

INK SLINGS.

Golly, it's only thirty-six days until Christmas. Of course the fellow who never undertakes anything is in no danger of making a failure. The parents who regard their home as little more than a place to change their clothes in can usually be identified by the character of their children.

The people of Somerville, N. J., will have something to be thankful for next Thursday if, as at present predicted, the Hall-Mills murder case is over and done with then.

If you don't know how to pronounce Il Duce, used much in print when referring to Mussolini, the Italian premier, say "eel-doo-see," with the accent on "doo" and you'll have it right. Incidentally it means "the leader."

Unless we miss our guess Governor-elect Fisher will have no problems of government quite as ticklish as will be the one of satisfying both Mellon and Grundy and making each one believe that he is really the man behind the gun in the Executive office.

Talking about subtlety in business, the bankers are the boys who practice it to the nth degree. Look at them now: In one breath telling the world of the jobs of money they are going to pay out to their Christmas club members and, in the next, urging them all to get right back into next year's club.

By the way, "moonshine" can't be as terrible as Mr. Wayne B. Wheeler and his cohorts would have us believe it to be. It was "moonshine" two hundred gallons of it, that was given to the Centre county hospital last week and if it's good enough for sick people it certainly can't be so bad for well ones. Of course, moderation has something to do with it. A little makes the sick well. A lot makes the well sick.

Kiwanis has taken up the cause of the underprivileged children of Bellefonte and community. But certainly it can't think that calling them to rehearse on Sunday afternoon, for a theatrical show, is one of the privileges that has been unfortunately denied them. Either Kiwanis is getting away from the ideals we thought it had or we have failed to discard the thought that ideals are still necessary if society is to survive.

If, as the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission says, consumption of water is a barometer of the business condition of a community Bellefonte is evidently doing right well, thank you. Chicago is the largest consumer of water of any city in North America. The per capita consumption there is two hundred and seventy-eight gallons per day. Two hundred gallons a day are pumped through the pipes for each man, woman and child in Bellefonte. Far more is consumed, per capita, here than in New York or Philadelphia.

Let us have a "Secretary of Education," the pedagogues of the country are beginning to shout every time they get together to discuss the problems of their profession. God save us from another Secretary of any kind, say we. Before the war every man in Germany went to work with a soldier on his back. Since the war the U. S. A. has been doing its dandiest to take on Germany's yoke. We believe in education. We also believe that it has been getting along all right and doesn't need a Cabinet officer and another army of departmental clerks for us to carry to work with us each day. The country's too smart now. More than half the people in it are educated out of any notion of working for a living.

We note that a British company has landed a fifty million contract in Buenos Aires. How about that Pan-American propaganda of ours? It was only a few years ago that we were sure of having captured the South American business. Courses were added to the curricula of our colleges to equip young "go-getters" for business forays under the "Southern Cross" and England, Germany and France were supposed to be "dead ones" forever and a day. We hear little of that stuff today. Do you know why. The tariff's the reason. As long as tariff pampered industries in this country can force government into making us pay more for their products than they sell them abroad they're not going out to hunt world business.

The appointment of Howard E. Holtzworth, of Unionville, to serve out the unexpired term of the late Harry Austin, County Commissioner, will be a grievous disappointment to the thirty or forty applicants for the position. It should be a matter of gratification to the tax payers of Centre county, for Mr. Holtzworth is a man of marked ability in business lines. So much so that we own surprise at the fact that he has accepted an office, the emoluments of which are so out of proportion to the kind of service required in it. We congratulate Judge Keller for having named him. We congratulate the people of Centre county because he has named a Commissioner who will give them far more than a dollar's worth of service for each dollar of pay he draws and see to it that they get a dollar's value for each dollar of taxes they pay.

Democratic Watchman

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Scoring for Public Place.

Governor-elect Fisher is not ready to name his cabinet advisers as yet. A series of conferences were held in Philadelphia, on Monday, in which Joseph R. Grundy, W. L. Mellon, William S. Vare, Eric Fisher Wood and others participated. It is understood that the selection of official advisers was the purpose of the gathering. But no public announcement was made of conclusions and after the departure of the conferees Mr. Fisher announced that he "intends to say nothing about appointments until he is ready to make a definite announcement and that will not be before December and probably not until shortly before he is inaugurated." He will postpone appointments as long as possible.

