

INK SLINGS.

No, the Hon. Holmes isn't running on his record at Harrisburg. He made no record. He's running on palaver and "bull."

The President flatly refuses to make Coolidge the main issue in the campaign. There are too many uncertain elements.

The "slush fund twins" have their work cut out for them and should be kept on the job. They have no time for tariff tinkering.

A vote for Andrew Curtin Thompson for the Legislature will, at least, be a vote for a man who won't straddle or betray those who support him on principle.

There is no particular reason why we should favor the Cardinals over the Yankees, but we do just the same. We'd love to see them take the pennant away from the New Yorkers and we have far less reason for it than we had for hoping that Tunney would lick Dempsey.

Those who wanted to have their favorite named as a candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania paid over a million dollars to get the place for John S. Fisher. What did they do it for? There is only one answer to that question: They expect to get it back in some way. The tax payers of Pennsylvania might not know the way, but they'll find out the cost of it if they vote for him.

When Eddie Beidleman makes a statement to the effect that he believes there was no juggling of the primary vote in the "Strip District" of Pittsburgh we will believe that John S. Fisher came by his nomination for Governor honestly. Until Beidleman makes such a statement we'll believe that Mr. Fisher's nomination is something for him to be ashamed of and something that he might square with machine politics in Pennsylvania but not with the Supreme Tribunal to which he will have to answer some day.

For four years this District has had a Senator in Harrisburg who voted right on all bills that were for the best interests of his constituents, regardless of what the would-be bosses desired. Senator Betts was under nobody's thumb. He was a credit to the District and will be sent back for another term. He will carry his home county of Clearfield by a larger majority than he did four years ago and if he loses Centre this time it will be because the Democrats have failed again to take advantage of the opportunity that is theirs.

Election day is only a little over three weeks off. There is an unusual absence of political discussion concerning it. To us the situation is encouraging, for it indicates that there is apathy among the Republicans. Those of them with any conscience at all refuse to enthuse over a ticket that is headed by a man whom their candidate for Governor declared has only a "beer mug" for a platform. They are dyed-in-the-wool, rock-ribbed Republicans, but they are something more. They are honest, Christian people who believe that party machinery goes too far when it undertakes to whip them into support of candidates who can't "come clean." Some of them will not go to the polls at all. Many will go and not vote for United States Senator. Those of them who hold their country above their party will go and vote for William B. Wilson.

We've been sticking around a good many years, but we've never seen a fall like this one. Because of the weather vagaries many farmers haven't been able to get their fall plowing done and it will be impossible for some of them to sow their wheat. Here it is October 8th and we haven't had a frost and the temperature rivals that of July. In 1923 every flower and vegetable in our garden was frozen stiff at this date. So were they in 1924 and 1925. We lighted the furnace fire on Oct. 4 in 1923; on October 9, in 1924, and Oct. 10, in 1925, and last night, Oct. 7, it was like mid-summer in Bellefonte. Zenias, anemones and some roses are gorgeous in our garden today, but with all the mild weather has come so much rain that the farmers whose oats was late in the ripening can't plow and its doubtful whether they'll be able to get ground ready for wheat seeding at all.

We were surprised to read the report of the recent meeting of the executive committee of the County W. C. T. U. and find no intimation in it that candidates now before the voters of the county were discussed. Certainly something was to have been expected from that source on the candidacy of Mr. Vare for the United States Senate. And it might have been in order for the ladies to have inquired into the record of the Hon. Holmes at Harrisburg. Two years ago they endorsed him and their speakers vociferously demanded his election. Later he came out in a flat-footed statement that he was under no obligation to the Temperance folks. Whether he was or not, after he had gotten their united support, he went and voted for Bluet, a "wringing wet," for Speaker of the House. In the light of these facts we can't help thinking that the Union is discrediting itself in not having taken action of some sort.

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The Real Issue of the Campaign.

The Republican candidates will not be allowed to shift the issues during the remaining period of the campaign or dodge responsibility for the issues they themselves created. William S. Vare was nominated on a pledge to modify the Volstead law and John S. Fisher was nominated on a promise made to the Mellons and Grundy that manufacturing corporations would not be justly taxed. The vast slush fund contributed by questionable sources created another issue that should properly be considered, but there is no room for anything else. The tariff question is irrelevant, for there can be no tariff legislation during the term of office of President Coolidge.

Upon the original issues, that is to say upon the question of taxing corporations and modifying the Volstead law, it is easy to draw lines. The corporations exempt from taxation many years ago with the view of encouraging such investments have long since outgrown the need of help, and for many years have been dodging taxes to the amount of twelve to fifteen million dollars annually, thus putting the burden upon farmers and other interest-less able to pay. The modification of the Volstead law is also a fair subject for debate, and those who believe in it have a right to their opinion. But neither Fisher nor Vare has the right to ignore those issues unless they accept the later issue, the slush fund.

