

INK SLINGS.

—Now, don't forget that the sun was shining gloriously yesterday.

—What could be more useless than an armless boy at a petting party?

—Speaker Bluet could avert a lot of trouble for the bosses by declining a second term in the chair.

—When you go hunting for anything pass up the faults. There are too many of them found as it is.

—Paying for a dead horse always is an unpleasant job, so Philadelphia views the Sesqui deficit of five million dollars with a wry face.

—So far as we are concerned the foot-ball season ended very satisfactorily. There appeared a team that licked Notre Dame.

—Mr. Fil-suds-ki has cancelled the dry law in Poland. We refer to the matter merely to prove that there is something in a name after all.

—The Montana type of Thanksgiving turkeys which carry gold nuggets in their gizzards are worth even the current price in this section.

—Gifford Pinchot can have a good deal of fun with the machine between this time and the middle of January, and the Governor dearly loves fun.

—Wheeler Promises Waves of "Dry Facts" says a Philadelphia Ledger head-line. Certainly nothing but dry stuff could be expected from Wayne.

—Governor-elect Fisher ought to find a nice, clean house when he moves to Harrisburg next month. Governor Pinchot thinks he's been cleaning it for four years.

—People are more interested in what somebody else was doing "fifty years ago today" than they seem to be in what they might be doing fifty years from today.

—David Lloyd George is making a noise like a statesman who intends staging a come-back. He took to the tall timbers two years ago, but England is expecting him to find his way out most any moment.

—Senator Simpson's threat to have a "mistrial" declared in the Hall-Mills murder case sounds very much as if he were preparing a little alibi for himself. He's been weighing "the poor fish" in the jury box.

—Here's hoping that no bad luck stalks the camp of the Yarnell-McMullen hunting party in consequence of its having shot "a snow white buck." The superstitious woodsman believes the killing of a white deer to be a very ill omen.

—Siam is turning handsprings because a white elephant was born in the kingdom last week. White elephants might mean a lot to the Siamese, but with us they are as much of a Jonah as seeing the new moon over one's left shoulder.

—Governor Brewster, of Maine, will have to revise his notion of the public conscience of his State. Gould was elected to the Senate and Maine takes her place alongside of Pennsylvania and Illinois in the matter of winking at corruption in politics.

—Mayor Kendrick, of Philadelphia, said he was glad when the Sesqui closed. We should think he would be. The Mayor was the boy who got it open before it got started and it might be added that he also got it closed before it was fully started. Having his picture taken with every bunch of dignitaries that visited the exhibition the Mayor must have been a very busy person during the show.

—Bucknell University co-eds and some of their parents are said to be resenting a "biological questionnaire" recently sent the girls by the faculty of that institution. It seems that the Profs. wanted to know what the girls do with their time, whether they roll their stockings, with which foot they start at their step-ins and a lot of other intimate information. We can see nothing to get riled about in such inquiries. Those girls would probably tell their boy friends all these things without a blush, yet they curl up when a group of harmless pedagogues want to get more in their heads.

—Having taken a lady in Washington so far into our confidence as to tell her of our thought of writing a new book of "Lamentations" we drew from her, in reply, this choice bit of jingle:

Never say die, say damn.  
It may not be classic  
It may be profane  
But we mortals have need of it  
Time and again.  
You'll find you'll recover  
From fate's hardest slam  
If you never say die  
Say damn.

and that's exactly what we did say when we found ourself with three of the family in hospitals at the same time, the foreman of the shop in bed with a complication of complications, the roof leakin' and the rain refusing to stop long enough for us to patch it, the office "devil" hoppin' around on crutches because of ingrown toe-nails, and the griddle lifter burning our fingers every time we tried to "keep the home fires burning" long enough to get a meal for the boys. Say, we're the twin brother of the fellow who exuded the thought that "life is just one damn thing after another." And Louie Mann knew what he was talking about when he said: "All we get out of it is what we eat and what we wear and what we eat don't agree with us and what we wear don't fit."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Governor of Maine Protests.

