

INK SLINGS.

—Only twenty-nine days left in which to do it,—your Christmas shopping.

—In twenty-five days the shortest day of the year will be here and then, as the days lengthen again we can expect the cold to strengthen.

—Reports are out to the effect that the German goose crop is good, but we venture the assertion that it is not nearly as good as it was in 1914.

—Spring creek, Logan's Branch and Buffalo Run are working very nicely for John McCoy now, but he had to dam them a lot before they really got busy.

—Anyway, not having had turkey yesterday we're not in for cold turkey, turkey hash and then turkey soup from the carcass of the bird for the next week.

—After having kicked everybody else around for so many years it must be gall and wormwood to Leon Trotsky to be made a foot-ball of by his communistic brethren in Russia.

—Queen Marie's sudden change of plans and determination to hurry away to her home in Rumania without completion of her tour of the United States, will be disappointing to few others than the class that seems to have made asses of themselves while she was on our shores.

—The Calles government of Mexico, that President Coolidge was getting ready to approve only a short time ago, is showing signs of confiscating about a billion and a half of our investments in that country and, of course, there is uneasiness in Washington and a lot of "watchful waiting" too.

—Golly, wouldn't it be a joke if the Republicans were to lose their Senator from Maine. It appears that he is mixed up in a hundred thousand dollar bribery scandal up there and unless he can extract himself his chance of holding his seat looks bad. Isn't there a Republican, anywhere, who can come clean.

—The Republican papers of the country are already beginning to start a fight in the Democratic party over who shall be our nominee for President in 1928. What a fatuous waste of energy. When 1928 comes we'll nominate the man and if we want to fight over it we'll do it then. Without any egging on by our Republican friends.

—The time is approaching very rapidly when Dr. Ellie Potter will fade out of the picture. Ellie had a great many impractical ideas when she became head of the Welfare Department of the State. She had little patience with and scant consideration for those who knew local institutional problems far better than she and we shall not regret her going.

—The most convincing witnesses who have appeared thus far in the celebrated Hall-Mills murder case were the Wilsons—mother and two daughters. They are educated, refined people and swore that they were talking to Henry Stevens at almost the moment the murder was supposed to have been committed. They fixed the date so definitely with known events that it seems to us their testimony should prove a perfect alibi in itself.

—And now a committee has been organized in New York to ascertain whether the girl working for fifteen dollars a week gets her silk stockings at the sacrifice of proper nourishment. What if it finds out she does. Do it's members have any idea that they can induce her to wear cotton or lisle hose instead of silk and trade a few chocolate eclairs for an occasional beef stew? If they do they have a job on their hands.

—We own a personal grief in the passing of Lawshe Baird, of Philadelphia. His was such a rare good nature that all who knew him must share in the sorrow we feel at the loss of occasional contact with a gentleman of his type. It was only the man to man side of him that we knew but, knowing that, we are certain that in every other channel of life he ran clean, and true and inspiring to those who cared to sense it.

—And now Mr. Doheny and Albert 3. Fall, member of former President Harding's Cabinet, are having their lay in court and their lawyers nearly hrew fits when Justice Hoetling, of the District of Columbia Supreme court, ruled that the jurors hearing the case should be kept under guard during the trial. Why should Doheny and Fall be excited because the jurors are to be denied contact with outsiders while they are deliberating on the case? Surely they didn't hope to see if any of them could be seen.

—The First Baptist church of Houston, Texas, had fifty hundred and twenty-two members. Then it issued in ultimatum that all members who couldn't promise to "cease tattling, back-biting, unrighteous anger and intoxicating drinks" were to consider themselves out of the church. We haven't heard what the church roster is now, but we're positively sure that he only ones who are out are those who wouldn't cease intoxicating rinks. Whoever heard of a church member who tattled, back-bit or got righteously angry? They never do such things. They're the ear marks of the poor sinner, who hasn't yet been saved.

# Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 71. BELLEFONTE, PA.. NOVEMBER 26, 1926. NO. 47.

## Philadelphia's Rotten Election.

The methods of building up majorities for Republican candidates in Philadelphia were exposed in the office of Magistrate Violet E. Fahnestock, in that city, on Monday. Eight election officers of the Sixteenth division of the Fourth ward were arraigned on a charge of violating the election laws. The prosecution was under the direction of the Committee of Seventy and the evidence of the twenty-eight witnesses who had been subpoenaed showed that the "gang controlled election and registration boards had resorted to the most brazen and crudest sort of vote manipulation to swell the vote of William S. Vare," according to the report of one of the Philadelphia morning newspapers.

The evidence revealed the fact that some legal voters had voted twice at the same polling place and a number of non-residents were permitted to vote. Persons under age voted and quite a number of residents testified that they had not voted at all but were marked as having voted "the straight Republican ticket." It was shown that cats and dogs had been registered and voted and though there was, and is, considerable sentiment in the district for William B. Wilson the returns showed 401 votes for Vare and none for Wilson out of a total registration of 404. The accused election officers were held for court by Magistrate Fahnestock but the chances are they will escape punishment.

One would think that the Republican leaders of Philadelphia would fight shy of a situation as rotten as the one in question was shown to be. But so far from that they came to the defense of the perpetrators of the crimes and Herbert Salus, brother and law partner of State Senator Salus, whom Vare proposes to make president pro tem. of the Senate for the coming session, appeared for them and exhausted all his powers of persuasion to secure their freedom. He may be more successful in the higher courts. But from this distance it looks as if the movement to improve the methods of conducting elections in Philadelphia means business this time. The Committee of Seventy is in earnest.

—The Little German band, familiar everywhere before the war but absent since, has returned to New York, but the absence of saloons robs it of its opportunities.

## Tax Reduction and Surplus.

The people of the country will cordially endorse the purpose of the Democrats in Congress to enact legislation providing for substantial tax reduction. The administration has been fooling the public long enough. Last year the Democrats insisted on a decrease of tax rates to the extent of half a billion dollars, but the repeated declaration of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon that a \$300,000,000 decrease was all the treasury could stand forced a compromise fixing the decrease at something less than \$400,000,000, which was adopted, with the result that at the end of the fiscal year there is a surplus which the President now proposes to present to the corporations as a sort of Christmas gift.

The proposed refund of the present surplus would give at least ninety per cent. of the total to corporations, which have already reimbursed themselves by increased cost of service or prices of commodities. Retaining the existing rates for another year would give another opportunity to disburse gifts to them. This distribution of unearned bounties in two successive years would enrich the corporations benefitted to the extent of very nearly half a billion, out of which it would be easy to draw slush funds for the next Presidential campaign that would make the Pennsylvania and Illinois slush funds of this year look like "widow's mites." Nobody understands this fact better than Calvin Coolidge and Andy Mellon.

The plan of the Democrats is to collect in taxes only sufficient money to pay the expenses of the government, economically administered, interest on the public debt and reasonable sums toward the reduction of the principal of the debt. This year nearly \$300,000,000 in excess of this amount was collected and it is conservatively estimated that if the existing rates are continued the revenues will exceed the requirements of the next budget by more than \$400,000,000. The offer to pay the money back is a poor expedient and nobody would protest against it, as a private operation, more vigorously than Andrew Mellon. It simply cannot be returned equitably, and any other form of distribution is unfair and unjust.

The Controller of Philadelphia has taken his political life in his hands by "bucking" the machine. This is an admission to Vare.

## Pittsburgh Election Returns Invalid.

Eighty per cent. or more of the vote returns of the recent election in Allegheny county were illegal, according to Judges Gray and McFarlane, of the Allegheny county court, who composed the returning board for that county. It seems that the district boards tabulated the returns on election night on papers other than the tally sheet. The tabulations of figures were then copied to the official tally sheet, and this, along with the ballot box and triplicate copies of the tally were turned over to the proper authorities. In many cases the "tallies as marked on the official tally sheets were vastly different from those on the checking paper first used by the district board," it is alleged.

