ours is.

—Buffalo Run gardeners think the army worm is marching on them. Something is devastating their vegetables. Something that some one has told them is the army worm, but it isn't; unless it is doing, as its name implies, moving in army formation.

—Suzanne Lenglen, the French girl and world's tennis champion, is to tour America as a professional in the fall. Charles Pyle, who engineered "Red" Grange's professional football debut, is to be her conductor. The temperamental Suzanne will be a very difficult proposition for Pyle. She isn't a "galloping ghost" by any means.

—Anyway the women seem to know how to get onto the front pages and stay there. What else have you seen in the metropolitan papers the last few weeks besides the columns on the Hall murder trial, the supposed kidnapping of Aimee McPherson, the California evangelist, and the defeat of "Ma" Ferguson, of Texas, for renomination for Governor of that State?

—A Chicago cosmetician is authority for the statement that women who continue bobbing their hair will eventually be growing moustaches and beards. She says hair, like murder, will out and, already, she has gathered enough evidence to justify the prediction. Won't it be a great day when the tea wagons will be loaded with moustache cups and the fire department will have to be called out every time her cigarette falls into the old lady's beard.

—French and German savants are seriously discussing the relative chances of blondes and brunettes for matrimony. The French hold the idea that men prefer the latter while the German wise men insist that there's nothing to it. For the first time since early in 1914 we're in accord with a German idea. We don't think the average man cares a whoop what color the aurora of "the girl" happens to be. It's something more than hair that he falls for and when he falls he doesn't know or care whether her hair is black, brown, taffy or green.

—We were reading with much interest an article from the Pittsburgh Legal Journal on the murder of Don R. Mellett, editor of the Canton, Ohio, Daily News, when Dr. Edwin Twitmyre, of Seattle, Washington, dropped in. The article in question is a lengthy study of the responsibility of the modern newspaper to civilization. It views the Mellett tragedy in the light of retribution, not only for the Nation's parental neglect of the children of a few years ago, but for the Fourth Estate in America. While Mellett was a crusader against vice and it is generally believed the underworld "got him" because of his activities in uncovering their misdoings the Legal Journal suggests consideration of the thought that the victim's own paper was unwittingly breaking down public morale at the same time it was hoping to build it up. This through publication in its news columns of sensational stories and the supplemental highly colored comics that portray impossible incidents and leave an unrefined impression on the child mind. We are inclined to agree with the Legal Journal in some of its premises. The "Watchman" has always tried to keep above pandering to the sensational and scandal-mongering element. It has tried, and succeeded fairly well, to be a clean paper that might inspire the confidence of its readers and lift their thoughts at times just a bit. Because of this objective it knows it has influence with its readers. It always has had. We know that more than ever today because Dr. Twitmyre told us, shortly after having interrupted our reading of the Legal Journal's article, that the "Watchman" made a Democrat of him, though he was raised in an exceedingly orthodox Republican home along the mountain back of Zion. That made us feel easier about the responsibility of the Fourth Estate to the world. Sitting before us was a visible, scintillating star for our diadem—and then came the eclipse—Dr. Twitmyre admitted that he had backslidden in 1896.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 71.

BELLEFONTE, PA., AUGUST 6, 1926.

NO. 31.

Altering Democratic Rules.

Mr. John W. Davis, of West Virginia and New York, who was the worthy candidate of the Democratic party for President two years ago, has added his voice to that of a considerable group of party leaders in favor of the abolition of the "two-thirds" rule in nominating candidates for President. In an interview, the other day, Mr. Davis said: "I believe the time has come when the Democratic party should change this time-worn procedure, which, so far as I know, does not prevail in any other nominating convention, either National or State. There is no reason why the Democratic party should be unique in this respect, unless by so doing it promotes its own welfare or serves its own aims. Experience has demonstrated the present system does not do either."

Why the two-thirds rule was originally adopted will probably never be definitely known. Various reasons have been given by different persons but none of them seems convincing or even persuasive. For many years, when the area of the country was smaller and the population less, it worked neither good nor harm and during recent years it has been preserved by party leaders for selfish or sectional reasons. But as Mr. Davis says it is not Democratic. Majority rule is a fundamental principle of the Democratic creed and insistence upon the maintenance of the two-thirds rule works a subversion of that principle. In several national conventions within the last quarter of a century it has threatened harm, and in New York, two years ago, it almost caused disruption.