Governor Brewster, of Maine, in declining to take "the stump" in behalf of the Republican candidate for United States Senator, the other day, made reference to the political methods of Pennsylvania which ought to bring a blush of shame to the face of every man and woman in the State. "It seems necessary to determine," he said, "whether the people of Maine have developed a moral conscience as blunted as that of Pennsylvania and Illinois, or whether they are still mindful of the traditions and heritage of idealism and moral courage that have made the Republican party great."

The candidate whom Governor Brewster thus declined to recommend to the voters of Maine is Arthur R. Gould, who is alleged to have spent the sum of \$100,000 to procure his nomination. The laws of Maine limit the amount of money a candidate may spend to a comparatively small sum and Mr. Gould protests that the considerable amount named was spent by his friends without his knowledge. To this lame defense the Governor points out that under the law every friend who thus contributed to the violation of the law is guilty of a misdemeanor which "must lead to an indictment, if the officials charged with the enforcement of our statutes are faithful to their trusts."

So far as the records show Mr. Gould had not been a professional manipulator of electoral frauds. During the primary campaign it was alleged that he had paid a large sum of money to Canada officials to procure favors for a corporation in which he was concerned. His answer to this was that he was acting for the corporation and not personally responsible for its methods of doing business. But it is an exemplification of the methods and morals of big business and a substantial reason why big business should be completely divorced from politics. It is a bad system of selecting candidates for office. The natural desire for reimbursement is certain.

The election of Mr. Gould by a large majority, notwithstanding the protest of Governor Brewster, indicates that the average voter in Maine, like the average voter in Pennsylvania, is entirely indifferent to political morality. The election of the Democratic candidate in that State would have given that party a majority in the Senate at the opening of the Seventieth Congress and the political leaders and corporation managers would resort to any expedient to avert that. Senator Butler, of Massachusetts, recently defeated for re-election, appealed, as chairman of the National committee, to support Gould.

With Vare, of Pennsylvania, Smith, of Illinois, and Gould, of Maine, under aspersions of buying their seats in the Senate, the Republican majority of that body at the next session will stand as the champion as well as the aider and abetter of corruption in politics. When Roosevelt was President and Lorimer, of Illinois, came to the bar with a title so tainted, the President refused support. When Newberry's title was impeached he resigned. But the three aspirants who will come with tainted title next December will have the shelter of the Republican machine and the support of the leaders from the President down.

—A good many Americans who enjoyed the pleasure of seeing Queen Marie during her brief tour of this country will sympathize with her in her present troubles, however they end.

State College Professor Asks Pardon for Prisoner.

William G. Duncan, an assistant professor in the mining extension course at State College, appeared before the board of pardons, at its monthly meeting on Wednesday of last week, and interceded for a pardon for James Horvath, of Westmoreland county, serving a minimum sentence of ten years for second degree murder. Members of the board questioned Mr. Duncan's interest in the case then took it under consideration for decision in executive session. Horvath shot Louis Fernock, his father-in-law, as the result of a family quarrel and in what he contends was self defense. In asking for a pardon he claims his aged mother needs his support, that he never before was in trouble and that he has learned his lesson. He was sentenced February 24, 1924.

During his term in prison Mr. Duncan said Horvath has studied mining engineering at the college, has passed the state examination for fire boss and has been certified for appointment. The board was told further that W. D. McGinnis, of Connelville, will give Horvath a position if his petition is granted.

Big Business and Politics.

Governor-elect Fisher is appreciative enough to express faith in "the bridge that carried him across." At a dinner spread in his honor at the Union League, Philadelphia, the other evening, he spoke approvingly of the activity of big business in politics. "Business and politics are closely related and big business should get into politics and big politics should get into business." That is precisely what occurred in the May primary election in this State. Big business invested considerably more than \$3,000,000, and as big business in this State is composed of wise men and shrewd calculators, the investment is expected to yield a generous profit.