In the campaign for the nomination of John S. Fisher one million, eight hundred thousand dollars were expended by selfish persons intent upon using the government to serve their personal interests. In the campaign for William S. Vare eight hundred thousand dollars were spent by persons interested in the protection of crime. The question for the people to determine is, shall we approve the expenditure of these vast sums for sinister purposes. If we give approval this time greater sums will be spent in the future and the posts of honor in our government will be sold to the highest bidder. When that time comes only millionaires will be eligible to office.

Bill Vare is doing his best to prove the truth of Senator Reed's statement that Vare doesn't know anything about the tariff.

Vare's Surprising Confidence.

The confidence with which William S. Vare contemplates the coming election is unaccountable. Every day long lists of Republicans who are going to vote for William B. Wilson are published. Every day the newspapers publish accounts of Republican mass meetings which are addressed by William B. Wilson, the Democratic candidate for Senator, and frequently the papers contain statements of a church convention in which resolutions are adopted pledging the congregation to support William B. Wilson for Senator. Yet Mr. Vare confidently proceeds with his campaign work as though there is no possible danger of his defeat. He seems to imagine that he is as certain as if perfect harmony exists in the ranks.

Mr. Vare has read the resolution unanimously adopted by the Senate at the time Senator Newberry was rebuked for spending \$190,000 to purchase a nomination. He has read the statement of Senator Overman, of North Carolina, who is ranking member of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. He has probably read the statements of Senator Norris, of Nebraska, and other influential Senators as to the policy they will pursue in the event he should be returned as elected. Yet he sweeps it all aside as of no consequence. As though he is a superman amenable to none of the penalties of delinquency, he imagines his calling and election is sure and his victory supreme.

There is only one way to account for this frame of mind on the part of Mr. Vare. He imagines that W. L. Mellon will buy the seat he aspires to occupy. Mr. Mellon has himself come into politics with the idea that he can buy anything he wants. For that reason he assumed the chairmanship of the State committee. He proposes to let no one know what he does or why. But he intends to buy what he wants unless he is prevented by the vigilance of the opposition. It is up to the Democratic managers to beat his little game. It can easily be done for he is an amateur. The only thing he excels in is self-conceit and that can be punctured easily.

Heat prostrations in October are unusual but the whole weather arrangement is unusual this year.

St. Louis is persuaded that Grover Cleveland Alexander measures up to his great name.

Fisher Stultifies Himself.

Before the primary election the people of Pennsylvania got a correct appraisal of William S. Vare from the leading newspapers and foremost citizens of his party. It was the unanimous opinion of these newspapers and citizens that Mr. Vare was not fit for the office, and that his election would be a disgrace to the State and the people. Even John S. Fisher, who now happens to be his associate on the Republican ticket, said: "You must determine whether or not you are going to send into the Senate, representing your State, one whose statesmanship is not above that of the mob. Can you imagine anything more ridiculous or more shameful than a man who makes a complete platform of a mere beer mug?"

The man who made that statement on April 30 is the man who is now associated with William S. Vare, Republican candidate for Senator, upon a common level and perfect comradeship. What change has Mr. Vare undergone within the past six months to qualify him to appear on a level with Mr. Fisher? Of course it is possible that Fisher has gone down in the scale and that they are both political degenerates unfit to represent the people of Pennsylvania, either in the Senate or in the Executive mansion. We find no evidence that Vare has improved and the inference that Fisher has degenerated is the natural consequence. He accepts the situation without protest.

Of course Mr. Fisher's original estimate of Mr. Vare's qualifications for the office of Senator was supported by a vast amount of corroborative evidence. Mr. Mellon, who is now chairman of the State committee, expressed himself very plainly as did also Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, Senator Pepper, of Philadelphia, and practically all the influential newspapers of Republican faith in the State. It would take more space than we have to spare to recite the things the leading newspapers have said. Yet Mr. John S. Fisher is familiar with them and knows how literally true they are, and yet he stultifies himself by supporting the unfit and impossible candidate, Mr. Vare.

Champion Tunney says he has something on his mind more important than fighting. That may well be, for reduced to the last analysis, fighting isn't a matter of great importance.

Safe Ticket for Churchmen.

It is not only logical but just and wise that the church people of all denominations should come to the support of William B. Wilson as a candidate for United States Senator as did the 127th annual conference of the United Brethren church, in session at Steelton, the other day. There could be no more direct appeal to the activities of the church than that implied in the menace of elevating to high place in the government of the country men both morally and mentally unfit to give proper service. Every member of every church in the State ought to become an active worker in the interest alike of public morals and efficient public service.