"In many cases," Judge Gray alleged, "this practice has been adopted as a matter of convenience and not to aid in the altering of the votes. It is, however, a dangerous perversion of clearly defined laws." Judge McFarlane pronounced it "absolutely illegal." Both these judges are Republicans and dependent upon the Pittsburgh party machine for their future political prosperity. But the system which Max Leslie devised, and W. L. Mellon has adopted, is so abhorrent to every principle of justice and decency that their consciences compelled them to express their reprobation. They may summon the offending election officers to answer in court but it is said the only penalty is a nominal fine.

The exposure of this illegal work in Pittsburgh may serve a useful purpose, however. It may be used as a basis for opening the ballot boxes by either a grand jury or Senatorial committee to investigate the integrity of the returns. The zero ballots may deprive William S. Vare of a large part of his majority in Philadelphia, and these illegal returns take away another considerable slice in Pittsburgh so that when the real record of the election is made it will be found that William B. Wilson, rather than William S. Vare, will be entitled to the certificate of election and the commission to sit in the Senate. Besides, it may spur decent citizens of the State to an insistent demand for better election laws.

—General Andrews, enforcement chief, proposes that the government goes into the distilling business to supply medical needs. That will make Wayne Wheeler tear his hair.

## Great Evil "Nipped in the Bud."

All automobile owners and users, as well as the public in general, cordially approve the action of Insurance Commissioner Barford with the view of forcing bogus insurance companies and agencies out of the State. Mr. Barford's objective seems to be the National Automobile Service corporation, the main office of which is in Philadelphia. Several weeks ago warrants were issued for the arrest of forty-five officers and agents of that concern and last week two hundred additional warrants were issued for agents and employees of the company. Those accused who have been arrested thus far have been held in \$500 bail for a hearing in the near future.

The method employed by this company and its agents, and probably by other companies, is to offer a blanket policy covering about everything insurable to the owners of automobiles at a considerably cut rate as compared with the charges of standard companies only upon deferred payments. In order to get as much money as possible from the victim the agent offers a bonus on the deferred payments for a large cash payment at the time of the delivery of the policy. Thus far the operations had been almost entirely limited to Philadelphia, though according to complaints filed some business was done in Harrisburg and preparations had been made to extend it all over the State.

Some years ago buying insurance was a precarious investment. The standard companies were always safe and sound and dependable. But there were a lot of "wild-cat" organizations and crooked agents who reaped more or less generous harvest from credulous victims. Wise legislation and vigilant public officials have succeeded in eliminating this danger to prudent men and women who desired to provide for their children and kinfolk. This fraud, which is directed mainly against automobile owners, has developed within a year or so but has worked so energetically that it has become a State-wide and almost a Nation-wide menace. But fortunately it has been "nipped in the bud."

—Judge McDevitt, of Philadelphia, an old and capable newspaper man, adjourned court the other day to inspect a brewery accused of violating the law.

## Boss Grundy Yields to Expediency.

Without in the least relinquishing his claim to the title of supreme boss Mr. Joseph R. Grundy is said to have abandoned his purpose to chop off the official head of W. Harry Baker, secretary of the Senate. The enmity between these political manipulators has existed for many years and after the nomination of Mr. Fisher, Grundy openly declared that Baker should be shorn of all his power. The first number on the program was to remove him from the chairmanship of the State organization. Through the intercession of W. L. Mellon the office of secretary of the committee was offered to Baker which he accepted. But notice was given "to the world" that he would be deprived of the Senate berth.