For example, Mr. Joseph R. Grundy invested about \$400,000 in the nomination of Mr. Fisher. As he said to the Slush Fund committee of the Senate, he expects to get most of this amount back. He was acting, not for himself, but for the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' association with an understanding expressed or implied, that the sum would be apportioned among the members. A moderate tax on manufacturing corporation shares would produce a revenue of \$10,000,000 a year or \$40,000,000 in four years. If it be true, as intimated by Mr. Grundy in his testimony before the Senate committee, that Mr. Fisher as Governor will prevent the levy of that tax, big business made a marvelously profitable investment when it ventured \$400,000 in Mr. Fisher's nomination.

For many years big business has been the most corrupting agency in politics. More than half a century ago the late Jay Gould testified before a Congressional committee that in Republican States he contributed freely to the campaign fund of the Republican party and in Democratic States he gave with equal generosity to the Democratic fund. He had no interest in either party but great concern in the railroads he was manipulating or wrecking. Big business has undergone no change in its purposes. Grundy is now precisely like Jay Gould was in his day and the Mellons, of Pittsburgh, couldn't have been forced into politics with a thousand ton lever if they hadn't been shown that there is profit in it.

—If Mellon and Grundy come to an agreement on the Cabinet it will be comparatively easy for Fisher to make up his mind.

Senator Reed's Absurd Threats.

Senator David A. Reed, of Pittsburgh, is doing his best to acquire the title of clown of Congress. His early and eager offer to support the claims of William S. Vare to a seat in the Senate, palpably obtained by fraud, revealed a low standard of morals. His more recent threat to institute reprisals in the event that Mr. Vare's title is challenged, indicates mental delinquency. Nobody denies that many fraudulent votes were cast in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh for Vare. Even Senator Reed inferentially admits it. But he hopes to frighten away investigation by declaring that if Vare's title is questioned the validity of other Senatorial elections will be attacked.

In an interview given out in Washington, the other day, Senator Reed said: "Let the Democrats beware of the opening of a Pandora's box. Have the Democrats so short memories that they have forgotten how Wagner was elected in New York, how Hawes was elected in Missouri and how Walsh was elected in Massachusetts? Have they forgotten that it was the Tammany-bosses and Tammany-organized vote of greater New York that alone overcame Senator Wadsworth's up-State lead and accomplished his defeat?" No, Senator, the Democrats have not forgotten that or anything else in relation to the recent election. But they know that the vote in New York city was honestly cast and fairly counted and the integrity of the returns has not been disputed by any reliable person.

In the city of New York a considerable portion of the vote is cast by means of voting machines and it is universally admitted that they are incapable of fraudulent registering of the vote or falsely returning it. If there had been a suspicion of fraud in the Tammany-organized vote of New York city the Republicans of that State would have promptly uttered a protest and demanded an investigation. No charge of fraud has come from Massachusetts or Missouri. There are plenty of earnest and capable Republicans in those States to take care of the party interests. The only suspicion of them has evolved in the mind of the gentleman whom the Steel trust catapulted into the Senate.

—The Watchman publishes news when it is news. Read it.

Contest for Speaker Certain.

The growing antipathy to William S. Vare and his methods is revealed in the movement now in process of organization to oppose the re-election of Speaker Bluet, of Philadelphia. It is not alleged that Mr. Bluet is incapable or inefficient, though at the opening of the 1923 session he was charged with an attempt to pack the committee on Law and Order in the interest of the "wets." The reasons for opposing his re-election are that he is a subservient follower of Vare and that his election would give the \$3,000,000 Senator-elect an undue and dangerous influence over legislation. Senator Salus, an equally servile follower of Vare, is slated for the office of president pro tem. of the Senate.

