Democratic Watchman.

INK SLINGS.

If Santa doesn't come to some little one's home.

And you know he won't be there, Why don't you double for the merry old man

And out of your substance share With the tots in the house by the side

of the road Where plenty is rarely known Where little hearts thrill as visions ap-

pear Of a toy for their very own.

-The one-cent postage stamp may be restored, and that inspires hope for a good five-cent cigar sooner or later.

-The shortest day of the calendar year is past, but the further we progress on the way of life each day seems to be the shortest for us.

-We fear that Gen. Andrews' insistence that dry agents must be dry is going to leave him more short handed in a few years than he claims to be now.

-Here's hoping that the New Year will be the brightest and happiest one you have ever known. Take it from us: It will be so if you but do your share in making it so.

-When Senator-elect Frank L Smith, of Illinois, raps at the door of the Senate for admission he is going is all Philadelphia gets. to start something. They are always starting something in the Senate or the House to keep their minds off the business we send Senators and Congressmen to Washington to transact.

-Brig. Gen. Henry J. Reilly takes a rather gloomy view of conditions in Highways Connell, Secretary of Weltrooping dejectedly across the military scene. The General ought to know. He's in a position to do so, but we're inclined to believe that he's seeing things.

-And now the muck-rakers are trying to connect the name of Raymond Tyrub Cobb, one of the most brilliant performers in base-ball history, with the scandal that expelled eight of the Chicago club's players in 1919. It takes many years to build up an idol, but only a few moments to tear it down again.

-Tomorrow will be Christmas. It is the day apart from all others beof Bethlehem if we but welcome the manger that cradled a King and joy will be yours, as the beautiful sing.

Colfelt's very interesting antobiography, on page three of this issue, reveals that the citizens of Canonsburg electoral laws now, and Pinchot inhim with a gold-headed can



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Kitchen Cabinet in Action.

What may be characterized as the State administration held a prolonged The group consisted of State Chairman W. L. Mellon, Governor-elect, John S. Fisher, Joseph R. Grundy, Colonel Eric Fisher Wood and Senator-elect Vare. The sessions were held in the Bellevue-Stratford and the Union League. Everything of pressing importance with respect to administration purposes and policies was considered and some of the things determined. It was agreed that Mr. Vare shall continue in control of the legislative machinery by re-electing Speaker Bluett and president pro tem Salus. It was also agreed that that tion law."

In the Pinchot administration there are six Philadelphians in the cabinet. These are Attorney General Woodruff, Secretary of the Commonwealth Conorroe, Superintendent of Public In- money to bribe a majority of the struction Hass, Commissioner of our army. He says its a demoralized fare Ellen C. Potter and Insurance group of under-fed and unhappy men Commissioner Barfod. But Mr. Vare seems content to relinquish this advantage to his local organization. His personal elevation to a seat in the "Kitchen Cabinet" and control of the legislative machinery appears to satisfy him. Of course he will have to come to an agreement with Mr. Grundy on labor measures but that will be an easy matter. Each takes a purely selfish view of every subject and neither conscience nor principle will

enter into the equation. But we have searched the reports of these much advertised conferences in vain for an expression of the purposes of the new administration on the subject of ballot reform. The cause it is the natal day of the Christ. statement that Vare shall continue All of our homes can be the little town in control of the legislative machinery invests the subject in a sinister aspect. babe who will be there, with the lamp Mr. Vare is not in favor of ballot reof hope in His hand, waiting for us form legislation and if there is to be to touch it into fullest light with the such legislation during the adminismatch of faith. Make your heart the tration of Governor Fisher it must be enacted during the coming session. The experience of Governor Pinchot -The current installment of Dr. is ample evidence on that subject. If favor. But the imperative thing now he had taken the matter up during the is to amend the law rather than repeal session of 1923 we might have model it. stead of Vare might be Senator-elect.

