

INK SLINGS.

—Its surprising what a few days of sunshine can do by way of wiping out the gloom spread by three weeks of rain.

—It looks as if Senator McKinley, of Illinois, will not need the big bunch of money he dumped into the campaign for renomination.

—Don't worry about the blisters the handle of the lawn mower made. The furnace and snow shovel handles will make them callous ere long.

—Former Senator Allee Pomerene, of Ohio, and Senator Jim Reed, of Missouri, are among the most recently talked of possible Democratic presidential timber of the 1926 campaign.

—Senator Jim Reed, of Missouri, has announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election when his present term expires. The Senator thinks that eighteen years in the upper house of Congress is all he cares for. Those political crooks who have lately fallen under the scrutiny of that investigation committee probably think that eighteen seconds of Reed is all they care for.

—The performance of women in the grueling attempts that have been made to swim the English channel this summer are exciting much comment. They have shown so much more gameness than the men who have attempted it that the question as to which is the weaker sex is becoming more moot than ever. We are not going to be led into a discussion of it for the benefit of the lady who furnished the thought for this Sling. But if it will be any satisfaction to her we're right here to admit that in many ordeals women are far finer than men. They'll sit in a dentist chair and suffer the torments of the damned for an entire day without a wince. And who is the man who will do that?

—This being nearly the middle of September, with the fall election less than two months off, we think Centre county should be beginning to consider the matter of who is to represent us in the next session of the Legislature. Doubtless the Hon. J. Laird Holmes thinks he is going to. Maybe he will, but why? He has represented us in Harrisburg for two years and what did he do? We know a good bit about the appraisal of Centre county Members in Harrisburg during the past thirty years. We know it so well that we challenge anybody to prove our statement that Mr. Holmes has been the least influential, either in the halls of the General Assembly or in the lobby thereof, of any Member our county has sent to Harrisburg to represent her during the past thirty years. Let us send some body who blathers less and gathers more.

—We note from the Clearfield Republican that there is a possibility of the control of the company that supplies that city with water falling into outside hands. At present the company is privately—but locally—owned. While we are not an advocate of public ownership of public utilities we do believe that the water supply of a community should be in the control of the people depending on it and for that reason we think Clearfield would be conserving its own interest best by securing control of its most vital necessity and holding onto it. Bellefonte could sell her water plant today for more than enough to wipe out the entire borough indebtedness. But what would it profit us. A private ownership would probably shoot rentals up to the point where the difference between the present and revised rentals would pay the borough debt off hundreds of times.

—It seems that our habitual fear of Greeks bearing gifts led us into leaving an erroneous impression among Watchman readers as to the proposed reduction of rates by the Bell Telephone company. On the usual assumption that a corporation has no soul we stated last week that it isn't natural for such a business enterprise to volunteer a saving of millions to the public and while we know it wasn't polite to look a gift horse in the mouth we proceeded to do that very thing, hence the error. We assumed that the company was going to reduce rates materially on calls to points we rarely ask for and increase them slightly on calls to points frequently sought. But such isn't the case. The rates to all points most called by patrons in this community will remain unchanged while points like San Francisco Galveston, Lake Worth and Boston can be gotten at a much lower rate than heretofore. This material reduction is not to be compensated for by increases in other calls, but by reduced operating costs effected through distributing the traffic more evenly over hours when the company's lines are carrying their lightest loads. We thank the management of the Bell Company for its very courteous manner of calling our attention to the injustice we had done it. In fact it didn't "crab" at us like we might do at it over the trifling matter of an unavoidable delayed call. It seemed to understand our view point and politely convinced us of its erroneous conclusion. We take pleasure in admitting that we were wrong in this instance and pleasure, also, in congratulating a corporation that has discovered a plan that while saving something for itself it can also save something for its patrons. Experience has taught us that such discoveries are rarely made.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Ship Subsidy Up Again.

Ship subsidy has more lives than a cat. Since the close of the Civil war it has been killed more than a dozen times, but according to current gossip in Washington is still alive and will make its appearance again during the coming session of Congress. The last killing occurred during the early period of the Harding administration. The vast majority given to the Republican candidate for President in 1920 encouraged the subsidy mongers to hope that even so outrageous a form of graft might be pulled off, and agreeably to a campaign promise, a ship subsidy bill was introduced. But even with the active help of the President it failed to muster a majority in either House. It was hoped that would be the end of it.