Of course Mr. Grundy is trespassing somewhat in butting into the affairs of the Senate. He has admitted under oath that he paid \$400,000 to acquire control of the executive department of the State government, and under the customs of the party that gives him a potential voice in the selection of officials in that service. But the Senate is independent of the executive and usually the Senators exercise their own judgment in the selection of officials. It is understood, however, that in this instance they will humor the supreme boss to the extent of allowing him to dump William P. Gallagher, chief clerk, a \$6000 a year job. Mr. Gallagher is an intimate friend of Baker and supported Beidleman.

In justice to historic accuracy it should be stated that the quarrel between Grundy and Baker didn't begin with, and is not entirely because of, Baker's support of Beidleman. It began when the late Senator Crow was a dominant force in the Legislature. Crow and Baker wanted to levy a tax on manufacturing corporations as long ago as 1915, and nearly put it across in 1925. Mr. Gallagher invested the considerable influence of his office in the enterprise and Grundy is unwilling to take chances with both of them at the Senate desk. It is a foolish fear, of course, for with the Governor committed against the proposition it can't possibly be put through within the next four years.

—The cold weather not only caught many farmers with potatoes in the ground and corn in the shock but thousands of bushels of apples still on the trees in Centre county orchards. In the Fisher orchard, at Unionville, several hundred bushels of choice apples were nipped by the frost and will be good for cider making only. In fact comparatively few orchards have been picked clean of their fruit.

—Bellefonte has had a taste of winter weather the past week, evidently the result of the storms which swept over a wide area of the west. While no snow of any consequence fell here the Allegheny mountains were covered, on Saturday, by a good tracking snow about an inch and a half in depth. Warmer weather is predicted for next week.

—Now that the foot-ball season is over the College and High school boys will turn to basket-ball, wrestling and boxing. Studies, of course, will be sandwiched in somewhere, but nowhere that will interfere with their ambition to become the athletic idol of the school.

—The motor train tried out on the Lewisburg railroad, last week, evidently was not able to make the grade. It was only in service several days when it was withdrawn and the old locomotive put back into service.

—Killing by automobile is a growing industry. The death list from that source has made a new record this month and all the returns are not in yet.

—The vote shows that Vare was absolutely loyal to Fisher in Philadelphia but a lot of Fisher's friends "threw the harpoon into" Vare.

—"Hall-Mills case nears its crisis," is a headline in an esteemed contemporary and an ardent hope of all intelligent newspaper readers.

—County Commissioner Howard E. Holtzworth took the oath of office last week and had his first sitting with the board on Friday.

—The Bellefonte fire department was called out at one o'clock Wednesday morning by a false alarm of a fire in the Masonic temple.

—It will be unlawful to kill any and all kinds of small game after next Tuesday.

## The French War Debt.

From the Philadelphia Record.

If France doesn't wish to pay its war debt it should say so frankly. There is no way of collecting an international debt. We should never go to war to recover a sum of money from France. If the French think they ought not to pay they have only to say that they won't pay. But that wouldn't answer their purpose. What they want is to get a receipt in full from us. There is no conceivable reason why we should be a party to French repudiation. Some of the French papers, referring to the President's speech in Kansas City, say that the war debt is only a financial obligation, while there is the "higher moral obligation" of "helping to rebuild the foundations of a new Europe."

Put in plain and simple language, this means that saving France imposes upon us the high moral obligation to make that country prosperous. We sent 2,000,000 soldiers to France. We incurred a debt of \$26,000,000,000 for our part in the war, besides what we spent of the proceeds of taxation, and all this imposes upon us the high moral obligation to wipe out France's debt to us while the other belligerents who borrowed of us are paying. As to helping France we should say that wiping out most of the interest and spreading the whole over 62 years was doing a good deal of it, in addition to saving it in the war. If France wishes to repudiate it can do so, but it is ridiculous for it to expect us to help it repudiate.

## Savers Are Capitalists.

From the Pittsburgh Times.