If Vice President Dawes ever gets on Kitchen Cabinet" of the incoming the right side of any important public question he will be lonesome. His session in Philadelphia last Friday. last venture into the solution of public problems was made at the dinner of the Pennsylvania Society of New York, when he adopted the absurd notions of Senator Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, that State-wide primary pensive. In fact he employed the exact language of Senator Reed who, immediately following the May primary in this State, said "only millionaires or men who have friends willing to spend millions in their behalf are eligible for nomination to office under the existing primary elec-

Dawes Wrong as Usual.

The least complaint that can be offered against the State-wide primary election law is that it is expensive. It costs lucky and prosperous "misfits" like Vare and Reed and Dawes more voters than might be required to bribe a majority of a convention. But if. that sort of aspirants for office have the money let them spend it until such time as legislation can be enacted as will prevent successful investments in that sort of speculative enterprises, If Governor-elect Fisher measures up to the expectations of his real friends that will not be long. If he will demand ballot reform legislation at the coming sessions of the General Assembly he will get it.

There are many reasons in favor of the convention system of making State-wide nominations but the question of cost is not among them. It is true that the cost of nominating candidates under the practice established by special interests to control legislation by that means exclude from competition the fittest men for public service. But under the convention system of nominating the same result would be obtained so that there Doheny help was given to Secretary is nothing gained or lost. The conven- Fall. The business method of transtion system introduces new blood and new men into political activity and possibly gives capability an advantage over stupidity in the contention for

As predicted in this column last From the Pittsburgh Post. week, the jury which heard the evidence in the conspiracy charge against former Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall and Edward L. Doheny, rendered the Scotch verdict. It was not couched in the classic language of the original, which was "guilty but not proven." It was plainelections are bad because they are ex- ly stated "not guilty," but obviously with the mental reservation which conveyed the impression that every man in the jury box believed not only that the accused were guilty but that the guilt was completely proven. If this were the unanimous or even the majority opinion of the jurors it was most cordially concurred in by the

Declared Innocent but Proved Guilty.

practically unanimous voice of the American people who followed the evidence Senator Hefflin, of Alabama, ex-

pressed his indignation at the miscarriage of justice in vehement language. "It is my belief," he said, 'that former Interior Secretary Fall would not have gone to trial unless there had been an arrangement beforehand for either an acquittal or recently tried for conspiracy in New York, "would not have gone into court unless he knew somebody on the jury would hang there until doomsday, or acquit him or make a mistrial." Senator Walsh, of Montana, who developed the conspiracy through the Senate investigation of the oil leases, dofended the sitting judge against the aspersions of the Alabama Senator. It may be assumed that the case against these defendants is closed, and they are decorated with certificates of moral health. But it will be a long

time before a reasoning public will be persuaded that honest transactions between friends are conducted as the check. The carrying of a check from California to New York and converting it into currency and delivering the currency in a black satchel in will remain as long as memory of the out every charge thoroughly, es. Fall and Doheny are

The Fall-Doheny Acquittal.

It can be said that while a jury has acquitted Fall and Doheny in the first of the criminal trials growing out of the oil lease scandal the public is as firmly convinced as ever that there was at least something radically wrong and reprehensible in the case from the standpoint of propriety. Admission of the defendants that Doheny, the oil man, made a loan of \$100,000 to Fall, then Secretary of the interior, at about the time the former obtained through the latter a most valuable lease of Government oil reserve having secured the money from another source. All directly concerned in that \$100,000 transaction between Fall and Doheny so close to that other transaction in which Fall, as Secretary of the Interior, was cheifly instrumental in the granting of the oil lease to the individual he says loaned him the \$100,000, realized that it did not look well. Even though the jury was unable to find a taint of conspiracy in the oil lease affair, nothing, as emphasized, can ever relieve the defendants of the public impression that they committed at least a most grave impropriety and that they realized this fully at that time. Otherwise mistrial." He believed, also, that former Attorney General Daugherty, there would not have been so many conflicting stories at first of where Fall got the money. At the same time it must be said that their story in the trial that they were actuated in the oil transaction by patriotic motives through fear of a war threat from Japan impressed the public much as it did the prosecutors, who pro-nounced it "the bunk." Nobody out-side their little group recalls any sign of trouble from Japan at that time.