But it is not easy to see how these Christian people can differentiate between John S. Fisher, the Republican candidate for Governor, and William S. Vare, the nominee for Senator. Both used money to excess in the primary campaign and Fisher used three times as much as Vare. If the slush fund is the objectionable feature Vare is comparatively free from blame. If it is other forms of iniquity, Fisher was nominated by false returns after the polls closed in the Pittsburgh strip by criminals working for Grundy and W. L. Mellon. As a matter of fact there is no difference, morally, between Fisher and Vare and Fisher's backers. Mellon and Grundy are infinitely worse than Vare.

Of course we are glad to welcome these earnest church people to the support of William B. Wilson for Senator. He essentially represents the element in public life which the church people desire to honor. He is not only a Christian gentleman but a highly cultured and admirably equipped statesman. If elected, as we hope he will be, his public service will reflect credit upon those who supported him. But the same might equally well have been said of Judge Bonniwell, the Democratic nominee for Governor. His nomination is without taint of slush fund or fraud and church men might come to his aid with perfect freedom from fear of any kind. The church people have a safe ticket to support, if they will.

It is said that Colonel Smith, of Illinois, is watching Mr. Vare's effort to shift the campaign issue from slush fund to tariff, with much interest.

The Teapot Dome Conspiracy.

Nobody was greatly surprised at the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals declaring the whole proceedings attending the lease of the Wyoming oil reserves to Harry Sinclair fraudulent. Sufficient evidence had been brought out by the Senate committee to stamp it with fraud from start to finish. But an obliging Federal Judge in Wyoming confused the situation by deciding the lease was valid. The decision rendered the other day was upon an appeal from that decision made by a Judge who had been appointed by President Harding on the recommendation of Attorney General Daugherty and possibly because he was friendly to the litigants. There was no sinister influence in the second trial.

The Teapot oil reserve, known as the Wyoming Naval Oil Reserve, was set apart by President Wilson in 1915. In 1920 Congress authorized the Secretary of the Navy to conserve, develop and operate these oil deposits "by contract, lease or otherwise." Then the schemers got busy. They obtained a transfer of control of the property from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior, Albert B. Fall, of New Mexico. The negotiations made rapid progress considering the intricacies involved. The California reserve was quite as important as the other and finally the California property went to Dohoney and the Teapot Dome to Sinclair. At this stage of the proceedings Senator Walsh intervened.

Secretary Fall received all sorts of donations and presents and was able to retire from public life soon after the consummation of the deal. But he wasn't able to escape from responsibilities and criminal action was brought against him in the courts of the District of Columbia. This case has never been brought to trial, the consideration of the civil case in the court of appeals being one of the causes of delay. The decision is emphatic on the subject of fraud and says "our conclusion is that the government sustained its claim that the lease and contract were procured by fraud and corruption and that they should be canceled." The criminal trial will probably follow soon.

The times are out of joint. With tornadoes in the South, floods in the West and crazy-quiet weather here we are certainly kept guessing.

Dahlias and More Dahlias.

Every time we undertake to get by with an opinion on something we don't know anything about we seem to get into a peck of trouble.

Early last spring we stirred up the ornithologists among our readers by trying to fill up a little space with comment on a new bird in this section. You will recall that it turned out to be the starling. But before we screwed up enough courage to chuck the whole thing our desk was piled high with letters we've never gotten time to answer and good news had to be crowded out of the paper in order to find space for the opinion of experts on birds.

Now comes the dahlia to haunt us. Some weeks ago we commented on the variety of that flower grown by Miss Sara Love, of Willowbank St. Immediately dahlias began to appear. Wonderful dahlias, some of them have been and in such profusion that a stranger dropping in at the Watchman office might have gotten the impression that someone had "croaked" and that a corpse might be concealed behind the banks of posies.

The season is waning for dahlias and during the past few days we have been able to gather up the fallen petals, empty the rancid water from sundry jars and partially transform the hot-house into a business office again. That is, we just got that done Wednesday morning when in walked the mail man with a great big box of more dahlias. These came up from Greer, W. Va., and were grown by John W. Corbin. We don't know John, but he's a Democrat and a friend of Dave Kelly, so that's the "hi-sign" with us.

In his offering are fourteen varieties, showing as many shades, sizes and bloom formations. They are really wonderful and in respect of coloring are a bit more delicate than any of those grown in Centre county. In size the largest are not quite up to the specimens sent here by W. Harrison Walker Esq.