The first earnest effort to impose such an unjust burden upon the people was soon after the close of the Civil war. John Roach, of Chester, Pa., had assembled a vast ship building plant and though he had made millions of money in construction for the government, stood to lose some by the depreciation in value of his machinery which would necessarily be unemployed in the immediate future. He conceived the idea of a government bonus for building and operating merchant ships and by enticing a few other war made millionaires to join him, created a formidable lobby which almost succeeded in getting the appropriation. But Edgar Cowan, in the Senate, and Sam Randal, in the House, both Pennsylvanians, made so vigorous a fight that it was ultimately defeated.

During the eight years of the Grant administration two futile efforts were made to put the scheme across, and when J. P. Morgan secured control of several shipping lines it was brought up with like result. At the close of the World war the government had on hand a large number of ships and no use for them. During the campaign of 1920 a group of rapacious partisans contributed liberally to the slush fund on an implied promise that if they would form a corporation a ship subsidy law would be passed which would enable them to organize a corporation, buy the ships for small prices and reimburse themselves out of the subsidy fund. But their expectation was disappointed. The bill was introduced but public sentiment protested with such force that those who favored it in Congress became afraid.

What sinister agency inspired the impending effort has not been revealed, but President Coolidge has already signified his approval of the enterprise. "The extra cost of maintaining an American merchant marine," he is reported to have said, "and any inconvenience and trouble which it may throw upon the government are a charge which the American taxpayers should be and are willing to pay." The American taxpayers are proverbially easy and generous to a fault in meeting just obligations. But a ship subsidy is nothing more nor less than a legalized right bestowed on favorites to loot the treasury. The imaginary influence of Coolidge may secure such legislation but it will spell "finis" to those responsible.

—Those fortunate who can afford oil burning attachments for their home furnaces ought to organize now to protest any plans John D. may have of pushing the price of oil up on them after he gets them all in.

—The rural mail carriers know what to do with officials suspected of grafting. At the convention held in Philadelphia last week, they "threw the rascals out."

—Hayward Thompson may be able to guide an automobile on crowded streets while blindfolded but we hope the ambition to do so will be limited to him.

—We are not to engage in any armament race, according to the famous spokesman, but are trying our level best to lead in aeronautics.

—Big Tom Cunningham is not cutting much figure on front pages now. But he is likely to occupy considerable space in a cell later on.

—The Republican managers seem to think that the people of Pennsylvania are credulous enough to be fooled on the tariff question again.

—The City of Philadelphia has guaranteed Sesqui. debts to the amount of \$5,000,000 and that ought to guarantee good credit.

—The man who had his father-in-law murdered so that his wife might inherit a fortune had a perverted idea of conjugal obligations.

Good Advice from Pinchot.

One of the striking features of Governor Pinchot's speech on Pennsylvania day at the Sesqui-Centennial was his admonition to voters in marking their ballots to inquire: "Is this candidate fit? Will he represent the people or some special interest or political gang?" If every voter, after appealing to conscience, were guided by his or her best judgment in making the ballot there would be no slush fund scandals to humiliate right-minded people of the State after each Republican primary election, for that of last May only differed from many that preceded it in the amount of the corruption fund and the boldness in using it by the candidates and their friends.

In his testimony before the Senate Slush Fund committee Mr. Joseph R. Grundy, president of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' association, testified that his contribution of \$400,000 was not influenced by his interest in Senator Pepper but was the result of his fear that unless John S. Fisher were nominated and elected Governor a tax would be levied upon the capital of manufacturing corporations in the near future. In other words, Mr. Fisher was the choice of Mr. Grundy for the reason that he, in the event of his election, would serve the special interest in which Mr. Grundy is concerned rather than the people. The evidence of "Big" Tom Cunningham before the same committee proves that Mr. Vare was nominated to serve a political gang.

In the face of these facts no voter influenced by the considerations approved by Governor Pinchot can vote for Fisher for Governor or Vare for Senator. The manufacturing corporations of Pennsylvania have been favored so long and generously by tax exemptions that they have, through their agent, Mr. Grundy, assumed the mastery of the politics and the directory of legislation of the State. In the attainment of this commanding position they have prostituted every agency of government. The opportunity is now offered to end this perversion of power and orgie of corruption by defeating the candidates chosen by such machinations. The Democratic nominees are fit and represent the people.

—Governor Pinchot will not be an independent candidate for United States Senator, this year. If he will decline the nomination of the Labor party for that office he will do a good service for the people.

False Pretense of Worry.

Some of our esteemed Republican contemporaries are worrying themselves sick because the Democratic candidates for Governor and Senator in Congress are not of the same mind on the subject of prohibition. Judge Bonniwell, for reasons satisfactory to himself, is opposed to the Eighteenth amendment to the constitution and former Labor Commissioner Wilson, for equally valid reasons, approves that measure. Each candidly declared his views on the subject during the primary campaign and unquestionably both were sincere in their expressions. With full understanding of the facts, therefore, the Democratic voters of the State nominated them to the respective offices to which they aspired.