The report that the jury itself was at first equally divided, six for a ver-dict of guilty and six for acquittal, and the further consideration that it took nineteen hours of deliberation to change the view of those who saw guilt, testify that the Government made out a pretty strong case. No one wants to persecute the defendants, against whom there remains an inferring funds in large blocks is by dictment on a charge of bribery for check. The carrying of a check from trial, with Fall also facing trials in connection with the Teapot Dome scandal, but the seriousness of a Cab inet Officer's having been involved in acts of a nature to arouse suspicion Washington invests the entire trans- cannot be minimized. The prosecuaction in a cloud of suspicion which tion should go to the end, threshing

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

-William H. Buckries died at Altoona from injuries received when buried by coal after being thrown into the hopper of a car he was unloading.

-DuBois is to abandon its trolley service this evening, December 24. Street car service was established there 35 years ago, but the motor car has made the business unprofitable in recent years.

-Calling back more than 50 skilled workingmen and expecting to employ between 200 and 300 expert steelworkers before spring, the Charleroi Steel and Foundries company, special steel manufacturers, has resumed operations after a long idleness

-J. Brad Keene and his son John are claiming the trapping championship of Crawford county. To date the Keenes have captured 475 muskrats, 9 minks, 2 'coons, 20 skunks and 25 other kinds of furbearing animals. The value of such a catch is over \$1,000 at present prices.

-Since the completion of a new and modern silk mill by the Susquehanna company, the residents of Milton have been handed a \$70,000 Christmas gift in the form of a large building formerly used as a silk plant, but which will now be made suitable for educational purposes.

-Thirty-one State College students continued home for the Christmas vacation early on Saturday after a delay of several hours at Bloomsburg when the bus taklands, brings up that when the story first came up Fall was represented as of Scranton, and two young men needed medical attention for lacerations.

> -Arrested and held for trial on the charge of driving an automobile while intoxicated, Howard Williams, of Altoona, sought to escape the penalty by joining the Army and going off to Panama. When he returned home recently he was arrested on the old bail-piece and on Monday Judge Baldridge sentenced him to pay \$100 fine and costs and to serve 90 days in jail.

> -Harlan Smeltzer, 21, of Ford City, was smothered to death last Friday while at work in a sand bin at Lock No. 5, on the Allegheny river near Freeport. Smeltzer had signalled to workers on a railroad trestle over head to release a car load of sand in the pit. This was done. Later his disappearance was noted and a search disclosed his body under several feet of sand.

-John Kirby, of Lock Haven; Robert Allen, of Lockport, and Ernest Jacobs, of Spring Mills, enlisted in the United States army at the Lock Haven recruiting station on Friday and left immediately for training camp. Kirby and Allen went to camp Meade, Md., to train for service in the tank corps, and Jacobs went to Fort Meyer, Va., to fit himself for the cavalry branch of the army.

-Thomas Dailey, aged 28, night clerk at the Brant hotel in Altoona, is unconscious in the Altoona hospital after he was attacked with a club or blackjack in the basement of the hotel early Monday morning. Two negroes, former hotel employees, were arrested on suspicion. Dailey has not talked since the attack and the motive of the assault and the identity of the assailants is still unsolved.

