

INK SLINGS.

Governor Smith has set up the target in plenty of time for his enemies to get the range.

Well, are you still sticking to that new leaf you turned on January 1, or have you slipped already.

If Col. House can keep quiet under the lashing that Carter Glass is giving him he merits the soubriquet of "the silent Texan."

The city of Philadelphia has collected more than a quarter of million dollars in tolls on the Delaware river bridge and the city never needed money more.

It is gratifying to know that the League of Nations has entered upon the New Year in unimpaired health and strength and machinery in perfect order.

Out of twenty-two news articles on the front page of a leading metropolitan journal, Monday morning, twelve recorded terrible calamities of one sort or another.

Bellefonte has been broadcasting all week and it evidently hasn't been "hot air" that has been pouring into the Mike, for there has been no noticeable change in the temperature.

Congressman La Guardia, of New York, accuses Secretary Mellon of discriminating in favor of Pennsylvania breweries in levying fines. Well, Pennsylvania brewers are helpful in politics.

It is said that the Republican machine will support ballot reform legislation during the present session of the General Assembly. The horse having been stolen there is no further need of locks on the stable door.

We have a suspicion that the family over in Huntingdon whose head writes that they "enjoy the Watchman from the Ink Slings to the market reports, but not its politics," is another monument to our failure as an evangelist in the gospel of Democracy.

Yes, thank you, we saw the new moon over our right shoulder and then slipped on the ice on High street, kissed a concrete pavement with the back of the old bean and had a fleeting glimpse of more stars than we ever knew could be in the firmament. That's the kind of luck seeing the new moon over one's right shoulder brings to this one.

We have read with much pleasure and gratification the installment of Dr. Colfel's autobiography in this issue of the Watchman. It so ably and brilliantly presents thoughts on Prohibition that we have been trying to express for years that we hope all of our readers who have misunderstood our attitude and criticized it will read what one whose motive is beyond question has to say on the subject.

The Governor's parting fling at Vare was to word his certificate of election to the Senate as no other document of that kind in Pennsylvania has ever been written. Instead of using the regular form of saying the candidate "has been duly chosen by the qualified electors," etc., the Governor said "William S. Vare appears to have been chosen." A jolt more or less means little to Bill. He got used to them when he rode an ash cart over the cobble-stones on Philadelphia streets.

Leon Sazie, French writer of considerable note, is out to shatter another treasured bit of history. He claims that French Basques came over here to catch cod-fish long before Columbus ever thought of sheiking the Queen of Spain into hocking her jewels to buy the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria for his globe-trotting expedition. We never knew the Basques were so keen on fish before. We always thought them to be long on sheep. But we get Sazie's idea, because the lure of the tricky trout has led us into so many fool exploratory pilgrimages.

According to the Hon. Carter Glass Col. House was three thousand miles away when the Federal Reserve act was passed. According to the Colonel's memoirs, as amplified by Professor Seymour, of Yale, it was House who not only framed but passed the Act. Glass can't understand how the Colonel could have had anything to do with it when he was so far away. Waiving the possibility of his having done it by absent treatment he might have accomplished the feat like Sampson won the battle of Santiago. You will recall that Sampson was eleven miles away when Schley was sinking Cervera's fleet, yet Sampson claimed he did it.

Again we want to sing a few lines of praise of Bellefonte's volunteer firemen. At seven minutes after four o'clock yesterday morning we sent in an alarm. At twelve minutes after four the Undines were on the scene with a pumper and hose truck. At such an unseasonable hour of a winter morning such speed in responding to a call is out of all reasonable demand of service from a volunteer department, yet it was made and we know it because we timed it. As we said in this column last week everything is relative. At moments of great concern, like those of yesterday were, time seems longer. Often when we are prone to say "it was ages before the firemen got there" in reality it was a miraculously short time. Just as it seemed to us fifteen or twenty minutes and turned out to be but five.

Democratic Watchman

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Investing Money in Politics.

In his message to the Legislature Governor Pinchot said: "For many years the politics of this State has been run as a part of the business of certain great moneyed interests. These interests invest in politics as they do in mills and mines and banks, and for the same purpose, to make money. But instead of property they buy men and votes, favors and legislation. What these interests buy is noninterference, tax exemption, extortionate rates allowed public utilities and other special privileges for themselves at the expense of the people."

For many years the manufacturing corporations of Pennsylvania have been exempt from taxation. When manufacturing was an infant industry the policy was adopted as a means of encouragement to investors in that line. It may have been a wise course to adopt then but has long since exhausted its merit for the reason that the advantage of such helpfulness ceased. The manufacturing corporations became so strong as to dominate the industrial life of the State and oppress rather than promote the common good. It became an evil rather than a helpful influence.