The movement against Bluet was originated in the minds of some of the country members. During the last several sessions a combination of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh representatives grabbed up most of the patronage of the House of Representatives and since W. L. Mellon has taken the place of Max Leslie as manager of "the strip" the menace to rural legislation is multiplied. As a measure of self-protection, therefore, some of the more energetic members set their faces against the re-election of Bluet, and curiously enough some of the Republican papers of Philadelphia have given the movement cordial endorsement. But Vare and Mellon make a formidable force to reckon with.

The office of Speaker is a potent force in the House of Representatives and Mr. Vare will not relinquish the advantage it affords if he can help it. And he can help it unless Governor-elect Fisher intervenes against him. During the first session of the Legislature after his election a Governor can have anything he wants. Every Senator and Representative is "hot foot" after official favors and will go any length to oblige the dispenser of such favors. Firmly as Vare is entrenched, however, it is safe to say that if the Governor-elect expresses sympathy with the let us say insurgents, Bluet will be defeated for Speaker in the event he should be a candidate under those conditions.

—Secretary of the Commonwealth Clyde King is a wise gazabo. He secured a new job and lucrative employment before the marriage of big business and machine politics was announced officially.

Vare Seat Should be Contested.

It would seem to the lay mind that the Democratic leaders in Washington are over cautious in considering the question of entering a contest for the seat in the Senate that will in due time be certified to William S. Vare. The Senators who have been deliberating on the subject say they want to be certain of success before they begin a contest. In the existing state of affairs there is nothing certain in such things. In the Bailey case, in the House of Representatives, facts and law were ignored in the interest of the Republican claimant. But the contest was worth-while just the same.

Possibly it will be impossible to get a verdict in the Senate in favor of a Democratic contestant at a time when it might mean a change in the political complexion of the body. It may be assumed that Mr. Vare is depending upon that critical situation to confirm his title. But if a full exposure of the facts is made it will serve a greater purpose than determining the party majority in the Senate for a brief period. It will not only compel a vast improvement in the electoral methods of the country but it will expose the rotten foundation upon which the Republican organization is built.

The nomination of William S. Vare was procured by the corrupt use of money obtained from illegal sources. His election was accomplished by fraudulent voting and false counting of the ballots. These facts are known to all who have given the subject consideration. Outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh Mr. William B. Wilson had nearly 100,000 majority. The vote in those two cities was corrupt and ought not to be counted. If, in the face of these facts, the Republican majority in the Senate will award the seat to Mr. Vare they assume an obligation to sponsor the party methods which gave him a bogus majority.

—The Agricultural Department at Washington has performed a more or less valuable service in discovering that the light or dark phases of the moon at planting time has no influence on the growth of the crop.

—The proposition to make "Father and Son day" a national holiday is not likely to meet with popular favor. The old man can come across without such ceremony.

A Significant Set of Figures.

From the Pittsburgh Post.

William B. Wilson, in announcing that he contemplates filing with the United States Senate a contest of the reputed election of William S. Vare over him to that body, says that he has run across a set of figures that seem to him "not without significance."

Here are the figures:

I find that there were cast in this year's senatorial election in Pennsylvania 267,000 more votes than were cast in the Reed-Shull senatorial election of 1922. Of that increase of 205,000 votes were officially recorded on November 2 as having been cast for Vare. The bulk of them were recorded in Philadelphia, Allegheny, Luzerne, Lackawanna and Schuylkill counties. Those were five of the twelve counties in the State that Vare carried and the votes of which alone resulted in his being declared victor over me three weeks ago.

There will be general agreement with Mr. Wilson that these figures are not without significance. They suggest much the same thought as the "zero" returns for candidates opposed to the machine. Of course it is recognized that the machine is usually more efficient than the independents in getting its vote registered and to the polls. Some of those who would vote independently if they went to the polls neglect to register. Then there are other Republicans who show disgust with the conduct of their party by not voting at all. Still it seems just as unbelievable as the zero returns that Vare, in view of his general unpopularity, should get the bulk of whatever increase there was in the vote over that of 1922. When it is observed that this reported increase for the machine candidate was almost wholly in the districts under suspicion the significance becomes deeper.

