

INK SLINGS.

—Having had seven weeks of solid winter weather the usual January thaw is on.

—Governor Pinchot is gone, but leave it to him to see to it that he is not forgotten.

—The hand-picked plums being all off the Fisher tree, so far as Centre county is concerned, the rest of the lovers of political fruit will have to be content with wind-falls.

—It seems that every "gold digger" who has failed to strike "pay dirt" anywhere else recalls that poor Ed Browning had done something to her at one time or another for which she forgot to collect at the time.

—William Feather says "Many small profits are usually better and surer than one big one" and that reminds us of a very wise remark that a successful banker once made to us when he said: One never gets poor taking profits."

—The Senate is on record as against the President's opposition to enlarging the navy and the House rejects a proposed cut in the army. All of which might have no significance, whatever, and then, again, it might mean a frost for that budding third term hope.

—As for us we're utterly devoid of sympathy for Charlie Chaplin. He probably isn't as black as his wife paints him, but when men as old as he and "Bunny" Browning go chasing fifteen year old girls, no matter what the girls may be, we suspicion that they are of very low moral fibre.

—My how times have changed. It seems only a few years ago that anyone caught in a Ford car thought it his duty to apologize for being seen in such a vehicle and Ford dealers were few and likewise apologetic. Now, we notice, that obituary writers are paying special tribute to the memory of departed ones who were pioneer agents of the fliv.

—If we were giving prizes for the best bits of repartee we hear last week's would go to William H. Noll, Pleasant Gap merchant and former unusual Commissioner of Centre county. He was sitting in this office when a subscriber dropped in to pay up for another—rare performance indeed in these prosperous (?) Coolidge days. The gentleman who wanted to give us an iron man and a half remarked that it might be either a "subscription" or a "prescription." And Bill came back with: "Well if it's a Republican you're subscribing for it certainly is a "prescription." He must have read our quotation of last week as to what the Republican friend in Huntingdon said about the Watchman's politics.

—Having had a very friendly and cordial relationship with him as a young man and a real respect for his later ability as a lawyer and judge it is quite natural that we should be pleased with Governor Fisher's selection of Thomas J. Baldrige, of Hollidaysburg, as the Attorney General of his administration. Tom will be a credit to the State, legally, socially and sartorially. We know his taste in vestments is conservative but costly, for in the early nineties we started contributing to them because in those days his alma mater, Bucknell, occasionally put the cleaner on State's football teams and that always meant that the other fellow wore the new winter suit we had intended to strut in.

—It is needless to say that we have no regret at the departure of Dr. Ellen Potter as head of the Welfare Department of the State. She was one of the kind who thinks small town hospitals should be equipped and manned as are the great institutions in the larger cities without a thought of the relative ability of communities to support such institutions. It is our idea that a people ought to be asked to do what they can do and not what someone who knows nothing of their ability says they "must do." And we once had the pleasure of telling Dr. Potter that. We trust that Mrs. E. S. McCauley, who succeeds to the office of Secretary of Welfare, will understand that the problems of the country and city hospitals are ones that can never be worked out by the same rules.

—The fact that Bro. Dorworth landed as a Mr. Secretary indicates that Dick Beamish, a Pinchot appointee to the Public Service Commission, will be ratified by the Senate. The Philadelphia Inquirer, on the staff of which Beamish has been a distinguished member, wobbled a lot during the Pinchot regime. We don't know whether it wanted to go over to Gif. or was just "stringin'" him, but he named Beamish for a position on the Commission and the political dope was that the new Senate would not confirm the nomination. The Elverson interests in Pennsylvania politics are to be reckoned with, however, and it is evident that Mr. Mellen thought it good strategy to let Beamish pass. His confirmation will put two newspaper men on the Commission and a third would have been overloading a semi-legal body with mere pencil pushers so that is pretty nearly the reason that Centre county is happy over her political renaissance. We can boast now of a Mr. Secretary, a Cabinet officer. There would have been more money and a longer term in a membership on the Public Service Commission—and Brother Dorworth might have preferred that—but who ever heard of a community getting "cocky" over a mere membership on a commission?

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 72. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 21, 1927. NO. 3.

Business in Politics.

Every move on the political chess board since the close of the polls on the evening of November 2, 1926, corroborates the statement made by Governor Pinchot in his annual message to the Legislature. He said that monied interests invest in politics to make money through tax exemption, extortionate rates of public utilities and other special privileges. Mr. Joseph R. Grundy contributed \$400,000 to the slush fund used in the primary election for the purpose of securing exemption from a tax on manufacturing corporations, and he has been rewarded in the organization of the Legislature by a personnel which guarantees that result. The same organization defeated the same tax legislation two years ago.