We are not so fully in accord with Mr. Davis on the subject of eliminating the "unit" rule. "I think it would be a good thing," Mr. Davis adds, "to eliminate both the unit and the two-thirds rule." It is possible such action might do good but the objections to the unit rule are neither so numerous nor so valid as those to the other. In the scheme for electing Presidents the State is the unit and the unit rule is simply a recognition of the right of the unit to express itself. A small majority for the electors of a party gives that party the right to cast the vote of the State for its candidates and the unit rule in convention is simply expressing the same principle. But the delegates in a convention may agree among themselves to vote separately.

—If somebody would tell the public why a dirigible twice as big as the Shenandoah is needed it would be an interesting story.

Senator Norris Deserves Welcome.

When Senator Norris, of Nebraska, comes into this State to advocate the election of William B. Wilson to the office of United States Senator, he ought to be cordially welcomed and generously applauded by all the independent Republicans and all other self-respecting voters of that political faith. He will come as a Republican pleading with Republicans, not to injure their party but to save it from shame. His mission will be to urge Republicans to preserve the good name of the political organization with which they are affiliated and to which they are attached. He sees the menace which the future holds against "a criminal conspiracy masquerading as the Republican party."

Senator George W. Norris is a public official of fine ability and high ideals. He has been a Republican all his life and as Representative and Senator in Congress has contributed largely to what is creditable in the achievements of that party during the last quarter of a century. He understands the political conditions in Pennsylvania and abhors the records of vice and crime which the Pennsylvania machine has created. He realizes that support and endorsement of the ticket recently nominated by fraud is threatening the success of the party in other States, including his own, and will ask the Republican voters here to sacrifice a corrupt gang in order to save the party of the country.

The Senate committee investigating expenditures of primary elections this year has shown that upward of three million dollars were spent in nominating the Republican candidates in this State. He knows that no such sum could be spent legally and that the disbursement creates a precedent that eliminates from public life all citizens except millionaires. That precedent if ratified by the election of the ticket would, and should, destroy any party. Senator Norris will come to Pennsylvania to save his party from so ignominious a death. He will ask Republican voters to oppose Vare and vote for William B. Wilson, and he can hardly ask them to vote for John S. Fisher for Governor, who is equally culpable.

Unreliable Political Gossip.

We place little confidence in the current Washington gossip to the effect that Senator David A. Reed will withdraw from political life at the end of his present term of office and become chairman of the Board of the Steel trust, long held by Judge Gary. There are many reasons for believing that Senator Reed's political experience has been disappointing. He is a capable lawyer and even before the world war as the junior member of his father's law firm his keen mind and legal learning commanded attention. But as a politician he has proved an absolute failure. As a Senator in Congress he has been a good deal of a joke. He has talked too much, said too little and achieved practically nothing.

The office of chairman of the Board of the Steel trust is an important position in the industrial life of the country. From the beginning it has been filled by Judge Gary, a man of high intellectual attainments and something like a genius for "big business." He is growing old and modern methods require young as well as able men in control. For that reason the veteran chairman may be thinking of retirement and there is probably no fitter for the succession than Senator Reed. He has been of counsel for the corporation from the beginning and head of the legal force since the close of the war. But there may be other available for that job while it might be impossible to find another for Senator.

The Steel trust is a vast concern and its successful management requires the energy, ability and industry of a number of big men. Possibly the most important office of the concern is chairman of the Board. But it is almost equally necessary to have a man of great capability in the office of Senator in Congress. To meet this requirement the late Senator Knox was drafted into the service. After his death Senator Crow was selected and when he died Senator David A. Reed, of the legal staff of the corporation, was assigned. It may not have proved a congenial assignment, for the reasons above given, but it has proved satisfactory to the trust and for that reason Mr. Reed is likely to continue in service.

—Don't worry about "Ma" Ferguson, of Texas. She hasn't resigned yet but will get out in course of time.

Relative Proportions of Crimes.

Frank L. Smith, of Chicago, who was the successful bidder for the Republican nomination for United States Senator in Illinois, is and has been for some time chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission and as such exercises much power over the public utilities of that State. Mr. Samuel Insull, of Chicago, is widely known as head of the leading utilities of Chicago and throughout the State. Mr. Insull contributed \$125,000 to the slush fund with which Mr. Smith purchased the Senatorial nomination. The purchase price, according to the evidence brought out during the Senate investigation, was a trifle over \$250,000. Most of the other contributors were associates of Mr. Insull in utility operations.