In the recent primary campaign in this State Joseph R. Grundy, president of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' association, contributed \$400,000 to the slush fund of one of the candidates for Governor for the reason, as he stated under oath, that the opposing candidate favored imposing a moderate tax on corporation capital. It has been estimated that such a tax would produce revenue of \$10,000,000 a year, which would have come from the treasuries of the corporations. In four years that would have amounted to \$40,000,000, which Grundy hoped to save.

The expenses of the State government must be paid. It should be the aim of those administering it to make the burden as nearly equal upon the people as possible. The corporation tax would have fallen on people able to pay and might have relieved men and women not so fortunate of that amount of taxation on coal and other necessities of life. But Mr. Grundy had no interest in the other people. His concern was for himself and his associates in the Manufacturers' association and he invested \$400,000 in politics to make a much larger sum.

It may be remarked that Joe Grundy has lost no prestige in politics by the election of John S. Fisher to the office of Governor.

Intervention Openly Avowed.

The reasons which influenced the President's official spokesman to complain against the attitude of the newspapers of the country ten days ago have been revealed. The administration had determined to complete an outrage already begun against the people of Nicaragua and it was hoped an appeal to the patriotism of the press would silence opposition. The first step in the movement aroused considerable protest. It consisted in the dispatch of a force of marines, under pretense of protecting American interests, to support a bogus government which was negotiating with New York capitalists to sell all the railroad property of Nicaragua, presumably for a selfish purpose.

Against this palpable attempt to interfere in the affairs of a weak but friendly nation the newspapers promptly protested and the official spokesman assured them that there would be no real intervention and that the force dispatched was only sufficient to protect the property of American citizens in Nicaragua. Senator Borah, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, after an inquiry into the subject, declared that no property of Americans in Nicaragua is in jeopardy and that the government of Nicaragua, which has been recognized by the Washington administration, was organized and is being fostered by residents of Washington who are not Nicaraguans.

Since the mask of the administration has been cast aside and intervention openly declared. On Friday last several war ships were sent into the waters of Nicaragua and an additional force of marines landed on her soil. The destination of the ships and the orders of their officers are still held as secrets but the purpose to protect the bogus government of Diaz has been practically avowed. If the press will silently assent to the perpetration of this outrage we shall be greatly surprised. It may be said that the President has power to do what he likes with the navy and authority to send the marines anywhere. But a misuse of the power may be rebuked nevertheless.

Congress reassembled on Monday and signs point to an unusually busy and somewhat exciting session.

Governor Pinchot's "Swan Song."

Governor Pinchot's "swan song" is an almost accurate record of his four years in office as Governor, and "then some." It is an arraignment of the corrupt machine which governed the State before his election and aspires to resume control when his term expires. He did most of the things during the period which he promised to do and enjoyed the labor expended. He drove the licensed saloon out of the State and tried to eliminate the bootleggers. He cleaned up the "financial mess" but failed to remove the political rottenness that has been festering for years and is likely to continue so long as rich men are willing to pay corrupt politicians for legislative and administrative favors.

Governor Pinchot's administration of his office deserves approval because of the good he achieved. But if he had directed his energies to an enforcement of all the laws alike he might have accomplished more to merit approval. Four years ago, as at present, the greatest evil in the public life of the Commonwealth was corrupt elections. Mr. Pinchot knew this as well as any other man. But he failed to avail himself of the power he then enjoyed to correct it. He was urged to do so just as he was urged to "build up a personal machine." Properly he refrained from doing one and neglected to do the other though he must have known that if elections were honestly conducted and returned the other evils would correct themselves.

In retiring to private life Governor Pinchot carries with him the bitter and deep-seated hatred of a wide circle of political crooks and professional criminals. But he will be able to bear up against that burden for he enjoys the admiration of many and the respect of more of the opposite element of the people of the State. And both in his successes and failures he points the way to his successor in office to avoid mistakes. If Mr. Fisher earnestly desires ballot reform he will press it on the Legislature at the beginning rather than at the close of his term. He can get anything he wants along that or any other line from the first session of the Legislature after his inauguration.

We have no authority to speak for the President but as a progressive newspaper feel it our duty to say that the "third term" myth has disappeared from view.

Reed's Challenge Accepted.