Come to think of it, Mr. Walker is also a Democrat, whereas all of the other contributors to our dahlia symposium are Republicans. Since the Corbin and Walker blooms were far larger in size than any others received may we be permitted one exultant yell for the supremacy of Democracy. If we can't pile up big majorities any more we can grow big posies.

Could Never Say It for Wilson.

From the Pittsburgh Post. It is fresh in mind that during the primary campaign leading Republicans of the State emphasized that while William S. Vare has long been a holder of public offices, including fourteen years in Congress, his name has never been associated with any great constructive effort of public benefit. The public has heard only of the Vary city political machine of Philadelphia in a selfish light. This Vary machine has been a heart-breaker instead of a help to the forces working against election corruption. United States Senator George Wharton Pepper is quoted as saying: "In Washington he (Vare) is a cypher; up-State in Pennsylvania he is a minus quantity."

For contrast, there is the record of William B. Wilson, showing many distinguished acts in the service of labor, legitimate business and the public interest. No one would dare to call Wilson a cypher in Washington. As one of the leaders of the miners for years he helped to develop the spirit of confidence and is credited with having done much for peace in the industry. Republican business men in his district in Central Pennsylvania joined with Democrats in sending him to Congress. In the latter body he was immediately recognized as an authority on labor subjects. Eventually he was made chairman of the House committee on Labor. He is credited with having brought about the creation of the great Bureau of Mines that has done so much to promote safety in mining operations and in the development of mineral resources through scientific study on mining problems. He also was the leader in bringing to fruition the years of effort for a National Department of Labor, this being emphasized by the fact that he was named by President Wilson virtually by common consent as the first Secretary of Labor. Republicans as well as Democrats in the House began saluting him as "Mr. Secretary" as soon as the Department was created. Many other measures of a constructive nature he also put through, but the two mentioned are of a magnitude to give him lasting fame.

On his Congressional record alone he is shown to be infinitely the superior of Mr. Vare in statesmanship.

Then there are his achievements of National and International importance as the first Secretary of the Department of Labor and during one of the most trying periods in the history of the world—that of the great war. The record-breaking production of this country in that period bears testimony to the influence of Secretary Wilson in the cause of industrial peace. He was chairman of the President's mediation commission that adjusted the labor disputes in the copper mining industry, the packing houses, the oil and lumber industries of the Pacific coast and the telephone service of that section in the early days of the war. By direction of Congress he built \$60,000,000 worth of industrial housing for those engaged in war work in localities where there was a lack of dwellings. An appropriation of \$100,000,000 had been made for the purpose, but, with the signing of the Armistice, an unexpended balance of \$40,000,000 was turned back into the Treasury. The Secretary also was made the director of housing in the District of Columbia.

To promote the welfare of women in industry during the war period, Secretary Wilson organized the Women in Industry Service which was afterward made a statutory bureau by Congress. As a member, and some time chairman, of the Federal Board for Vocational Education he helped to organize and develop the rehabilitation service for disabled soldiers and sailors of the World war. By direction of the President, he took over the work after the Armistice of getting the millions of war workers and returning soldiers back into civilian occupations. He enlisted the active cooperation of Governors and Mayors and succeeded to such extent that the speed with which these forces were absorbed into the civilian life amazed the world.

This is the man—a man of vast public accomplishment—the people of Pennsylvania have an opportunity to elect in preference to a candidate described by leaders of his own party as a "cypher" in Washington and whose nomination is tainted with an \$800,000 "slush fund."

Pennsylvanians owe it to their State and to their own intelligence and civic conscience to elect Wilson.

How Familiar.

From the Altoona Tribune. News from the recent Canadian election says that the voters demand reduction of taxes. Not talk or promises of tax-reduction, but tax-reduction itself. And the wets want the premier to do one thing and the dries want him to do something else. All in all, it seems quite proper to offer the Dominion the right hand of fellowship. She gives all the signs of belonging to our lodge.

Henry Ford is converting the warships into automobile parts and agricultural implements. This is not literally "turning swords into plowshares" but is a fairly good imitation.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

After serving as a conductor on the Pennsylvania Railroad since 1884, J. R. Fredericks, of Pottsville, was placed on the pension list.

Scolded by his mother after he had figured in a wreck with the family automobile, Anthony Nadolny, 17, of Duquesne, Luzerne county, shot and killed himself on Saturday night.

The nomination of George W. Snyder, of Reading, as Socialist candidate for United States Senate, in place of Cora M. Bixler, who died after her name had been placed on the ticket, was filed with the Bureau of Elections.