On the other hand the Republican candidates for the same offices profess opposite opinions on the prohibition question. The Republican candidate for Governor, Mr. John S. Fisher, has never frankly expressed himself and during the primary campaign artfully dodged the subject. But his friends protest that he is a prohibitionist and ardent supporter of the Volstead law, while Mr. Vare, candidate for Senator, based his claims for the favor of his party exclusively on the ground of opposition to the amendment and the law. The only difference, consequently, lies in the fact that the Democratic candidates are fair to the public while their opponents are jockeying to deceive the voters.

As a matter of fact the prohibition question is not an issue in the campaign this year. The Democratic candidate for Governor will enforce the law, if he be elected, and the Republican candidate can do no more in the event of his success. But there is a greater and graver issue in the campaign. It is the question of the equality of opportunity in official life and the integrity of elections. If the slush fund candidates nominated by the Republican party this year are chosen, it will be justly interpreted as approval of an auction system of filling the public offices of the State, and only millionaires or men willing to serve selfish interests or corrupt machines, will be eligible to office.

—We are in the World's court now and ultimately will be in the League of Nations "with both feet."

An Insult to Workingmen.

Last week the Republican State Executive committee, a bunch of servile tools of corporate interests, carefully picked by Mellon and Grundy, assembled in Philadelphia to declare the party platform for the impending campaign. The candidate for United States Senator, Mr. Vare, was nominated on a pledge of opposition to the Volstead law and the candidate for Governor, Mr. Fisher, won the favor by feebly promising to support that measure. Both sat silently in the meeting but the committee decided to ignore that question and adopt Protective Tariff as the slogan to conjure with. The "dinner pail," in the opinion of the committee, is more appealing than the "growler."

Curiously enough on the same day that this decision was made a bulletin was issued by the Department of Commerce in Washington setting forth the fact that during the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June, 1926, there were exported from this country fully manufactured goods to the value of \$1,937,295 and partly manufactured products of our mills and factories of the value of \$635,271,000, within the same period, exclusive of manufactured foodstuffs the value of which was \$530,506,000. With such a record of foreign trade it would seem to an inquiring mind that a protective tariff is of no great benefit either to employers or employes in manufacturing industries in this country.

But with that fatuity characteristic of selfish politicians Mellon and Grundy authorized Mr. Paul W. Houck to introduce and coerced the committee to adopt a resolution declaring that "Europe in its desperation to send its millions of unemployed back to work has begun and is preparing to further feed the United States with low cost wage products and is displacing employment of Pennsylvania workers at fair wages. Southern Democrats and Western radicals are planning to break down the present tariff barrier to imports which has been a protection to Pennsylvania wage earners and industries." Such rubbish is an insult to the intelligence of wage earners of Pennsylvania and everywhere else.

Somewhat Drastic but Fit.

The official orders to the policemen of Philadelphia to "shoot at autoists who attempt to flee after striking a person" may seem drastic at first sight but appeals to the mind upon reflection. To begin with there are altogether too many automobile accidents. It is conservatively estimated that in recent years automobiles have killed and injured more human beings than war and that within the last year have resulted in more calamities than railroads ever did in the same period of time. When these facts are considered and it is known that most of these accidents are caused by careless or drunken drivers it must be admitted that drastic remedies are required.

One drunken or reckless driver in a city, town or public highway is a menace to hundreds of men, women and children engaged in business or pleasure. But the "hit-and-run" driver is a more despicable creature for he shows cowardliness as well as cruelty in his nature. As a rule the miscreant is in a high powered machine and depends on the swiftness of his vehicle to escape the penalty of his crime. Officers may command any available vehicle for pursuit but without a chance of success. A steel-tipped bullet might puncture a tire and thus accomplish the result but lodged in the driving arm at the wheel it is better. It may prove fatal but at that it fairly "fits the crime."

Human life is valued lightly in these more or less degenerate days and crimes of violence are multiplied for that reason. But the life of a miscreant who will run down and kill on the highway and escape by running away is of less consequence than the lowest estimate put upon it. He may by his recklessness have killed or maimed for life a man or woman of great importance in the community; sent sorrow into the families of dozens of homes. But so long as he is able to escape there is no redress, not even the satisfaction of just punishment. For these reasons we are inclined to approve the order to the Philadelphia police to "shoot at autoists who attempt to flee after striking a person."