The largeness of the Vare vote and the smallness of that of Wilson in Pittsburgh were a surprise to the machine as well as to independents. It was generally believed that the contest in the county as a whole would be close. This was justified by the returns from the districts outside the city. Practically all of Vare's claimed plurality in the county was given in Pittsburgh. He was credited with about 60,000 in the city to about 20,000 for Wilson. Virtually the only show of sentiment there was in the election campaign in the city was for the candidate of the Democrats and Independents. The machine strength apparently had not been at lower ebb for years. Ministerial and civic bodies had been denouncing the local Republican administration steadily. A number of such organizations in the city endorsed Wilson while not one of them declared for Vare. It is difficult to believe that the best of these forces could do in the city as to produce a vote of but 20,000 whereas a few years ago a Democratic candidate for the mayoralty was given one of around 35,000. Outside the city, as pointed out, the total vote was close; Wilson carried a number of such districts two to one.

Yet the voters of the city, reading the same newspapers as those of the county and hearing the same appeals—and showing the same sentiment generally in their talk as the citizens of the boroughs, townships and third-class cities—were represented in the returns as overwhelmingly of a different mind. While the voters of the rest of the county were shown to be about equally divided between Vare and Wilson (despite that some of their districts had zero boards operating for the machine) those of Pittsburgh were represented as being nearly three to one for Vare. Read that again—Pittsburgh represented as nearly three to one for the Philadelphia machine candidate while practically all the rest of the county was about equally divided in the contest. Let the citizens of Dormont, Mt. Lebanon and other districts that were two-to-one for Wilson reflect upon that representation of Pittsburgh as practically three to one for Vare. What do Pittsburghers themselves think of it?

Hospital Aid.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Dr. Ellen Potter performs a useful service when she draws public attention to the extremely small proportion of total expense the State provides for the so-called "State aid" hospitals.

The whole subject of hospital maintenance is worthy of study. There are those who are beginning to wonder how far the public should be called to contribute to the upkeep of hospitals that charge full commercial rates for a great majority of their patients. There is argument on both sides, to be sure, and there must be provision always for the care of those not able to pay. But whether this share of hospital expense should not be borne entirely from the public purse and the hospital removed from the necessity of begging for public support is a question that many are asking.

At all events, Dr. Potter has given the Legislature something to think about and no doubt the figures she has presented will be of material assistance to the committees in charge when they come to the formulation of biennial budgets.

—Subscribe for the Watchman.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—There are 58 boys and girls being cared for at the New I. O. O. F. home in Mendville, completed recently.

—A gasoline station is to replace an ancient Harrisburg house known a century or more ago as the White Horse Tavern.

—With the death of Russell C. Kaufman, aged 24, at Roaring Springs hospital, on Sunday, the toll of lives lost in the fire which destroyed his farmhouse near Osterburg, Bedford county, October 22, mounted to five. His wife and three children were burned to death when Kaufman tried to start the kitchen fire with kerosene which exploded, igniting the house.

—The home of Chief of Police A. Plummer Black of Fallston, Beaver county, was demolished Sunday night at 9 o'clock when a large truck containing furniture ran wild on the Patterson Heights hill and crashed into the dwelling. Chief Black suffered bruises and lacerations and had a narrow escape from death. The chief's home was damaged to the extent of \$7,500.

—Andrew Stankis and Mrs. Frances Bogansky, a couple from Eckley, a small mining village near Freeland, Luzerne county, broke courtship records last week when they were married at St. Casimir's Roman Catholic church. They were introduced on Sunday, Andrew put the question on Monday, they were granted a marriage license Tuesday, and married on Wednesday.

—When Roger I. Miller, a farmer residing near Bakersville, Somerset county, attempted to drive a number of hogs from his yard, one of the animals turned upon him, knocked him down and tore his throat with its tusks. Mrs. Miller attempted to drive the animal away, but was unable to do so, and before other help arrived he was dead. His widow and three children survive.