But public interest will continue meantime. There are a good many candidates and considerable feeling is developing among the rivals. Even for the office of private secretary the party bosses are asserting preferences. Mr. Grundy is supporting a Philadelphia candidate and Mr. Mellon has entered a Pittsburgh candidate. Hitherto that place has been exempt from outside influence. It is understood that Colonel Eric Fisher Wood is the Governor-elect's choice for Secretary of the Commonwealth, but he is not inclined to enter public life through that door. This is the more surprising for the reason that there is no better gift at the disposal of the Governor, and both Grundy and Mellon would approve.

Probably the most strenuous efforts of the faction heads will be centered in the selection of an Attorney General. That official exercises a large influence on legislation and Grundy's heart is there. His entrant is Ira Jewell Williams, law partner of Francis Shunk Brown, former Attorney General. Mr. Mellon offers a Pittsburgh lawyer in the person of Peter Glick, though he reserves the right to withdraw that nomination and substitute another. The Governor's selection between these entrants will indicate his alignment between the two factions. He owes his nomination mainly to Grundy but Mellon is the growing figure in the party and the Governor is not only a wise but a calculating politician.

Governor Pinchot has invited his ballot reform committee to resume business at the old stand, and there is still a possibility that "good may come out of Nazareth."

The Refund Scheme a Party Trick.

Those near-statenmen who serve the purpose of leaders of the Republican party are greatly pleased with President Coolidge's proposition to dispose of the treasury surplus by refunding a per centage of the 1926 income tax. It "takes the wind out of the sails" of the Democratic plan to reduce taxation, a purpose which might be damaging to the Republican organization, and is therefore a clever political trick, according to their system of measuring results. They realize that tax reduction in the near future is absolutely necessary but hope to defer the operation until a short time before the Presidential election so that they may use it as an appeal for a continuance of power.

It is estimated at the White House that the surplus this year will amount to \$250,000,000. It will probably be considerably more than that. While the Mellon bill was pending in Congress Democratic leaders protested that it would create a surplus and asked a further decrease of a couple of hundred millions. Meantime most of the taxes for 1926 have been paid and the proposed refund would be mainly to corporations which have already reimbursed themselves by increased service charges or price inflation on the commodities they sell. The consumers who have already paid the taxes would get nothing from the refund and the cost of distribution would consume most of that which would go to corporations.

The only just tax is that which is necessary for the maintenance of the government. If the existing law produces more revenue than is required for that purpose the remedy is a new law which will cut down the taxes to the just level. The present surplus may be disposed of by payment on the public debt, an operation that may be conducted without cost. In view of these facts the Democrats in Congress will proceed with their plan to reduce taxes to the point which will meet the requirements of administration of the government and leave only sufficient surplus for safety against possible contingencies. The petty scheme said to have been evolved in the White House mind will fall of its purpose.

There would be little public sorrow if the "pig woman" and all others connected with the Hall trial in New Jersey would die.

The Way to Get Justice.

Senator Thomas J. Walsh, of Montana, the famous investigator who exposed the oil lease frauds, points out the right course to pursue in relation to the recent Senatorial election in Pennsylvania. Senator Norris, of Nebraska, whose unselfish service in behalf of political decency and justice during the campaign cannot be over-estimated, suggests a reference to the Reed Slush Fund committee. But there is grave doubt of the legal right of that committee to assume jurisdiction. It was created to inquire into campaign expenses rather than corrupt voting and bogus returns. But the Senate standing committee on elections has an undoubted right to probe every phase of the subject.

The Slush Fund committee has already developed enough evidence of fraud in the primary election to justify the rejection of Vare's claim to a seat in the Senate under the resolution adopted in the Newberry case. But in the event that political exigencies might influence some Senators who voted for that resolution to "renig," it would be wise policy to have another expedient to invoke and Senator Walsh believes that a contest of the seat would meet the requirement. That would involve some expense but the money might be easily provided by popular subscription. William B. Wilson is not a rich man and it would not be fair to put on him the burden of a great public service.

As the Montana Senator suggests, it would not be necessary for the contestant to allege that enough fraudulent votes were cast to alter the returns. All he would have to declare is that many fraudulent votes were cast and false returns made, and Mr. Vare's best friends must admit that fact. There is a well recognized principle of law that "fraud vitiates everything it touches" and as there was fraud in every one of the first twenty wards in Philadelphia as well as in some of the others, the legal exposure of that fact by the Senate committee would not only justify but actually require the throwing out of all the returns of every election district in which fraud was committed.

The question of Vare's eligibility to a seat in the Senate may be considered during the coming session, in which event Senator Pepper will have a hand in "dumping him in the river."

Women in Politics.