-Missing since Saturday morning the bodies of Albert Barlush, aged 13, and Paul, aged 9, of Wilkes-Barre, were found in the Susquehanna river Sunday afternoon by pelice. The bays left home to go coasting. Later they ventured out on ic that formed in an eddy at the foot of Saxon street, South Wilkes-Barre, No one saw the accident but police believe their sled broke through the soft spot. -Falling upon the incline leading to the Pennsylvania railroad crossing at Third and Market streets, Sunbury, on Saturday, Steve Yerkes, lay with his head against the rail of the westbound track with a passenger train bearing down upon him. A friend of Yerkes rushed to his aid but as he reached Yerkes' side, the man regained his senses sufficiently to withdraw his head, only an instant before the train passed the spot. -The large home of the late W. F. Lowry, for many years district manager of the American Car & Foundry company. at Berwick, has been presented by his children to the Presbyterian church. The trustees have accepted the gift with thanks. The home is estimated to be worth about \$20,000. In addition to the gift, the children have paid \$6000 as a subscription made to the new church by Mr. Lowry before his death. -John Mock, a farmer residing between Salix and St. Michael, Cambria county, was instantly killed last Thursday night when a carbide lighting system plant of his exploded when he was making repairs. He was badly disfigured by the force of the explosion, his chest and head being badly crushed. It is thought that a carbide lamp which he was carrying came in contact with the contents of a carbide tank causing a terrific explosion. -After writing a note telling his daughters that he had planned many times to leap from a high building, P. A. Kilz, of Erie, on Sunday entered a hotel, took an elevator to the eighth floor and walked out of a window. He landed on the roof of a small building five stories below and was so badly injured that he died on the way to a hospital. An hour before employees of a downtown office building discovered Kilz preparing to jump from an eighth story window. They drew him back and he promised to go home. -Recommended to the extreme mercy of the court when he was convicted of manslaughter in connection with the death of James Caparosi, a school boy, Clarence Patterson, of Hopwood, Fayette county, was ordered to pay the \$600 funeral expen ses of his victim, a fine of \$400 to the county and undergo a special parole for two years. Patterson was riding Caparosi on the handlebars of his motorcycle when the machine, being driven at between 50 and 60 miles an hour crashed into a stationary truck, parked along the road near Hopwood.

when he was only seventeen years of age. Since the eminent divine is spending his golden age in Wolfesagainst any such flights of oratory him with a "scooter."

-The Governor's "Committee of Seventy-six" has made a rather voluminous report of its recommendations for legislation designed to reduce the possibility of fraud in elections to a minimum. Taken as a whole, if enacted, they would have a remedial effect, but separately No. 9, which calls for "an act prescribing jail sentences for election offenses." is the most valuable. It has teeth in it, but they could have been made sharper had the committee added: and jail sentences for judges who are lenient with convicted election crooks and for all others who may attempt to aid them in escape from just punishment.

-The Atlantic City High school has dropped its debating society. What for? We presume it was done in order that the studes could give more time to basket-ball and other winter sports. Statesmen were once made in the debating societies of the public schools, but since we now pay baseball players, prize fighters and tennis pros ten times as much as we ever paid statesmen it is just as well that the statesmen factories be closed. What's the use in wasting money on school taxes to make them when cities like Philadelphia can put a plug hat and a frock coat on a garbage contractor, vote a lot of tombstones and -in twenty-four hours produce a statesmen?

Philadelphia Record's approval of Moreover payments by contributors to Senator Johnson's support of the pri- the agent or by the agent on expense mary law. The Senator and the Rec- account must be made by check, if ord apparently think "the people of over five dollars. the United States will do the just, fair vention will not do that thing." They Act, with the rental of radio faciliare wrong. The people don't know ties added. But paying for the distion. Mostly, they vote for the can- ployment, of watchers and for the boss"-if there be such a one-has are prohibited. These payments are stamp on him and just there lies the as methods of bribing voters. In the failure of the primary. In the old recent Republican primary there were days the "rotten and crooked boss" in some voting districts nearly as wouldn't have dared to ask his party's many "watchers," "disseminators of convention to endorse an unfit candi- information" and "transporters of votdate. Because men always sat in ers" as there were actual voters. All those conventions who knew and had in all the proposed bill has much merparty.

year we will appreciate it very much will not greet you until it comes with burg, Bedford county, we warn him if all our valued correspondents will greetings for the New Year on Janmail their letters to us a day earlier | uary 7. there as we can believe was that when than usual. As it is they reach this he voiced his protest of the sale of office just when we are loaded up with old Jefferson college. Wolfesburg a rush of other matter and our space might out do Canonsburg and present is already crowded so that we can't do justice to both.