—Judge John M. Garman, of the Luzerne county common pleas court, and prominent in Democratic political circles, died on Thanksgiving day at his home in Wilkes-Barre, from heart disease. He was 75 years old. Judge Garman had served three times as Democratic state chairman and was a delegate to four Democratic national conventions. He was known to many as the "dissenting judge" for he had attained a new rung on the ladder of fame by his trenchant dissenting opinions.

—A record of 23 years continuous service during which he was not away from work one or took a single day's vacation was made by Harry H. Black, an oil man of Nineveh, who died Sunday in the Waynesburg hospital. Black was employed as superintendent of production for the South Penn Oil Co. at Nineveh and was a veteran employee. His death followed an operation and his first day away from his work was on the day he was taken to Waynesburg to undergo an operation for appendicitis.

—Charles Sheriff was killed and George Luckenbill, John Stuffs and William Krimer, seriously injured when an explosion occurred at the Eastern steel mill at Pottsville, early Monday morning. The accident occurred in the coal pulverizing plant of the open hearth. Sheriff died almost instantly, while the condition of Luckenbill is such that death is expected. He and the two others are at the Pottsville hospital. The explosion is thought to have been due to an accumulation of dust in the plant.

—Worry over his father's arrest for violation of the automobile laws is believed to have prompted Albert Wimer, aged 16, of Karns City, Butler county, to shoot himself. The boy was found in his home Sunday at midnight by his mother after he had fired a charge of shot through his heart. He died almost instantly. Hugh Wimer, the boy's father, was arrested in Kaylor last week and lodged in the Armstrong county jail at Kittanning on a charge of operating an automobile while intoxicated. Neighbors say the boy was despondent as a result of the imprisonment of his father.

—Percy Allen Rose, of Johnstown, one of the most prominent attorneys of the Cambria county bar and counsel for the defendants in the famous "check-kiting" case before the Federal court in Pittsburgh, has been indicted on a misdemeanor charge by the Somerset county grand jury for passing an alleged worthless check. He will be placed on trial at Somerset on the week of December 6. Rose, it is alleged, issued a check for \$750 payable to "cash" on the Title Trust and Guarantee company, of Johnstown, of which he was formerly president. The check was issued April 24, 1926.

—Desire of Elmer Washburn, aged 17, of Susquehanna county, to learn the machinist's trade, brought a request to the Montour county court, for his transfer from the Montour county jail to the western penitentiary. The petition was presented by the Montour county commissioners. The boy was sentenced from Susquehanna county for murder, but was transferred to Danville about three years ago from the eastern penitentiary when that institution became overcrowded. Since the transfer he has become a member of Trinity Lutheran church at Danville, which is located across the street from the jail.

—Explanations of an estate of \$113,000 earned only \$5,000 in 13 years, have been asked by the Princess of Thurn and Taxis in an action brought against J. V. Thompson, former president of the First National Bank of Uniontown, which was closed in 1915. In 1913, the Princess, through her counsel, Congressman Stephen G. Porter, of Pittsburgh, claims the estate totaled \$113,000. Since only \$5,000 now is available for distribution, according to the answer of J. V. Thompson, trustee of the estate, the Princess demands an accounting. Mr. Thompson contends that he had been given sole charge of the estate with no provisions made for a report to the court.

—John H. Miller, coal, sand and lumber king of Mifflin county, has been notified of a divorce granted to him by the courts at Paris. The petition was filed in April, after a six months' residence. Mr. Miller visited Paris last February on a trip around the world, employed an attorney and his residence began at once. The Millers lived together 40 years before he said his money made his wife and children jealous and envious. Miller says his money never brought him happiness; nothing but worry and misery. He applied for a divorce in the Mifflin county courts December 1, 1925, but withdrew the application February 1, 1926, when he conceived the idea of being the first from Mifflin county to get a divorce in Paris.