In her annual report as president of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, at the seventh annual convention of that civic organization held in Philadelphia last week, Mrs. John O. Miller, of Pittsburgh, somewhat sharply censured some of her sister members. She said: "Many women, I am sorry to say, tried to coerce their organizations and friends to vote the straight Republican ticket. If my party, and I am as much a member of that party as any boss, does not offer me a good candidate or any relief from a bad one, I am going to vote for the opposite party." The plain inference is that in her estimation the duty of women voters is to correct rather than support the evils of politics.

A few days before the election the president of a Philadelphia woman's political organization assembled the membership for the purpose of instructing them in voting. She expressed great regret that the candidate of the party with which her organization is affiliated, for Senator in Congress, was unfit for the office, unworthy of confidence and undeserving of support. But because he was the candidate of the party, and notwithstanding the questionable methods by which he obtained the nomination, she urged all the ladies present to vote for him. To the credit of womanhood a considerable number of the ladies present promptly declared that they would not support such a candidate.

When the question was pending before the public the promise was made that the enfranchisement of women would have a moralizing influence upon political activities. This seemed a reasonable proposition. Women are more likely to indulge ideals than men and have a keener perception of the spiritual side of a question. But the expectation has been disappointed. The enfranchisement of women has not made a single improvement in either the morals or methods of politics. If women of the Mrs. Miller type exercised a wider influence among the female voters of the country it might be different, and her expressed hope of electing female school directors might be realized.

The Klan masked marriage in Bloomsburg, the other day, may have been a curious spectacle but it hardly expressed the solemnity of the ceremony.

Slush Fund Politics Condemned.

Several of the Armistice day speakers referred to the slush fund evil in more or less caustic terms of condemnation. "The fight for the purity of the ballot is as great a cause, if not greater," declared Governor Pinchot, "than the one which the American soldier went to France for in the World war. There is no question of peace," he added, "that more properly demands the attention of the American Legion than this matter of allowing the worst of our citizens to control the government by the votes they cast and the votes they steal." The remedy the Governor suggests for this execrable evil is the fulfillment of civic obligations by the better element of the citizenry.

But the most significant denunciation of the practice which made William S. Vare a candidate for Senator in Congress and subsequently secured him a majority of the votes of Pennsylvania at the general election was expressed by General John J. Pershing, in an Armistice day address in Chicago. "If the present system of selecting candidates," he said, "permits the contribution of inordinate sums by wealthy candidates or their supporters it should receive the most careful scrutiny by honest citizens. If the time ever comes when public offices can be virtually bought and sold, either directly or indirectly, then the downfall of the Republic will not be far off."

The time when public offices may be bought both directly and indirectly is already present in Pennsylvania. Last May the cost of the nomination of the Republican candidate for United States Senator was upward of \$3,000,000, and the expense of selecting a candidate for Governor for the same party was \$1,800,000. General Pershing says "the presumption that large expenditures for campaign purposes may be made without ulterior motive does not appear to be warranted." In the recent case in this State it is directly contradicted by sworn evidence before the Slush Fund committee of the Senate. Joe Grundy declared that his contribution of \$400,000 was for an ulterior purpose.

The rain of Monday night and Tuesday was the hardest continual downpour of all the rains we have had this summer and fall, and we have had quite a number of them, at that. In fact it was the only rain this year that raised the streams in Centre county to any appreciable extent. Spring creek came up about eighteen inches but not enough to be alarming or do any damage. All the streams in the county were affected and every cistern is probably full to overflowing, so that there is no danger of a water famine in the immediate future.

Bellefonte's curb market which was so well patronized during the summer months, has dwindled to almost the vanishing point. In fact there has not been any market on Wednesdays for three weeks and only four automobiles showed up on Saturday morning. A few farmers will likely continue coming in for several weeks yet, if the weather does not become too cold, as butter and eggs, potatoes and apples are still in demand.

Chairman Mellon, of the Republican State committee, announces that he will take no part in the contest for local nominations already developing. He feels it's safe to trust such matters to Max Leslie.

All the Democrats in Pennsylvania and thousands of Republicans will gladly support William B. Wilson, morally and financially, if he contests Vare's false claim to a seat in the Senate.

Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, probably feels that he is uttering a fore-word for himself when defending Vare. He will be the candidate of the Steel trust for Senator in 1928.

If Speaker Bluet is re-elected to the Speakership upon the reorganization of the General Assembly there will be little chance of reform legislation.

The State Highway Department's fall oiling schedule this week included the stretch of improved highway from Milesburg to Howard.

Last Friday morning was the coldest of the season so far, thermometers in Bellefonte registering as low as twelve degrees above zero.

Up to this time there has been no indication of an unusual number of Thanksgiving turkeys in Centre county.

Subscribe for the Watchman.