James A. Emery, counsel of the National Association of Manufacturers, addressing a Management Week meeting, said our wage earners are becoming capitalists. They are learning to save, he said, and "after all, a capitalist is one who spends less than he earns." A political economist might find some fault with that definition of a capitalist, holding that capital is that portion of wealth used specifically for the production of other wealth, yet we believe the saver is a capitalist even in the latter interpretation. Certainly, if he invests his savings in industrial stocks or bonds he comes within political economist's category. And isn't money which he saves and which his bank loans capital in the strictest sense?

Many wage earners are owners, not only of securities of the concerns by which they are employed, but in numerous other enterprises. The thrifty worker in any line of employment saves something, and the habit "is one that is growing." He makes "investments," too, buying being possible these days for the small as well as large buyers. Sometimes he makes a false step, expecting too great a return for his money, but in the aggregate he uses as much judgment in buying a \$100 bond as the person who spends 1,000 times that much, to judge by some recent history.

## Everybody's Doing It Now.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The scandal attending the disposition of tickets for the Army-Navy football game has Washington by the ears. All sorts of ugly rumors are heard respecting the scalping activities of some members of Congress. Charges are made that members have paid high prices for tickets in the hope of disposing of them at huge profits. Counter-charges that members of the secretariat fraternity in the House and Senate are the real profiteers have brought terse statements for some of them that the members will not find it as easy this year as formerly to divert attention to the secretaries. They do not propose to be the "goats." It is regrettable that such a sporting classic as this service game must always be attended by rumors and exhibitions of greed. Certainly there can be nothing inspiring in the sight of a statesman hawking tickets for a few dollars gain.

## Tolerance.

From the Pittsburgh Press.

The William Jennings Bryan Chapter of the Ku Klux Klan donated the American flag.

A Jew donated the flag-staff.

A Catholic priest delivered the dedicatory address.

A Negro veteran of the late war handled the ropes that drew the flag to the top of the pole.

Ten thousand friendly Americans and Canadians looked on.

In this manner did Port Huron, Mich., celebrate Armistice day, under the guidance of Pastor Bready of the Methodist Episcopal church.

## Western Amenity.

From the Topeka Capital.

"You told a lie about me in your paper," said an indignant man to Ewing Herbert. Did Ewing get mad and want to fight it out? He did not. He merely answered: "You shouldn't be worried so long as I don't tell the truth about you."

An effort will be made at the organization of the Legislature, in January, to shake off the Vare grip. But the Grundy grip, a more menacing incubus, will probably have the support of the Executive Mansion.

## SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Thieves broke a window at Mount Carmel, last Friday, and using a long pole with a hook on it, stole \$500 worth of clothing from the Louis Feinberg store.

—Paul Silfer, Bucknell University freshman, of Lewisburg, died in the Geisinger hospital, at Danville, of injuries received a week previous when struck by a hit-and-run motorist on the Lewisburg-Mifflinburg road.

—Falling from the rear of his milk truck at Lock Haven, on Saturday, Frank C. Farringer, 28, sustained injuries which proved fatal. Farringer's skull was fractured and his neck broken when the strap on which he was hanging on the rear of the wagon snapped.

—Wedged between timbers on the wrecked Atlantic Refining company motor launch, the body of Fred Montain, 45, engineman, was discovered late Thursday night at Philadelphia. The launch was wrecked on the Schuylkill river Thursday afternoon after an explosion of gasoline which caused injuries to two other members of the crew.

—The Milton Manufacturing company, makers of bolts and other small iron materials and employing 800 men, has announced its suspension pending the appointment of a receiver. Lack of sufficient working capital is given as the reason. The plant made a shell case at Milton during the World war and was believed to have been highly prosperous.

—While Everett Myers, near York Springs, York county, was shooting a skunk at the rear of his barn he dropped dead from a heart attack. His wife who was watching from the barn, saw his fall and upon reaching his side found he was dying. He was 63 years old and about fifteen years ago was superintendent of the public schools of McKean county.