The Chicago Tribune, high Republican authority, denounces this transaction in the severest terms. "In view of the relations between this Commission and Mr. Insull's public utilities," it declares, "Mr. Smith's acceptance of the cash gift is one of the most callous and brazen offenses against common decency and political integrity in the history of American politics. To the mind of every right thinking citizen it proves Mr. Smith unfit for the Senatorship, but also for the responsible office he now holds." There is no party prejudice expressed in the declaration. The Chicago Tribune has been the leading Republican newspaper for many years in the west and is still firm in the faith.

But the esteemed Tribune overestimates the enormity of the crime against decency and political integrity when it states that it is the most "callous and brazen" in the history of politics. It is true that Insull had been receiving favors from Smith and expected more. But compare the implied bargain between Joe Grundy and John S. Fisher with that of Insull and Smith. Grundy gave \$400,000 with an understanding that Fisher would discriminate in tax levies to the extent of \$40,000,000 in favor of the industry in which Grundy is engaged. It was not only supplying a slush fund to corrupt the ballot box but conspiring to defraud the tax payers of the State by discriminating levies.

—When another war breaks out in Europe the people of the United States will be less eager to help.

Not a Verdict Against Women.

The result of the primary election in Texas can hardly be interpreted as a popular denial of the fitness of women for service in high public office. It is said that the successful candidate for Governor, commenting upon the incident, said the defeat of Mrs. Ferguson "is a serious set back to women holding office in this State." We seriously doubt the accuracy of that statement. The defeat of Mrs. Ferguson is ascribable to other causes. The opposition to Mrs. Ferguson as expressed in the vote was against her husband rather than against herself or any of the policies pursued by her as Governor. If "Pa" Ferguson had kept out of the administration "Ma" Ferguson might have won.

Mr. Ferguson had been elected Governor of Texas and because of certain policies adopted and pursued by him was impeached and removed from office. A very considerable portion of the voters of the State believed that he had been unjustly impeached and declared resentment in vigorous tones and terms. Among those of that frame of mind was Mrs. Ferguson, who became a candidate for the succession, not because she yearned for public life or notoriety, but as a vindication for her husband. She was nominated and elected by a large majority and the element that fought her husband at once turned its batteries upon her. An intense fight was organized and kept up constantly through her administration.

Among the leaders in this opposition was Dan Moody, Attorney General of the State, who invoked all the expedients of the law and every resource of his office to embarrass her. But she proceeded in her course regardless of consequences. The burden of the complaint was that "Pa" rather than "Ma" Ferguson was administering the office and whether that was true or not "Pa" Ferguson continued his activities in and about the executive offices. The fact afforded the principal reason for the opposition to Mrs. Ferguson during the primary campaign and may be justly considered the prime reason for her defeat. But it presents no evidence of her unfitness for office or against the qualifications of women.

—Early in June a terrific rain storm swept over portions of Centre county and the downpour at the Rockview penitentiary either washed away or covered with mud the larger portion of the gardens. At the time it was believed that they were completely ruined and thousands of tomato plants were secured in Clearfield county and New Jersey and used to replace the washed out plants. These are now coming along fine and promise a good crop. It was too late to replant the peas and these were dug out of the mud and given extra cultivation with the result that the crop was almost up to former years, sufficient to keep the big cannery busy for some days.

—The Holy Rollers, who held forth on the green near Mayer's mill during the month of July, have pulled up stakes, folded their tent and left for other fields of labor, but the Free Methodist campmeeting down on the old fair grounds is still in full swing. In the meantime this is the month when most of the ministers take their vacation, but supplies in the various churches will do their best to hold sabbath in check.

—During his western trip Governor Pinchot ought to have paid a friendly visit to Senator McKinley, of Illinois. Each financed his own campaign, spent liberally and lost.

—With W. A. Gaston, the Democratic candidate for Governor, and D. I. Walsh, the nominee for Senator, Massachusetts is likely to go into the Democratic column this year.

—Big Tom Cunningham received an ovation on his return from Chicago. Philadelphia is not only "corrupt and contented" but delights to honor defiance of law.

—The death of Senator Cummins, of Iowa, so soon after his defeat will be ascribed to disappointment notwithstanding he revealed no signs of a broken heart.

—According to Washington gossip the President will "swing round the circle" next summer. The third term bee is busy buzzing.

—Poincaré is delaying consideration of the debt question as long as possible. He probably wants to remain on the pay roll.

—Wheat is going up again and that is one thing the farmers won't kick about.

Tarred With the Same Stick.

From the Philadelphia Record.
A great many Pennsylvania Republicans disapprove of the attempted purchase of nominations for the United States Senate and regard the excessive primary campaign expenditures of William S. Vare as disqualifying him for the office he seeks.