Howard E. Holtzworth, of Unionville, Appointed County Commissioner.

On Tuesday morning Judge Harry Keller announced the appointment of Howard E. Holtzworth, of Unionville, as County Commissioner to fill the unexpired term of the late Harry Austin, deceased. Mr. Holtzworth, who is a traveling salesman by occupation, is a staunch Republican and always has been a hard worker for the party. He was not an applicant for the appointment but has accepted it and will serve until the first Monday in January, 1928. There were several dozen active candidates for the appointment but the court was influenced in selecting Mr. Holtzworth through his being a resident of Bald Eagle valley where Mr. Austin lived, and his belief that he will make a good commissioner. In fact Judge Keller qualified his appointment in the following statement:

"My first consideration in appointing a County Commissioner, was that of qualification. I was desirous also that recognition be accorded as large a section of the county as might be possible. One of the present incumbents was elected from Harris township, in Penns valley, and the other from Benner township in Nittany valley. It seemed fitting that the vacancy should be filled by the selection of some well-qualified citizen from the Bald Eagle valley, which was the home of the late Commissioner Harry P. Austin."

Among the many applicants were a number of very highly valued personal friends, each of whom I believe would have made a conscientious and creditable Commissioner. To have selected any one of them might have been viewed, although unjustly, as some reflection upon the fitness of the others. I, therefore, finally decided to ask Mr. Holtzworth to accept the appointment, and he has consented to serve. Mr. Holtzworth, although a warm personal friend, was not an applicant. However, he has kindly cooperated to the extent of enabling me to solve a very trying situation."

In accepting the appointment Mr. Holtzworth has made the following statement:

"To my friends and all citizens of Centre county: I wish to state that I was very much surprised to receive notice from the Honorable Judge Harry Keller that he had appointed me to fill the unexpired term of Harry P. Austin as Commissioner in Centre county. I was not an applicant for the office. The appointment was entirely unsolicited.

I highly appreciate the courtesy of His Honor, and will endeavor to fill the position honorably and creditably in a manner which I feel is best for Centre county.

I also wish to state that I will not be a candidate for the office at the expiration of my appointment."

The "Dandy Copper" of the Broadway Squad" cut quite a figure at the Sesqui the other day. He had a dandy Mayor and a popular Governor to support him as he marched down Broad street.

Mussolini's Work in Southern Italy.

From Ida Tarbell in December McCall's. When the Benito Mussolini took charge of the kingdom of Italy, in October, 1922, he declared that the chief business of the Government and people was to put the country again on what we call a playing basis. He found on his hands a number of vast worn-out lands making up practically the whole south of the country, and including the provinces, or States as we would call them, of Sicily, southern Campania, Calabria, Apulia.

Of course, the Sicilian "had the vote." But somehow the Sicilians were never able to make headway in the bureau at Rome. They didn't get roads and water out of the new institution, and they didn't get any decent policing or administration of law. There sprang up self-constituted groups intent on seeing that evil-doers were punished for their crimes—which the government had neglected to do. They were called the Mafia; and I have heard more than one Sicilian argue that the Mafia saved Sicily.

And then came Mussolini! "The Italian Government has always neglected the South," he said. "We must build up the South."

Mussolini can be trusted to put his finger instantly on the weak spot of a practical problem. "You can't raise more wheat in Sicily," he said, "until life is safe, and men can work their fields and raise cattle with no other risks than those of the weather and their own ignorance or neglect; and that day will not come until you've done away with the Mafia. They must be destroyed."

The campaign was swift, relentless, quiet and terrifying. The methods were medieval. Probably by none other than 2000 of the leaders, most of them believed to be criminals of long standing, have been lodged in prison. Mothers and wives and children were clapped into jail and held until the outlaw gave himself up. In an incredibly short time the infected territory was stripped of its leaders and life became as safe and as orderly as in an American countryside.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The Blair County Commissioners let the contract for 12,000 feet of portable snow fence, to be erected along highways.

The large plate glass window in front of the clothing store of C. F. Tischler, of Avoca, was broken and merchandise to the value of more than \$1000 carried away.

Police say Albert Simon, of Beaver Falls, hurriedly poured moonshine over his wife, while she was lying in bed, to dispose of the contraband evidence. Raiding officers there-upon squeezed enough liquid from Mrs. Simon's nightgown to warrant Simon's arrest.

Arthur Clough, treasurer of the New York and Pennsylvania company of Lock Haven, died early Friday morning at a hospital in DuBois of injuries received Thursday night when the automobile in which he was riding, skidded and upset near that place.