—The Odd Fellows from this district had rather discouraging weather for their annual picnic and reunion at Hecla park, on Monday, and the result was that the program of athletics was considerably curtailed and the attendance was not as large as anticipated. At that, there was a fair-sized crowd at the park during the afternoon, quite a number of people stopping there on their way home from the postponed automobile race at Altoona.

Who is Grundy?

Editor of The Democratic Watchman: Who is this man Joseph F. Grundy, who testified under oath before the Senatorial Investigating Committee at Washington a short time ago that he had little interest in the triangular primary election contest for United States Senator in Pennsylvania, but was greatly concerned about the nomination of one John Slushfund Fisher, for Governor, on the Republican State ticket, in whose behalf he admitted he had expended over \$300,000 of his own money, besides endorsing a note for \$90,000 additional? Let this inquiry be answered by a group of the most influential Republicans of this Commonwealth.

During the primary election campaign of 1922, when the bitter contest for the gubernatorial nomination was being waged between Alter and Pinchot, a widely-distributed campaign pamphlet issued by the Republican State Committee, Governor William C. Sprull, the late Senator Ed. Vare, Senator Larry Eyre, W. Harry Baker and other equally prominent Republican leaders, excoriated Fisher's political angel in language as follows: "Joseph R. Grundy is head of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, opponent of workmen's compensation, enemy of all legislation beneficial to labor, the most vicious fighter against humane regulation of child labor; against all State legislation for improvement of the conditions of our working classes, and the accredited 'negotiator' of more legislative votes in the past ten years than any other 50 interests in the State; universally acknowledged to be the most baneful influence in Pennsylvania politics."

That's Grundy. And it's the testimony of men most intimately acquainted with his political ethics. No more damning indictment than this of Fisher's backer and political mortgage, coming too from influential leaders of his own party, could be made by the Democrats. That the citizens of Pennsylvania will intrust the destinies of the Governorship to any man under obligations, financially or otherwise, to Joe Grundy and the Slush Fund Junta is inconceivable. Happily, the Democratic party presents a candidate for Governor, Judge Eugene C. Bonniwell, and William B. Wilson, for Senator, who are absolutely free from entangling alliances with selfish and predatory interests, and not obligated to political financiers for their nominations.

New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Ohio have not only great, but incorruptible Governors, owing allegiance to no powers or private interests, but the entire citizenship of their respective Commonwealths. May the Keystone State fall in line with her neighbors in November by repudiating Grundism and Mellonism.

ROBERT HOOD, Philadelphia, Sept. 8, 1926.

Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

From the Pittsburgh Post. The women voters of Pennsylvania have for years found reform projects they favored blocked by the Republican machine. In fact, a woman suffrage amendment was defeated at the polls in Republican Pennsylvania in 1915. Of the thirty-six States that ratified the National Suffrage amendment in time to give the women a vote in 1920, twenty-one of them were carried by the Democrats in 1916. It was the Democratic Legislature of Tennessee that furnished the deciding vote for the amendment. Since their enfranchisement, the women voters of Pennsylvania have campaigned for constitutional revision, tax reforms and election law reforms. In every such instance, they were defeated by the Republican machine. One gathers, from the charges made in the primary campaign, that the Vare Philadelphia machine in particular is antagonistic to the reform measures advocated by the women.

All of which gives force to an appeal made by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, pioneer suffragist, in an address delivered recently in Philadelphia to women to drop party lines on occasion and rebuke the politicians who stand in the way of progress and justice. "No wrong," she emphasized, "is ever righted by obedience to those who have sponsored that wrong. What we need is not more education, but more moral courage." It is but common sense that the Republican machine of Pennsylvania never will pay attention to the views of the women members of the party as long as it can get votes regardless of what it does. The only way to put down Varesism is to vote against it. The candidacy of William B. Wilson, a proved statesman, gives the people an opportunity to get a new deal of the kind for which they have been calling.

The women voters of the State, as others who have found efforts toward good government blocked by the machine, should act upon the observation of Mrs. Catt that "no wrong is ever righted by obedience to those who have sponsored that wrong."

—Secretary Hoover has long imagined that he controls the earth, but Congress refused to give him control of the air.

—If it's worth reading you'll find it in the "Watchman."

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Two prongs on an ice hook which pierced a hand of Louis Montag, at Pottsville, a week ago, caused his death by blood poisoning.

—Millard Stettler, of Newberrytown, York county, is under arrest in Illinois on a charge of stealing an automobile from C. E. Strine, of Strinestown.

—Prying a steel bar from a second-story window and letting himself down to the ground with a rope made of sheets, Paul Rager, of Tyrone, escaped from the Blair county hospital.

—The garage, blacksmith shop and machine shop owned by the Reed brothers, Walter and Clarence, at Milroy, were burned last Thursday with two cars, when light wires short circuited. The loss is \$5000.