Some of these Republicans, intending to vote for John S. Fisher for Governor and believing he will be elected, console themselves with the reflection that Vare, if elected, would be rejected by the United States Senate, and that Fisher, as Governor, would fill the vacancy by appointment. This they regard as an eminently satisfactory solution.

We wonder if these Republicans consider it any less reprehensible to buy a seat in the Senate.

We wonder if these Republicans know that the biggest campaign fund raised and spent in Pennsylvania last spring—far exceeding in size the fund collected and expended for the Vare candidacy—was raised and spent for the nomination of John S. Fisher for Governor.

For the information of such Republicans we cite these facts:
(1) That Joseph R. Grundy, originator of the Fisher boom for Governor, director of the Fisher campaign in the eastern part of the State and principal fat-fryer, advanced \$300,000 of his own money, borrowed \$90,000 more on a joint note with W. H. Folwell, and made an additional personal contribution of "slightly over \$18,000" for the Pepper-Fisher campaign. (P. 234 of the official report of the Senate committee's hearings.)

(2) That Grundy made these advances and contributions chiefly in the interest of Fisher. Mr. Grundy testified, regarding the period preceding his espousal of the cause of Pepper as a means of getting votes for Fisher: "I was not in favor of Mr. Pepper. * * * Well, I really was inactive on the Senate proposition; my interest was in Mr. Fisher." (P. 212.)

(3) When questioned as to the reasons which finally led him to support Senator Pepper in preference to Vare, Mr. Grundy replied: "We do not view that, as I said before, as the principal issue in the campaign." (P. 241.) And later on: "The question of State taxation was primarily what interested us—what interested me." (P. 242.)

There is other evidence in abundance that the Pepper-Fisher campaign fund, three times the size of the Vare campaign fund, was expended chiefly in the interest of Mr. Fisher. If anybody doubts that he need only consult the election returns. Senator Pepper was defeated, but Fisher, running with him, was nominated by a margin of 18,000 votes. That margin of 18,000 votes was produced with the sum of \$1,600,000 or thereabouts.

Mr. Fisher is a very estimable gentleman, but none the less his friends procured his nomination by the excessive use of money; by the expenditure of a sum, if we cut the Pepper-Fisher campaign fund in half and credit the Fisher element with but 50 per cent. of it, much larger than the Vare slush fund; by the use of a dough-bag at the least calculation more than four times as large as that which led the Senate officially to condemn and castigate Truman H. Newberry.

How can any Republican reconcile with his conscience a condemnation of Vare and a vote for Fisher?

Why make flesh of one and fowl of the other?

What sane man thinks that the ends of justice would be served by black-balling Vare and turning the choice of a Senator over to a Governor tarred with the same stick, only a little more generously?

Big Guns to Boom in Pennsylvania Campaign.

From the Clearfield Republican.

Judge Bonniwell, Democratic candidate for Governor, gave out the information first of the week that United States Senator James Reed, of Missouri, will stump Pennsylvania the coming campaign for Wilson and Bonniwell. Everybody will want to hear Senator Jim Reed or at least read what he says on the big question. He will by that time have a pretty fair understanding of Republican organization methods in the Keystone Commonwealth plans, source of supply and consideration given or expected by producers. Many of the foremost Senators now serving in Washington will come into Pennsylvania during the 1926 campaign. Already Senator Norris, of Nebraska, Republican, has announced such intention. Senator LaFollette, of Wisconsin, is reported as willing to assist in preventing the question of William S. Vare's right to the Pepper seat coming before the Senate at all. The perplexing question before Pennsylvania voters at present is, who will attempt to answer arguments of Senators Jim Reed, Norris, LaFollette and men of their type, save Davy Reed, whose interest is selfish? Better than a guess no other Senator who has any ambitions after his present term will take the stump for Vare. School boys will be able to answer and at the same time ridicule anything Davy Reed offers on the subject.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

SPAWS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—William Wiley, 11 years old, son of S. W. Wiley, of near Butler, is in a serious condition in the Butler county Memorial hospital, from injuries received when he was rammed through a board fence by a bull. His right lung was punctured and his collar bone broken.

—The electrification of the East-Broad Top railroad for passenger service will be put in practice September 1. The electric motor car will accommodate passengers, baggage, express and mail and will provide the motive power for present steel passenger coaches which will be used as trailers.

—Fractures of the skull and back suffered on Friday when he was knocked down by the bucket on a concrete mixer caused the death of Valentine J. Greff, 49 years old, of Carrolltown, on Saturday in the Clearfield hospital. The victim was a road foreman for the Clark Brothers Construction company.