But this year Mr. Grundy is not satisfied with control of the Legislature. He aspired to name the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Secretary of Labor and Industry. What his reasons for controlling the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth are is left to conjecture. Possibly it is because that office is close to the Governor. But the reasons for his desire to control the Department of Labor are plain. That office comes close to the interests of manufacturers. A strict enforcement of the laws governing the relations between manufacturers and their employees might entail considerable expense to factory owners. Mr. Grundy is a vigilant trustee of manufacturers' interests. There were other "big interests" concerned in the slush fund but the Mellons are interested only in financial operations, and the fiscal activities of the State are divorced from the administration of the Governor. It may be assumed, however, that the Mellon hand is ready to take hold of the lever in any or all the departments in the event there are signs of wabbling. It may be predicted that Governor Fisher, himself, will try to administer his office in the interest of the people but an administration which is so completely submerged in business and corporation politics as that now entering upon its tenure will have a difficult if not impossible task before it.

—On Sunday evening in Philadelphia the Jews of that city gave nine-hundred thousand dollars for charity in an hour's time, which would seem to substantiate a claim that they are as great at giving as they are at getting.

The Governor's Certificate.

Governor Pinchot threw a large assortment of confusion into the Vare organization the other day when he certified to the apparent election of Mr. Vare to the Senate. The laws of Pennsylvania and the rules of the United States Senate require that as soon as the votes are counted and filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of a State in the election of a Senator the Governor shall transmit a certificate to the Secretary of the Senate. The law prescribes no form and the Senate form is optional. It has been the custom to simply declare that the candidate having received a majority of the votes cast was duly elected. Governor Pinchot didn't follow that form.

On the contrary he informed the official custodian of the Senate roster that the votes as computed "appeared" to have chosen Mr. Vare and in a side letter to the Vice President he said that Mr. Vare's majority "was partly stolen and partly bought." Naturally the friends of the candidate put up a roar. Senator Dave Reed declared that Governor Fisher would issue a certificate after his inauguration and Harry Mackey proposed a mandamus on Governor Pinchot to compel him to sign the sort of certificate he desired. Investigation revealed the fact that the Governor was clearly within his rights and the only remedy was to "grin and bear it." Meantime the Governor is loaded for future action.

At first view it would seem that the form of certificate is of little consequence. If there were nothing else to trouble Mr. Vare concerning his qualifications for the office he might pay no attention to the Governor's certificate. But the Governor knew what he was doing and men of wide information on such subjects express the opinion that the certificate creates an important bar to Mr. Vare's admission to the Senate. The New York Evening World declares "Never has any man appeared to take the oath under such conditions. To seat this man under these conditions would be to make the Senate itself a stench in the nostrils of the people." All newspaper comment is on the same line.

—Governor Fisher has made a tolerably clean sweep of the higher offices but it is not certain that he will carry the policy down the line.

Mr. Vare Makes a Silly Bluff.

Mr. Vare makes an absurd appeal to public credulity in asking that ballot boxes be impounded in 139 rural election districts in Pennsylvania. He states that he only received 400 votes in these districts, less than four votes to the district, and that the same methods must have been practiced there as in the zero districts of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Of course he knows that votes in the rural districts were honestly cast and counted. The rank and file of the Republican party in the rural districts are honest. The election officers of his party probably voted for him, which gave him at least two or three votes to the district and possibly the party committeemen made up the average.

In the primary election in May Mr. Vare carried only two counties in the State, Philadelphia and Dauphin. In Dauphin county he was carried along by the Beidleman-Baker machine, and though every effort was made to give him the full vote of the organization he fell some four or five thousand behind his running mate. The denunciation of him by the leading men of his party, notably by W. L. Mellon, Senator Dave Reed and others, so completely alienated the honest voters of his party that even party prejudice, which is sometimes strong in the rural districts, could not hold them to his support. Moreover the high character of his antagonist influenced thousands of voters to "cut" Mr. Vare.

Still Mr. Vare is entitled to his little bluff. He may make himself believe that he was wronged in the votes of the 139 country districts for which he has asked that the ballot boxes be impounded, and if the investigation had been made by a partisan committee it might have created an excuse for a decision in his favor. But fortunately the Slush Fund committee which is making the investigation is sufficiently sophisticated to see through such shallow gestures. The zero votes in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh were the result of fraudulent manipulation and as such should be condemned by all the means possible. The small votes for Vare in the country were expressions of opposition to his methods.