—Warden Stanley P. Ashe has denied reports that four convicts had been placed in solitary confinement at the western penitentiary in Pittsburgh following discovery of a plot to escape. A quantity of rope, however, was found in the cells of the prisoners.

—John L. De Mar, widely known cartoonist, died on Sunday at his home in Penfield, a suburb of Philadelphia, following an illness of six months. He was 61 years old and had been a member of the Philadelphia "Record's" staff for 34 years. Since 1903 he had been the newspaper's leading cartoonist.

—A fall of several feet through the trap door of a sand car at the Reading Company's bridge at Swatara creek, near Hummelstown, resulted in the death of Theodore Mace, 60, of Lebanon, on Saturday as the man was helping to unload the car. Coroner J. H. Kreider said the man had fractured his skull and broken his neck in the fall.

—W. R. Calhoun, first deputy commissioner in the State Banking Department, died on Saturday of heart trouble at his home in Harrisburg. Mr. Calhoun was a native of Indiana county and prominent in the Republican party affairs there. Before being appointed to his state position he served one term as clerk of courts of Indiana county.

—The State highway motor patrol unit of twelve men at Greensburg will be increased to thirty and quartered in its own barracks at that place, it was announced on Monday. There are to be one-hundred additional patrolmen scattered throughout the State and of this quota Greensburg will receive eighteen men. The patrol unit is stationed in the Troop A, State police barracks.

—Joseph Martucci, 26 years old, well known Charleroi high school athlete, was killed by lightning and 34 other young men of Charleroi were stunned by a bolt on Sunday afternoon while they were camping for the day about a mile from Clarksville on the Ten Mile Creek, between Washington and Greene county. A shower came up and before they could seek shelter the bolt hit.

—Fred W. Culbertson and W. W. Chisholm, counsel for Harry Banks, Harrisburg, on trial in the Millin county court, last week for the fatal shooting of Albert Klingler, 23, Lewistown, on March 4, on Thursday withdrew the original plea of not guilty of murder in the first degree and entered a plea of guilty to voluntary manslaughter. The plea was accepted by District Attorney John T. Wilson and J. L. Durbin, his associate in the prosecution.

—Holding that the receipt of \$10 a week for five years would be of a much greater benefit to the widow and children of Michael Henning, of Perryopolis, run down and killed by an automobile, Judge John Morrow, at Uniontown on Saturday, imposed that sentence upon Andrew Dupak, a coal miner of Smock, instead of sending him to the workhouse as is the usual procedure. More than \$2,000 will be paid to the widow and her five children in the five years.

—Two young men, owners of a garage at Marienville, 30 miles south of Kane, who in a joking manner advertised in the village newspaper that they were in search of wives, are amazed at the success of the publicity campaign. They have been deluged with mail. There are answers from all parts of the United States from women of all ages. Some of the letters are written in a frivolous vein, but many bear the mark of sincerity from young women who are actually seeking husbands.

—Thieves over-looking valuable jewelry when they robbed the home of Mrs. J. Kirk Bosler, member of one of the oldest and most prominent families in Carlisle, Thursday night. They obtained about \$40 and a purse from a bureau drawer. Police were notified and have been working on the case. Mrs. Bosler and her sister, Miss Alice Mullin, had spent the early part of the evening at the Carlisle Country club, and it is believed that is the time the robbery was committed.

—Oscar Neff, 17-year-old high school boy, of Franklin, Pa., who contracted lockjaw while swimming about five weeks ago, has won his battle against death. His life was despaired of several weeks before he was out of danger, but doctors say there is every reason to believe his recovery will be complete. Neff was to have been a candidate for the High school football squad this year, but while he will have to forego this, it is expected he will round into condition for the basketball season.

—Finding that in order to lawfully move his tractor on the State highway from one of his fields to another, he would have to obtain a license the same as is required for all motor vehicles a Bradford county farmer drove twenty miles to Sayre to apply for one. The man wished to move his tractor from a field to a piece of his property on the other side of the road. Being a law abiding citizen, he went for the license when he found that it was necessary. As soon as the license is issued he will be able to go to work in the other field.

—Philip Herbert, aged 70, pensioner of the Lorain Steel company, of Johnstown, either suffocated or burned to death early Sunday morning in a fire which followed a gas explosion at his Moxham home. Firemen attempted to rescue the man, but efforts to enter the blazing structure failed until it was practically destroyed. Herbert was found partly clad on the floor of his bed-room, his body badly burned and scorched. His two sisters, Miss Mollie Herbert and Mrs. Kate Roberts, escaped in their night clothes, but the latter was painfully burned.