Ballot Reform Legislation.

The executive committee of the non-partisan committee of Seventysix, created more than a year ago by Governor Pinchot for the purpose of devising plans to improve our electoral system, has submitted to the Governor its final report. A previous report made a year ago recommended the adoption by the Legislature, then about to assemble in special session, twelve measures, all except one of which were defeated and that one so emasculated as to be worthless. The report now under consideration renews the recommendation with respect to legislation and presents the outline of a bill to limit primary election expenditures to what is considered a

quate Corrupt Practices Act besides imiting payments as stated, requires whom all contributions must be made and all charges paid, and requires full and complete accounting, under oath, of all monies received and paid. Anonymous contributions are forbidden and the violation of the law in any particular disqualifies the candidate from service in the office, even if nominated and elected, in addition -We can't endorse the esteemed to a penalty of fine and imprisonment.

The purposes for which expendiand honest thing in a primary, when tures may be made are the same as a rotten and crooked boss of a con- under the present Corrupt Practices what they are doing in a primary elec- semination of information, the emdidate whom the "rotten and crooked transportation of voters to the polls sent into it with the organization justly condemned by the committee do happen in political life. the courage to expose attempts to it. To give it in full would regiute inaugurate a system of curtailment of thrust unworthy candidates on their more space than is available but every our markets at the expense of her own voter should read it carefully.

-Wishing you a very, very Merry Christmas the "Watchman" force will -With the coming of the new take a rest next week and the paper

Opposition to Bluett May Vanish.

Some of the "rural" members of the House of Representatives in Harris-burg are still "kidding" themselves with a notion that they will be able to prevent the election of Vare's man. Thomas Bluett, to the office of Speaker. Soon after the election one of the leaders of the country bloc entered a protest against the election of Bluett on the ground that it would give Vare complete control of the legislative machinery for the first session under the Fisher administration, and it aroused considerable popular support. But the leaders of the party intervened with the suggestion that the matter be deferred until the Governor's opinion was obtained. The Governor seems to have taken the side of Bluett. The Republican machine will have an overwhelming majority in both branches of the General Assembly when it meets next week, and the lust nominal sum, namely ten cents to each for patronage will be equally strong. out with a claim that it be moved do it better. If the girl had posed as The proposed bill which is offered the House, nearly one-fifth, and eight Vare will have thirty-nine members of as a substitute for the present inade- Senators, nearly one-sixth. He is not a modest man in his demand for favors and it is said is willing to re- authority that the government is not story with unfailing persistence, is each candidate to appoint an agent to linquish all claims to important State offices in consideration of assured control of the legislative machinery. He is probably not enthusiastically in fa- July 1st, 1927, at least, and the comvor of ballot reform and it is suspected that he has considerable interest in legislation on prohibition enforcement, have had representatives over the

and control of the machinery will be quite an advantage to him. But the rural members will be altogether helpless in their purpose to prevent the election of Mr. Bluett un- Kentucky, having been released from less they enlist the Governor-elect in the penitentiary on Presidential patheir enterprise. In fact it is quite role, will now be able to resume his possible that they will withdraw their place as a Republican leader. opposition to his election after they have had a "heart-to-heart" talk with the Governor-elect. Public patronage bound to get the surplus spleen out has a wonderfully fetching influence of his system, but reviving the Jess on the mind of the average Legisla- Smith scandal is a waste of physical tor, rural or urban, and when the diplomatic Fisher and the persuasive Mellon show them that important party interests will be conserved by sion to Congressman Butler's shipthe re-election of Mr. Bluett, their opposition may fade away "like the baseless fabric of a vision." Strange things

-Canada is falling into the protective tariff habit and threatens to people's pocket books.

atter en pronounced innocent but proved guilty.