—If Vare isn't seated—and it is looking more and more each day as if the Senate will finally reject him—whom do you suppose Governor Fisher will appoint to the vacancy? There is a political problem that those outside the breast-works think little of, yet we'll bet that those on the inside have solved already. In fact, if the truth could be dragged out, it would reveal that there will be great disappointment in certain quarters if the Philadelphia boss happens to pry himself into the Senate.

Red Herring Across the Trail.

Senator Wheeler, of Montana, correctly appraised the statement of Secretary of State Kellogg with respect to the Nicaragua affair when he said it "was drawing a red herring across the trail." The Secretary of State professes to believe that the Soviets and Communists of Russia and all the rest of the world are in conspiracy to get control of the government of the United States, and that Nicaragua has been chosen as the theatre of operations. The Secretary seems to have impressed some of the Senators and Representatives in Congress with his statement. But the best minds were not influenced by a tale which is not only impossible but preposterous.

The plain facts are that the government of the United States has recognized a government in Nicaragua which was created by fraud and is maintained by force supplied by the administration at Washington. The main difference between the factions in Nicaragua is that the Diaz faction wants to concede control of the banks and railroads, owned by the government, to Wall Street, and the other faction wants to retain control in the hands of the people. It is not altogether surprising that a Republican administration in this country should sympathize with the interests of Wall Street, but it is astonishing that it should so openly assert its sympathies.

Another curious thing about the controversy is that Mexico should be so suddenly brought into it. The fight between the factions in Nicaragua has been going on many years. Mexico is a neighbor and the two peoples have interests in common. But during all the years it has never been charged that Mexico was supplying either faction with moral or material support. The administration at Washington has recently made the discovery. A recent change in the land laws of Mexico threatens to interfere with certain Mexican oil concessions and a war that involved both Nicaragua and Mexico would serve "to kill two birds with one stone." The condition might supply a

Vare Exposing His Attitude.

The insincerity of Mr. Vare's promise to aid in the investigation of the Philadelphia election is revealed in the first start on Monday to prevent the impounding of the ballot boxes. When Senator Reed, of Missouri, chairman of the Slush Fund committee, proposed to impound the boxes with a view to having the votes fairly counted Mr. Vare promptly expressed willingness to assist in the work. But when the court proceedings necessary to accomplish the result were begun one of the Vare lawyers interposed an objection and when overruled by the common pleas court, he took an appeal which it is hoped will hold the matter up until after the adjournment of the Senate.

Mr. Vare knows that a count of the ballots in the twenty wards that gave him most of his majority would elect William B. Wilson and thus prove what Governor Pinchot wrote to the Vice President that the Vare majority was "partly bought and partly stolen." In other words enough votes were taken from Wilson in computing the result and fraudulently added to Vare to give Wilson a majority in the State. He came to Philadelphia with a majority of about fifty thousand and a fair count in the city would have put him in the lead. Mr. Vare rightly believes that the recount of the votes under the auspices of the Senate Committee will reveal the facts.

In support of this movement to prevent the removal of the ballot boxes in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate Mr. Vare's attorney quoted a law to the effect that "the ballot boxes can only be taken and opened after the Mayor and Prothonotary had been called upon by some court or other tribunal authorized to try the merits of an election." The Senate committee, he said, is not such a tribunal. Former Judge James Gay Gordon, Sr., pointed to the absurdity of the whole proceeding because the election officer whose name was used had no interest in the matter and therefore had no standing in the proceedings. Judge Davis concurred in Judge Gordon's view and dismissed the petition.

—The Canadian boy who won \$25,000 in the Catalina swimming race may understand the purpose of it but it is doubtful if any one else has an idea on the subject.

Council Has Bought a Snow Scraper.

The purchase by Bellefonte council of a snow scraper for the streets at a cost of twenty-two hundred dollars has set up quite a disputation among the tax payers as to the need of such a machine.

It is quite within the range of experience to say that the number of times a winter that such a machine could be useful would not exceed four or five. In addition to its initial cost must be added the cost of removing the snow from the gutters and curbs after it has been banked up there by the scraper. For several years the borough has been doing this on the most used thoroughfares, but it will be found that every section of town will be calling for the scraper and then demanding that the snow it piles up be carted away.

Whether it was needed or not it seems to us that council would have rendered the borough a far better service had it saved that twenty-two hundred dollars for a starter on increasing the storage capacity of the reservoir. There is a project that is both needful and economical. If the reservoir were large enough to impound enough water for a larger part of the day's consumption more pumping could be done at night, when the kilowatt hour rate for electricity is lowest, and less pumping would be necessary in day time when the rate is highest.

All will agree that we need more water storage. Many are convinced that we didn't need a snow scraper.