The promptness with which Senator Caraway, of Arkansas, accepted the challenge of Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, to investigate elections in the South fairly dazed the Pittsburgh "strip" politician. In addressing a group of negroes Senator Reed declared that colored men in the South were unlawfully prevented from voting, and that if Southern Senators voted against the admission of Vare to the seat he bought and paid for there will be reprisals in the form of a Congressional investigation. In reply to this Senator Caraway said: "If that is Senator Reed's purpose I must serve notice on him that he must get ready to do what he wants to with the South because we are not going to ratify that sort of a bargain."

For many years Republican leaders in Congress have been employing this or similar threats to perpetrate civic and political outrages and it is refreshing to feel that the southern Senators have determined to resist it. Frequently the threat has taken the form of a movement to apportion representation in Congress upon votes cast rather than population. Since it was discovered that a greater number neglect to vote in the North than in the South that threat has been abandoned and now Senator Reed has dug up and offered as a substitute the statement made to an audience of colored men, no better informed than himself, that colored voters in the South are frightened out of the franchise.

In Pennsylvania, at the recent election, though the Republican organization expended nearly half a million dollars in the work of creating interest in the contest less than fifty per cent of the qualified voters cast their votes. On the Democratic side hopelessness made voters indifferent. The Mellon family had assumed charge of the campaign, which was interpreted to mean the election was to be bought, and yet only a fraction of voters went to the polls. There may have been a light vote cast in some parts of the South, too, but the ratio of delinquents was no greater anywhere than in Pennsylvania outside "the neck" and "the strip."

They're going to have harmony in the base-ball world even if it be necessary to destroy the reputation of every popular player.

Mr. Wilson Appeals to the Senate.

During the recent Senatorial campaign William B. Wilson, Democratic nominee, declared that if the signs indicated that he were defeated by fraud he would take an appeal to the Senate. Aside from the abominable bribery and corruption in the primary campaign there has been revealed all forms of corruption at the general election in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Schuylkill and Lackawanna counties. In Philadelphia it has been shown that more than 300 fraudulent votes were cast in one precinct and there are in the neighborhood of 1500 precincts in the city. In Pittsburgh the corrupt area is smaller but the ratio of evil as great. In the smaller counties a considerable number of frauds were committed.

On Saturday last, in Washington, Mr. Wilson fulfilled his promise to appeal to the Senate. In his petition he alleges his belief that he received a majority of the legal votes cast. That he carried fifty-five of the sixty-seven counties of the State and that outside of Philadelphia he carried the State by 59,392, and that if the votes cast for him in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh had been counted and only legal votes cast for Mr. Vare had been counted, the returns would have shown a majority for him and he would have been entitled to the certificate of election. The petition was presented by Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, Democratic leader of the Senate, and is supported by every Democrat in the body.

This action was supplemented on Monday by a resolution to impound the ballot boxes, "ballot return sheets, voters' check lists, tally sheets, registration lists and other records, books and documents," by the Slush Fund committee of which Senator Reed, of Missouri, is chairman. Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, who appears to be attorney for Vare, professed to be entirely satisfied with the trend of events but is nevertheless trying to commit the investigation to the Senate Committee on Elections. The seating of Wilson would convert the Senate into a Democratic body and partisan feeling might influence action in that committee while it is certain no such thing is likely in the special committee.

The Democrats in Congress will resume the effort for tax reduction next week. The Republicans of the Committee on Ways and Means imagined they had bottled this question for the session but they will be wakened from their sleep.

Editor Dorworth Likely to Get Juicy Plum in the Fisher Administration.

We know that Governor-elect John S. Fisher has Charles E. Dorworth, editor of the Republican, in mind for a place in his administration.

Just what the position is to be we are not prepared to say. Political gossip on the street here, on Wednesday, connected Mr. Dorworth's name with the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth. That would be a position most anyone would feel honored to have. It carries a salary of \$8,000 a year and is an important post in the State government.

Early last fall we stated that Mr. Dorworth had his eye on a membership on the Public Service Commission. That job doesn't afford quite the same opportunity of being in the lime light as that of Secretary of the Commonwealth, but it carries a salary of \$10,000 a year and is for a longer term.

As to whether Mr. Dorworth will land either of these positions we know not. However, it is reasonably certain that some nice plum is to fall into his lap and it will be deserved. He has long been a personal friend of the incoming Governor, was an ardent supporter of his short candidacy for the office five years ago and managed his campaign in this county very successfully last fall.

Color is given to the probability that brother Dorworth is already "sitting pretty" by another rumor to the effect that he has taken up negotiations with a former Bellefonte newspaper man with a view to having him return to assist in the publishing of his paper.

Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, welcomes the investigation of the recent election about as the victim of an execution welcomes the electrician who starts the machinery.

Senator Gould, of Maine, practically "owns the soft impeachment" but protests it was his partners in the enterprise who paid the \$100,000 bribe to the Canadian official.