—Edward Flory, Jr., sixteen years old, of Nashville, York county, died on Sunday from injuries received on the farm of Wilmer Martin, a neighbor. He was on a wagon unloading wheat with a pitchfork, and when he attempted to vault from the wagon the pitchfork caught in a belt of the machine and hit him in the stomach.

—State Highway officials have estimated that more than 11,500 men now are engaged on State highway work under departmental direction, the largest number ever employed by the State. In this group 3,000 or more are paid on a monthly basis, the others being labor construction and maintenance. Contractors are estimated to have more than 10,000 men at work.

—Automobile plates for next year will be blue background and yellow figures, the opposite of the plates in use this year. There will be at least 2,500,000 sets of plates next year, due to the rapidly growing number of cars. The plates are manufactured at the western penitentiary, the stamping and enameling plant having been moved there from the Pennsylvania reformatory at Huntingdon.

—One of the most unusual hospital cases ever recorded in Pittston claimed the attention of surgeons at a private hospital when Mrs. William Patterson, of Moosic, was admitted to that institution suffering from concussion of the brain received when a spare tire fastened on the side of a truck on which she was riding, blew out. The concussion was caused by shock as there was no evidence of a blow on the head.

—John L. Deardorff, 19 years old, died in the York hospital last Friday from lockjaw which developed from a scratch on the knee. Deardorff was riding his motorcycle a week previous and the machine skidded and threw him across the road, scraping his right knee. Next day he had the injury treated, and last Thursday went to work. He soon complained of a stiff neck, and it was discovered tetanus had set in.

—The Highway Department has completed an alternate route on the William Penn highway between Lewistown and Huntingdon. The new section is slightly shorter than the present route and avoids many grade crossings. The new route is reached by turning left at the square in Lewistown and following the Juniata river through Strodes Mills, McVeytown, Mount Union, into Mill Creek, where it rejoins the present William Penn highway.

—Singled out from a group of four boys in a porch swing, George F. Everig, aged 12 years, son of Herbert Everig, of Uniontown, was fatally struck by a bolt of lightning Saturday night. The other boys were thrown on a heap on the floor, but escaped injury. The bolt first struck the roof of the house, then followed down the beams and the chain of the swing. While standing on the porch of his home in Eastburn, the same night, Steve Shulan was knocked down by a lightning bolt.

—An alleged plot against game wardens looking for illegal fishermen along Penn's creek, near Millburg, is reported, but details including the name of a man who narrowly escaped death are not given. According to the story, a small platform along the creek had been undermined and three sticks of dynamite placed under it. These were attached to a battery with a contact under one of the boards of the platform. The explosive was discovered.

—Not satisfied with stealing his wife, John G. Culshaw also stole his furniture, according to Francis Cooley, of Duquesne, the plaintiff in an alienation suit filed on Monday in common pleas court of Allegheny county against Culshaw. Cooley set the value of his wife's affections and his furniture at \$20,000. He charges that Culshaw eloped with his wife, Agnes Cooley, August 29, 1925. The mother took their 3-year-old daughter, the plaintiff's only. A month later Culshaw drove up to Cooley's home in an automobile, stripped the house of its furniture and hauled it away. The Cooleys were married August 13, 1919.

—Not realizing he was fatally hurt, John S. Bender, aged 58 years, of Fishertown, Bedford county, attended Sunday school Sunday morning at the Pine Grove Evangelical church, in session at Bethel Park camp grounds, read scriptural passages, sang hymns and officiated as treasurer of the class, after he had fractured his larynx when he drove his automobile into a heavy hitching cable that struck him in the neck as he was parking his car on the grounds. He started for the doctor's office in Bedford, after the service, driving his own car, and died from suffocation caused by internal swelling just before reaching town. His companion, Charlie Walters, of Cessna, finished the drive, arriving at the office of Dr. H. A. Shimer, just as the injured man died.

—Preston Shirey, 19 years old, a High school student of Punxsutawney, was drowned in the Monongahela river at Wiley station, near Clairton, last Friday afternoon after his brother, Frank Shirey, 21 years old, also of Punxsutawney, made a futile attempt to save him. The brothers had been working in the Clairton steel works during the summer months and boarded at 236 Broadway street, Clairton. The younger brother, not being a good swimmer, had attached a rubber tire inner tube around his chest as a precaution. In some manner the tube became punctured and the air escaped while Preston was in midstream. Frank had almost reached the other side when he heard the screams of his brother. He turned and swam back to where Preston disappeared, but was too late. The body was recovered four hours later.