While totting a quantity of whisky in bottles and hot water bag, Lewis S. Shope, aged 50, of Altoona, was hit by an automobile on the highway between Gallitzin and Cresson Monday night. He is in the Altoona hospital with a broken leg and injuries to his head.

Her suspicions aroused by a noise in her bedroom at 2 o'clock on Monday morning, Miss Isabelle Bashline, daughter of Dr. O. O. Bashline, of Grove City, started to investigate and found a man hiding under the bed. The man sprang through an open window and fled.

Dr. Jay Rudolph, of Philadelphia, is richer by \$4,331 this week than he was last, that sum having been willed to him by Charlotte A. Sherwood, of New York. The odd part about the bequest is that Dr. Rudolph did not know the donor, nor why she left him the money.

The State Department of Agriculture has warned shippers of poultry to be "extremely careful about the reliability" of the commission merchants to whom shipments are made during the holiday season but said the warning is not to be taken as a general criticism of the trade.

Lighting a match to determine how much gas he had in his automobile tank caused an explosion that killed John Turhorn, 46, of Millmont. His wife, Kate, was badly burned about the arms in trying to put out the fire which damaged Turhorn's garage and destroyed the car.

Thought to have sustained an injury in noise downtown, John B. Drupp, 33, of Reading, a rabbit hunter, died suddenly in a hospital of shock. A brother, with whom he was gunning, accidentally shot Drupp in the thigh when a rabbit jumped out of hiding immediately in front of the men.

Going into a physician's office at Franklin Bruce Lawson, twenty-four, of Meadville, picked up a bottle of disinfectant and drank part of the contents. The physician was absent at the time. Lawson died in the Franklin hospital an hour later. His health had been poor for several months, and friends said he had appeared despondent.

Gov. Pinchot has issued a respite to Paul Orlakowsky, Allegheny county, convicted of murder in the first degree, staying the date of his execution from the week beginning Monday, November 22, to the week beginning Monday, November 29. Orlakowsky has made application to the State Board for commutation of sentence to life imprisonment.

Robert Dill, a resident of Shrewsbury, York county, has just made a record, it is believed, when he trapped six black skunks under a building in the town owned by John T. Wagner, local undertaker and furniture dealer. Two quarts of skunk oil were rendered from five of the skunks. This oil is used for medicinal purposes. Mr. Dill will probably receive about \$30 for the hides.

An order to repair 500 steel hopper cars for the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh railroad has been received by the Berwick plant of the American Car and Foundry company, following closely an order for 110 new all steel cars for the Long Island Railroad. Steady work is assured for some weeks in the freight car department and enough orders are now booked in the passenger department to keep it busy until next summer.

Because he developed a fondness for peeping in the windows of homes in the residential section of Jeannette, Adam Esler, who claims he is 95 years old, was arrested by constable Thomas Adamson at Jeannette and given a hearing before Justice of the peace C. M. Parker. Esler was charged with entering and pilfering milk and other articles of diet from homes in Jeannette and Grapeville and with "frightening women to death" by peeping in the windows at them.

Chester Black, aged 19, of Pittsburgh, who pleaded guilty to the theft of two automobiles, and said he stole them because "the girls wouldn't ride in street cars," was sentenced to serve from 6 to 12 months in the workhouse, on Monday, in criminal court by Judge John A. Evans. He was given an additional sentence of three to six months when the court was informed Black was then out on parole after having been implicated in the theft of 19 automobiles.

William J. Bobb, of Lewistown, has confessed to the larceny of a roadster belonging to his wife, Mrs. Ada Bobb, which he sold in Florida for \$50 and was held in lieu of \$500 bail for court. Bobb also confessed to burning a bungalow belonging to his wife two years ago. He said he went to the bungalow one cold night and finding no one home and the furniture gone, he built a fire on the floor and fell asleep.

One man met death and another was probably fatally burned when fire destroyed the home of Wm. Sheets, at Fayette City, early on Sunday. Sheets, who was 53, was burned to death and Harry Furlong, 58, of Fayette City, a visitor at the home, was taken to a hospital in a serious condition. The house in which Sheets lived alone, was a mass of flames when firemen arrived. The building was a one-story, three-room structure. Origin of the fire was undetermined.

Electricians and millwrights employed by the Lehigh Portland Cement company, at Allentown, were mystified on Friday night when the electric lights went out and the machinery in the huge West Coplay mill ceased to function. It was some hours before the mystery was solved and everything put in working order again. The mischief-maker was a tiny mouse that had wandered into one of the delicate parts of a large dynamo, causing a short circuit that put the generator out of business. The loss in production was several thousand dollars, and in life, one mouse.