Mr. Mellon protests that he is no party boss. He prefers the title of "benevolent director" with power to order everybody around.

The Wilson Petition.

From the Philadelphia Record. "The Record," a Democratic newspaper and an ardent advocate of the election of Ex-Secretary of Labor Wilson to the United States Senate, in November last, has never claimed that William S. Vare, certified to have been elected by a plurality of 173,507 votes, won his credentials by fraud. That claim is now formally made, however, by Mr. Wilson in a petition to the Senate which is bound to precipitate a searching investigation into Pennsylvania election methods.

Congressman Vare's friends profess to welcome such an investigation. Certainly it will be welcomed by all honest citizens of this State, who, witnessing year after year the debauching of our elections on a wholesale scale, have found existing laws inadequate and the Courts powerless or unwilling to defend their rights and safeguard the ballot-boxes.

Mr. Wilson in his petition cites facts that are matters of common knowledge in Pennsylvania and which, we have reason to believe, are susceptible of legal proof under the probe of a Senate committee. Our registration lists are padded with the names of persons not resident in the divisions where they are voted of minors, unaturalized aliens and the deceased, and of phantoms. Our election boards in many divisions are all members of one party, and, operating in the absence of watchers, or in the presence only of watchers of their own party, as corrupt as themselves, they do what they will with the returns. Such majorities as were turned in for Vare in one-third of Philadelphia's most populous election districts, indicating in uncanny unanimity of opinion on the part of the voters, are inconsistent with known probabilities. Even assuming that all the voters in our zero divisions and nearly all the voters in the near-zero divisions wished to mark their ballots for Vare, a considerable percentage of them would be unable correctly to do so. The fact doubtless is that thousands of them were spared the trouble of puzzling over our complicated ballot. The ballots were marked for them or not marked at all. When a gang election board does the counting what difference does it make how the ballots were marked?

William B. Wilson is officially credited with a plurality of the votes in 55 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. He was defeated by the vote of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and a few other centers of notorious political corruption. It may be that he was cheated out of more than 173,507 votes all told. It may be that in wards so obviously and vilely tainted with fraud that nobody can tell what the genuine figures should have been the Senate Committee on Elections will find it necessary to throw out the entire return as null and void. Where Vare will stand if from his total are subtracted the votes not actually cast for him, or illegally cast for him, and if Wilson is given the votes properly marked for him by Democratic and independent voters, no one can foretell.

William B. Wilson owed it to his supporters and to the State to file the petition presented to the Senate yesterday. Whether he shall be seated or not, the revelations that will follow should have a wholesome effect. "The Record" congratulates him.

Turn on the Light.

From the Pittsburgh Post.

It may be that the American State Department is pursuing the only course open to it in dealing with Nicaragua, but the public cannot determine this without the facts, and these the authorities at Washington seem not yet to have furnished in the full and connected manner necessary to enlightenment. In this the State Department injures itself. It leaves the way open to the breeding of suspicion that might not otherwise arise. Instead of taking the public fully into its confidence and thereby holding discussion to the conditions, it permits confusion due to the spreading of rumors and conflicting reports.

At first the impression was given that American marines were landed in Nicaragua simply to protect American citizens. If it could be shown that that was all there was to it, the Department, of course, would have been performing its duty. Next came the story that we had acted in accordance with the Monroe Doctrine. Great Britain and Italy were afraid that their interests in Nicaragua would suffer by the revolutionary troubles in the little country. Since we do not allow powers on the other hemisphere to send war-like expeditions to this side, we may be forced to do some policing in Central and South America. Little as we may wish that we may have to do it on occasion to be consistent. But reports also persist that we are, in fact, intervening in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua through bolstering a conservative government against an attempt to establish a liberal one. Meanwhile there are other impressions sought to be given that our military forces are being used in a way to serve private American business interests.

Senator Pepper is a great linguist. He maintains silence on the Vare troubles in about forty-seven languages.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Jacob Whittenight a Nescopeck farmer, ended his life with a shotgun.

Thiel College, at Greenville, was given \$10,000 in the will of Charles W. Wattles.

The Hanover & McSherrytown Water Company has been sold to the North American Water Works Association of New York.

Andrew Ebricht, for 30 years driver and chauffeur for the Rescue Fire Company, at Lebanon, dropped dead while out for a walk.

Overcome by heat and smoke, when the home of his parents, near Canoe Creek, was destroyed by fire, Sunday night, William Douglass, Jr., 8, died of suffocation.

The annual report of the Milfin County Fair association, just issued, shows a balance of \$4102.51 in the treasury. This is the first time in the history of the association that it has not been in debt and the stock never has paid a dividend.