Two robbers Saturday night escaped with more than \$1,000 after holding up Miss Sadie Ecker, cashier, and Harry Strange, doorman at the Columbia Theater, in Sharon. The holdup occurred in the lobby of the theater as the money was being removed from the box office.

Rates just made effective by the Clearfield Water company have been attacked before the Public Service Commission by W. A. Hagerly, John F. Short and Thomas E. Bely of Clearfield, who allege they are excessive and unjust. The commission has asked the company to file an answer in ten days.

According to an announcement on Saturday the Pennsylvania Power and Light company has bought all the land necessary for a \$30,000,000 power plant at Shamokin Dam, and the land has been secured for a six-mile railroad track from Sellingsgrove to the site of the proposed plant. The new plant is to have a capacity of 300,000 kilowatts, it is said.

A small notebook, in a vest pocket over his heart, probably saved the life of Edward Field, when he was attacked by a man on East Millin street, Lancaster, last Thursday. Field had stepped from an office into the street, when a man jumped from behind a pole and lunged at him with a knife. The blade slashed through his vest, against the book. Field escaped unscratched. The other man fled.

Approximately 1,200 carloads of apples will be packed and shipped this year under the new Pennsylvania grades, the department of agriculture announced last week. Twenty inspectors of the bureau of markets are at work inspecting apples in the important shipping districts of Adams, Bedford, Cumberland, Franklin, Lancaster, Perry, Snyder and York counties. Reports indicate the fruit is of high quality.

Burglars entered the Harry Corkins poolroom on Valley street, Lewistown some time between midnight and 7 o'clock last Wednesday morning and got away with \$800 in cash and merchandise. This was the fifth time in four years that the poolroom has been robbed. Twenty-five dollars of the loot was in cash and the balance in cigarettes, cigars, candy, pipes and a shotgun of the sawed-off type and an automatic revolver.

Charles Gehrig, 37 years old, walking to Hazleton, where he was to marry a local woman this week, was slugged on Friday night by three young men who invited him to ride in their car. He was picked up in the outskirts of Hazleton, paralyzed in the lower limbs from a blow on the spine and is in the State hospital in a serious condition. The sum of \$285 had been taken from him. City and State police have descriptions of the thugs.

Hiding Liberty bonds in the oven of the kitchen stove is not a good policy, as Frank Wilt, of Hollidaysburg, discovered on Tuesday. He is out about \$1,400 because he hid the bonds in the oven and did not tell the members of the family where he had put them. When Mrs. Wilt had occasion to light a fire in the stove the bonds were scorched so badly that the numbers on them could not be read. Some of the bonds were registered and can be replaced.

Mrs. Harry N. Anderson is in the Kane Summit hospital suffering from burns, her husband is at home badly burned and their home in Kane was damaged by an explosion and fire that followed the attempt of Mrs. Anderson to emulate a dry cleaner. Mrs. Anderson placed two gallons of gasoline in her electric washer and put some clothing in the gasoline. The friction caused an explosion that tore the machine to bits, badly wrecked and set the home ablaze. The couple escaped death miraculously.

Authorities are making an investigation into the story of Barbara R. Abbott, aged 15, a West Newton High school girl who was missing for several days from her home and returned on Saturday telling a melodramatic story of being kidnapped by a man and a woman and held a prisoner in a Pittsburgh rooming house several days. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Abbott and is considered one of the most beautiful young girls in the West Newton district. She is under the care of a physician and will not be able to resume her studies for some time.

At 2 o'clock on Sunday morning Williamsport police were called to the home of Frank Gentile, where they found Gentile suffering from knife wounds in the abdomen, and his daughter, Mrs. Tony Bovee, cut about the arms and hands. Gentile had interfered in a quarrel between Bovee and his wife and Bovee had attacked him, the woman being wounded in the effort to prevent her husband from killing her father. Shortly after the police were notified that a man had been killed by an automobile about three blocks from the scene of the stabbing and going there found Bovee lying in the street dying from three stab wounds in the chest, probably self-inflicted, since he was not injured in the fight at the house. Gentile's condition is serious.

Richard Thompson, the five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph H. Thompson, of Lock Haven, narrowly escaped death about 6 o'clock on Monday evening, when he ran directly in front of a car and was rolled under the wheels. The child and the parents drove to the home of Mr. Thompson's father, John R. Thompson, of Salona, and when they reached there the boy jumped out of the car before his mother could stop him. He started to run across the road to where his grandfather was standing and did not see the oncoming car. The machine struck him and knocked him down beneath the wheels. In an attempt to stop the car the driver ran into a bank and the child rolled out between the front and rear wheels. Although he suffered cuts and bruises about the left hand and bruises on the left hip and right leg, the child escaped without any serious injuries.