—Now that the borough has bought a new snow scraper it will be just like old mother nature not to send us enough snow to give the contraption a chance to show its stuff.

—Vare didn't get much in the Fisher lottery but he won't need much in the future. When the Senate committee gets through with him he will retire to private life.

—It has been ascertained that there are more boy than girl babies born in the United States but more girls survive the early period of babyhood.

—Harry Baker's presence on the Senate desk is about the only proof left that there was once an important faction other than that dominant.

Brother Dorworth Landed His Plan.

It was not Secretary of Agriculture nor was it a place on the Public Service Commission that fell into the lap of Charles E. Dorworth, editor of the Bellefonte Republican, when Governor Fisher announced his appointments on Sunday evening.

It was, however, the very desirable job of being Secretary of Forests and Waters of the State for the next four years. The position is one that was dignified to the rank of a Cabinet office by the reconstruction of governmental departments by Governor Pinchot. It carries a salary of \$8,000 per year and its importance is heightened just now by reason of the fifty million loan project for the acquisition of more forest lands in the State for forestry and preserves.

Mr. Dorworth was chairman of the commission on forests and water under the Sproul administration so will not be a stranger to the duties he will assume. In fact it has been stated that he has made a very extensive study of the forests and waters of the State.

The appointment is said to have been a personal one with the Governor as he and Mr. Dorworth have been friends ever since the latter was a political writer on the Philadelphia Press and the Pittsburgh Times. We think it was while on the Press that Mr. Dorworth toured the State with the late John Wanamaker in his memorable campaign against Quay.

The triumph of Mr. Dorworth necessarily brought about the disappointment of three other Centre county applicants for important State offices.

Col. W. F. Reynolds was an applicant for the position of Secretary of Highways.

Prof. R. G. Bressler, of State College, was an applicant for the post of Secretary of Agriculture.

Maj. H. Laird Curtin was an applicant for the position that Mr. Dorworth landed in. He was endorsed by the Pennsylvania Forest Products Manufacturers Assn., and the State Threshermen and Mill Men went along on the endorsement. He did not know at the time that Mr. Dorworth was after the job. In fact the latter wasn't after any special place after he discovered that his hope to get on the Public Service Commission was futile.

As we have said, Gov. Fisher had him in mind as a long time friend and the Forest and Water berth seemed the suitable place.

This, of course, made it impossible for the Governor to do anything more for Centre county, by way of important positions and Col. Reynolds and Prof. Bressler and Major Curtin know enough about politics to understand that the political lightning only hits one tree in a section.

Senator Scott on Ten Committees.

The organization of the Senate announcement of committee assignments reveals that the Hon. Harry B. Scott, Senator for our District, has been given ten committee assignments as well as chairmanship of the important committee on Public Grounds and Buildings.

Senator Scott is on appropriations, banks and building and loan associations, education, forestry, game and fisheries, insurance, mines and mining, public roads and highways and railroads.

As his assignments are to the most important committees of the Senate the honor is rather unusual for one entering upon his first session in that body.

Fifteen of the forty-eight Senators received no committee chairmanship.

—When paying your income tax keep in mind the fact that you are paying more than necessary in order that there will be a surplus to boast of during the next campaign.

Our English Critics.

From the Boston Transcript.

Objection to the action of the United States in protecting in Nicaragua American life and property—or, if they please, American interests—comes with very poor grace from the English newspapers. These papers are published under a government which has never hesitated to interfere to its own advantage in the internal quarrels of countless weaker nations. It is the immemorial policy of the British Government to stimulate factional outbreaks in countries which it would like to "protect," and then, choosing the contestant in the case who is willing to accept its protection, to interfere in his behalf and take charge of affairs. By what other means are the British in India, in Egypt, in Arabia, in Zanzibar, in Trans-Jordan, in Fiji, in numerous other countries that now acknowledge their sway? In reality, Britain has a Monroe Doctrine which applies to every weak, distant nation in the world where British interests can be cultivated.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The last official act of Governor Pinchot was to accept an invitation of the Wisconsin legislature to address that body on conservation any time this winter.

—Two armed bandits held up Morris Baker, proprietor of a saloon in Erie, on Saturday, and robbed him of \$1500 in cash and a ring valued at \$500. They overlooked \$5,000 he was carrying in one of his pockets.

—While William C. Redmond was driving his automobile to a creamery at Sunbury, York county, he was overcome by a heart attack, stopped his car and died. Charles Ademire, a boy, who was in the car, did not realize what had happened. He shook Redmond, and when the man failed to revive he called for aid.