—Charles R. Gibson, 20 years old, of York, Pa., was arrested on Saturday, charged with stealing \$14,380 from the First National bank, where he was a clerk in the savings department. He was discharged two weeks ago, when it was suspected something was wrong. Gibson asserted he lost the money betting on race horses. He recently bought a new motor car.

—Ross Bellamy, a well-known carpenter of Tyrone, has just completed the construction of a table which contains over seventeen hundred pieces of wood of thirty-seven species, each piece of wood being from ninety to one hundred years old. The table is finished in natural wood and is a remarkable piece of work. Mr. Bellamy spent over eight years working on the table.

—With his evening meal on the table ready to be eaten, Henry Kump, a native and lifelong resident of Franklin township, Adams county, stepped outside his house on Saturday evening, suffered a heart attack and died. The body lay about 50 feet from the door of the house in a small gutter until it was discovered Sunday morning by Mrs. John Currens, a neighbor.

—With an explosion that tore limbs off trees and spouted a geyser twenty-five feet into the air, a box of dynamite floating down the Susquehanna river on the flood was exploded on Friday afternoon just below Berwick by a shot from the shore. The box was recognized by a Berwick miner and he detonated it. The dynamite is believed to have come from the anthracite coal region.

—Two holdup men, disappointed at finding no money, knocked Charles Eller, 64, unconscious and then tried to throw him into the Allegheny river near the West New Kensington bridge, at New Kensington, late Saturday night. Eller's clothing caught on bushes on the river bank, preventing him from sliding wholly into the water, although his feet were in the stream when he was found some time later.

—Henry Harrison, who lives in the woods near Hicks Run, Elk county, has been sentenced to 380 days in the Elk county jail for the unlawful killing and possession of an elk. Game wardens found him with a quantity of meat and assessed a fine of \$200 and six months in jail. He could not pay the fine. Several times during the past summer the carcass of an elk was found and choice cuts of meat, always the same, removed.

—After enjoying freedom for 18 years, James McDonald has begun serving a two-year sentence in the Washington county workhouse for an assault on Joseph Forrest of Washington, Pa., 18 years ago. Forrest was injured when McDonald shot him in the arm at Arden on Dec. 16 1908. After the shooting McDonald escaped. He was arrested only a few days ago when he returned to Washington to visit the scenes of his boyhood, believing that everyone had forgotten the shooting affair.

—Forty-six children, ranging in age from 2 to 16 years, were led safely out of the State orphanage, of the women of the Ku Klux Klan haven, in Dauphin county, on Sunday night, when fire was discovered in the building. Mrs. L. R. T. Paxton, the superintendent, and her husband, after a fruitless effort to fight the flames with extinguishers, gathered the children in one room and they passed out of the building in an orderly file. The building, an old stone structure, was destroyed, despite the efforts of firemen from half a dozen towns, including Harrisburg.

—Lack of a sufficient number of newspapers in Pike county may prevent the incorporation of a water company to supply residents of Millrift. William Adams, of Millrift, applied to the Public Service Commission for approval to start a water company in his home town. Under the law he is required to publish notices for incorporation of companies in two newspapers of general circulation in the county where the company is to be located. Pike county has only one newspaper, and Mr. Adams is in a quandary what to do. One way out has been suggested: amend the law.

—"Good-bye, Ill see you later," called Frank Romano, of Pittsburgh, to his 18-year-old bride as he left their home in Gilmore Way October 31. She laughed back: "I'll see you in church." She did not again see Romano, who owned two confectionery stores, until shortly before midnight, Saturday night, when she identified his charred body on a slab in the Allegheny county morgue. She had recognized a newspaper picture of a fire victim. While workmen on Friday were removing wreckage of a candy store in Carson street, destroyed by a mysterious explosion and fire October 31, they discovered a body, the presence of which had been suspected. It was Romano's.