Results of surveys during the summer of 1926 indicate that white pine blister rust, a disease which is extremely destructive to young, white, 5-needled pines, is still of comparatively rare occurrence in Pennsylvania outside of Wayne county.

William Lysinger, aged 82, died at his home in Bedford as a result of blood poisoning which followed an operation performed in Cumberland, Md., for the removal of a needle from his side. How the needle got into his body could not be explained. His wife and one daughter survive.

Kenneth Keller, an Altoona orchestra leader, on Thursday was sentenced to eight months in jail and fined \$100 by Judge Baldrige, on charges of involuntary manslaughter, driving an automobile while intoxicated and falling to give assistance. On October 17 he ran down and killed George W. Spotts, a street sweeper, in Altoona.

Rufus Lowe, who one month ago celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary is dead at his home in York, Pa. In an interview on his recent birthday he said that he believed his "first 100 years of life were the easiest." He was York's oldest citizen. Death was caused by a complication of ailments which developed from a fractured hip.

Charles Letheliser, brakeman, of Harrisburg, was killed and P. R. Eisman, brakeman, and George W. Zellers, conductor, both of Harrisburg, were injured when a west-bound Pennsylvania freight train was wrecked near Huntingdon early last Friday. Thirteen cars were piled up, blocking the tracks for about five hours. The train had a helper engine pushing it, and is said to have bucked when the front locomotive stopped suddenly.

For transforming a house cat into a flaming torch, William Schull, aged 17, of South Union township, Fayette county, was committed to the Fayette county jail, last Friday, on the charge of cruelty to animals. Schull is alleged to have saturated the cat with gasoline and to have applied a match. Burns and other buildings in the vicinity were threatened with destruction by the agonized cat, which ran wildly about the neighborhood.

While 200 members of the Kiwanis Club of Pittsburgh waited in the Fort Pitt Hotel at noon last Thursday to greet him as their new president, Charles A. Wilson, a well-known real estate man, was lying dead on the floor of the garage at the rear of his home. His wife found his body at 4:30 o'clock. Death was ascribed to carbon monoxide poisoning. The open hood and tools scattered about indicated that Mr. Wilson had been working on his automobile.

Charles Gibson, 19-year-old bank clerk at the First National bank, of York, Pa., who was found guilty by a jury of embezzling more than \$14,000 from the institution, on Saturday was sentenced by Judge Niles to the Pennsylvania Industrial School for Boys at Huntingdon, to be dealt with according to law. Attorney Harvey A. Gross, counsel for the defendant in making a plea for his client said, "He was too young—not mature—for such a responsible position. He had the mental capacity to do the work but not the mental firmness to resist temptation."

When constables appeared at the home of his alleged sweetheart in Oil City, on Monday, to make an arrest on a charge of passing worthless checks, Earl S. Lotz, of Altoona, asked for a moment in which to pack his suitcase, walked upstairs and fired a bullet through his right temple which brought instant death. Lotz had been employed in Oil City for the past two years, leaving there shortly before Christmas, and returning to that place on Monday. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Lotz, of Altoona. He was married and leaves a wife and young daughter living in Altoona.

The two unmasked bandits who stole \$1,300 at the point of guns from the Elysburg bank Monday evening of last week, were evidently from Ohio, the police decided when the outlaws abandoned car was found two miles west of Mt. Carmel, hidden by bushes, thirty yards from the main Natalie road. Three Ohio license plates were under the back seat, evidently removed from the car when the stolen tags of Harry Neese, of Millheim, were substituted, while cigarette stubs, cigar stumps and a package of summer sausage and buns indicated the men had lived in the car a few days.

Plans to resume examination of highway water supplies next summer were announced today by the State Department of Health. The plans call for tests along approximately 1,000 miles of highways including the Roosevelt highway and the new road constructed between Greensburg and Warren. Last year two field laboratories covered approximately 2,700 miles making tests of these sources of water supplies and this year a third laboratory will be placed in use to speed up the work. After the tests are made the department posts the wells or springs showing whether or not they are contaminated.

"Old Club Foot," a huge black bear that had been sought by hunters in vain for some years, is dead. The bear which appeared to have a charmed life, was found by game warden Ed Carpenter near Lead Run, Columbia county, the carcass having been partly eaten by wildcats and other flesh-eating animals. "Old Club Foot" got his name from a limp with the right front foot, believed to have been caught once in a trap. He weighed well over 500 pounds and had eluded hunters by the score, while several dozen bear dogs had been killed by him. Whether he died of wounds or old age will never be known.