—The only divorce granted by the Mifflin county courts during the January term was that of William A. McNitt, one of the poor directors of Mifflin county, a farmer during his entire life time who took a second venture on the matrimonial sea. One of his chief objections to wife No. 2 was that she took treatments from the "rubbin'" doctors or osteopaths.

—Sunbury police are looking for a trim and attractive blonde of 25, who wore a fur coat, approached merchants in that city and asked to have checks cashed, after buying a small quantity of merchandise. In five instances she gave her name as Mrs. James H. Dean, and pocketed the change. All checks were for \$50, and were made payable to her by James H. Dean.

—Suit for \$25,000 damages, charging false arrest and imprisonment, has been filed in Erie county against George D. Baldwin, Erie realtor and building contractor, by John Garanes, former restaurant owner. Garanes alleges he was arrested on complaint of Baldwin on a charge of larceny but that the latter was unable to prove the charge at the hearing.

—Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the piling department of the Logan Iron and Steel Company plant at Burnham on Saturday. The building was 200 by 70 feet and housed the cold shears and other machinery used in piling scrap for the puddling furnaces. The loss was \$20,000 covered by insurance. Two hundred men will be thrown out of employment indefinitely.

—Seized with a paralytic stroke when she attempted to go out of her kitchen door for wood on Saturday, Mrs. Anna Shultz, a widow, of York, Pa., living alone, fell in the doorway. She remained there several hours when a neighbor discovered her and brought help. It was found that the body had been frozen stiff. Mrs. Shultz was about 76 years old and is survived by a daughter.

—Her mind unbalanced by mental collapse, Miss Cora Bickell 49, Union township, Snyder county, committed suicide by setting fire to a stable and leaping into the flames. Her charred bones were found in the smoldering ruins. The woman had previously set fire to her own home and almost perished before rescued by her half brother, Harry Plotz, who was seriously burned in saving her.

—More than 100 farmers who market fresh produce have decided to lease the first floor of the Arcade garage, in Lancaster, at an annual rental of \$30,000. They will establish a de luxe market and will install the most modern equipment. Preliminary plans call for the establishment of a nursery, where mothers can leave their children in care of a nurse while they market for the family labor.

Mrs. Daniel Lahr, 49, mother of his nine children, died at Sunbury the victim of her husband's bullet. It was fired in the kitchen of their Mandata home as they were arguing over having ice cream for their Sunday meal. He wanted it and she did not. Lahr, in jail at Sunbury, when told by Warden Reitz that his wife died, replied: "I don't believe it," flung himself on his cot and buried his head in the covers.

—Pleading guilty of beating his mother, John Devlin, of Phoenixville, was sentenced to serve six months in the county jail on Tuesday morning when he was arraigned before Judge House in the Chester county court. The police charged that he struck his mother with a milk bottle while intoxicated. When called to plead guilty he declared he was not guilty of this charge. Questioned as to why he wanted to enter a plea, he declared "my father did this to keep me away from the house. I never touched my mother. I picked up a milk bottle and it dropped on the floor. She slipped and fell."

—It wasn't such a terrible thing for his wife to use certain parts of his body as a target for knives, but when she insisted on being a waitress at a Brownsville hotel, Charles A. Black, of 206 Catherine avenue, South Brownsville, objected. Black said he earned from \$200 to \$300 a month as a railroad engineer and that his wife had enough to do at home. Black alleged that his wife threw knives, an alarm clock, fruit dish and chairs at him, but as is characteristic of women, she was a poor shot. Later when she obtained a position as waitress, the husband objected and Mrs. Black departed from home, taking nearly all the furniture with her.

—A 70-year-old hermit, known by the name of "Joe," was dragged from his cave in West Conshohocken by State police on Saturday and sent to prison by Magistrate Clark, of Norristown, for observation. Owners of the ground on which the cave is located had him dislodged because they wanted to level the land and make improvements. He has lived there for twelve years and wore nothing when the officers found him. The only light was from a small fire which he had to keep warm. Wood in large quantities was piled in the cave and when asked by the police how he obtained food he told them he ate rats and cats which he caught in a trap.

—Death from a broken heart was the verdict written by physicians in the case of Mrs. Margaret Ignatz, who died in a hospital at Gettysburg, last week, after refusing for several weeks to take nourishment. Three months ago Mrs. Ignatz left the home of wealthy parents in Hungary and came to this country to wed John Ignatz, who had represented himself to her as a professor of languages in the public schools, of Gettysburg. She discovered he was a steel mill worker and lived in humble surroundings. One week later she signified her intention to return to Hungary. The husband became enraged and shot her. He then ended his own life. Mrs. Ignatz was wounded only slightly. Grief-stricken at the tragic end of the romance, she grew melancholy and frequently wished to die.