-In selecting Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, of Harrisburg, for the important, intimate and confidential office of private secretary, Governor-elect Fisher made a particularly happy choice. Mr. Hamilton is an experienced newspaper man and during a long period of service as a legislative correspondent and political writer has acquired an unsurpassed acquaintanceship with the public life and public men of Pennsylvania. This familiarity with the affairs with which he of his official duties will make him a valuable asset to the new administration, while his high character, personal integrity and fidelity to friendship will guarantee to his chief the best service of which he is capable. We congratulate the Governor as well as the recipient of his generous personal favor.

-Following close upon Williamsport's contention, last week, that the benefit of all of them we want to add that the Watchman has it on good even considering the question of movthe government will be in charge until panies who are figuring on bidding for the contract for carrying the mail route and they have signified their intention of using the present fields.

-Ex-Congressman Langley, of

-Senator Hefflin, of Alabama, is as well as mental energy.

-The President's prompt concesbuilding program indicates that he is not married to the economy idea.

----The jury commissioners are now at work filling the jury wheel for 1927. Between six and seven hundred names will be put in.

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

Good Form in Banditry.

From 'he Philadelphia Record. The young bandit who is the latest fen.inine sensation from Texas has aroused interest and something of resentment along newspaper row. Her methods were original, to say the least, and ingenious as well. She gained entrance to the bank's confidential regions by pretending to be a newspaper woman with a story to write, and might she please use one of the bank's typewriters for a little while? The few employees who were

on duty during the noon hour acquiesced with gentlemanly accommodation. They must have been indigwill come in contact in the fulfillment | nant as well as amazed when she pull ed a gun on them, locked them in the vault and casually walked out with a thousand dollars in currency.

Where could the girl have got such scheme, unless at some time in a young but promising career she had served as a reporter and knew just how plausible the story would be? No chivalrous bank gentleman could be expected to find a hidden burglarious motive in so natural a request. That's where the Buda bandit departed from what is known as sporting conduct.

That also is where the fourth esaviation field should be moved from taters righteously crash in with a Bellefonte to that city, DuBois came ringing denunciation, and no one can there. Next we will probably hear a social worker, an applicant for a pofrom Tyrone and Altoona. For the sition, or a paid investigator of any sort, there would be less of injury and surprise in one's reactions. But a reoften compelled to make use of just ing the field from Bellefonte. And such an expedient. Particularly if he is dispatched to some outlying small town and must get his stuff on the wire early, it becomes necessary to corral a typewriter with all speed; and a bank is the one place likely to have a machine that will work.

Out upon the young woman, therefore, who by her unsportsmanlike duplicity casts suspicion upon all newspaper persons in their quest for typewriters! Until this Texas tale is forgotten not one of the fraternity will dare to approach a bank, where the nice shiny machines rest luxuri-ously behind the bars. One and all, beginner and feature writer alike, they will have to depend on the town business merchants, many of whom bought a typewriter in 1892 and are using it yet.

-Owing to the fact that the Dr. Colfelt autobiography was omitted from the Watchman last week because of a press of holiday advertising two installments are published this week. In order to get the continuity of the doctor's life story read the installment on page three first.

-Many of the coal operators in Pennsylvania have gone back to the 1917 scale, but so far the price of coal Mrs. Gaston, the girl's mother, had both has not gone down to where it was hands badly burned in attempting to prior to the recent European flurry. | quench the blaze.

-Ruth Gaston, aged 7, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Gaston of Rochester Mills, five miles south of Punxsutawney, died on Monday morning in the Adrian hospital from burns on the legs, hips, abdomen. back and arms. The girl was in the store of her cousin, Claude Gaston, near her home, Saturday afternoon, when a companion threw gasoline from a can into an open fire. As the companion ran toward the open door to throw the can out the clothing of the Gaston girl was ignited.