

INK SLINGS.

Poor Prof. Seymour, of Yale. He probably didn't know he was building a Glass House.

It's small wonder Ban Johnson is sick. It would make any baseball man sick to be compelled to go up against Judge Landis.

They may pull off the secret vote in the Senate this time but opposition to secrecy is increasing and before long it will be out of order.

It is said that one William S. Vare, of Pennsylvania, watched the Senate proceedings with absorbed interest while the case of Smith, of Illinois, was pending.

Now we know why Queen Marie so suddenly cut her visit to us short and hurried home. She got the tip that her own brat was intriguing to do to her just what Keneshaw Mountain Landis has done to Ban Johnson.

Since that meeting of base-ball magnates in Chicago, on Saturday, we have had to revise our notion of what an irresistible body does when it meets an immovable force. We always thought they called it a "draw," but since Ban Johnson "took the air" we have lost a bit of faith in the irresistible body.

The admission of Brother Dorworth into the Holy-of-Holies of the Fisher administration is another evidence of the fact that a new boss is in the making for Centre county Republicanism. He is one of the five members the Governor has selected from his Cabinet as his most intimate advisers. It is a signal honor for Mr. Dorworth, but it's an awful pill for some of the home folks whom we shall not mention at this time.

If it is true that sixty five per cent of the soft coal now being marketed is coming from non-union mines the "bogy" of a general strike on April 1, that is being held up before the consumer, is nearly all "bogy." It seems to us that the union miner himself should be more alarmed about it than the consumer of soft coal. We write with only a meager knowledge of conditions in the Central Pennsylvania fields when we say that many operations here are at a standstill because of the constant squabbling over union rates and all the while the non union fields have been busy getting and holding the business that once was ours.

It must have been an awful blow to Frank A. Vanderlip when he went down to Washington to tell President Wilson that the Federal Reserve system, then in the making, was all wrong, to be refused even an audience with the President. To a president of the National City such an attitude would be incomprehensible. Yet the Federal Reserve system was put through a Democratic Congress by a Democratic President, in spite of the condemnation of the American Bankers Association and, today, who is the banker to stand up and say that it was not the greatest piece of financial legislation ever enacted by this or any other country?

We have been riding that "relative" idea rather hard of late. It came into our mind that night we were trying to make something out of a local clergyman's distress over the failure of the bally-hoo for "an old fashioned church sociable." We have always been that way. When we get an idea it seems to dominate everything until another comes along to edge it out. Nothing having come up to this moment we hark back to last Thursday night, when, as you will recall, we had been put out of business by ammonia fumes from a busted refrigeration plant next door. Driven to the street for air just long enough to miss the mails and make everybody about the shop mad—which we were particularly nothing else but. Well it was some where near eight-thirty when we finally saw our way to a bite of supper. The streets were icy and a hill was between us and what might be in the warming oven of the kitchen stove. What we craved right then was a cigarette. A cigarette more than anything else in the world and there were but three pennies in the jeans, just twelve short of the price of our favorite brand. That was our financial status on the night of January 20, in this year of Coolidge prosperity 1927, when Leander Green breezed in to "borrow (?) a quarter."

Poor old Leander. Proprietor of one and often a very potential vote when "the old blind horse" made councilmen and school directors in our beloved West ward of Bellefonte. Leander's present address is the borough home. He is comfortable, warm and happy there and doesn't need to give a darn when the "seven o'clock whistle blows." His idea was incipiently Einsteinish. It was relativity. He thought us rich because we happened to be the boss of a four storied business enterprise on High street and couldn't conceive the problem we were wrestling with to make up the twelve cents needful to buy a pack of cigarettes to help us up the icy homeward hill. Leander wanted the quarter to hire a taxi to haul him to the poor house. We wanted twelve cents to buy a cigarette to dope our jaded nerves out of thought of where the taxes to keep Leander's home going are to come from. God, how full the world is of and how happy the Leanders ought to be. Almost we envy them.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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The Governor's Inaugural Address.

Governor Fisher strikes a popular note in his inaugural message in his declaration that he is opposed to new taxes, "unless justified by emergencies." For some years the favorite indoor sport of our Legislators has been searching for new subjects of taxation. There has been no incentive to economy of administration for the reason that money could be found to meet any requirement. If the Governor means to literally cut out all new propositions for taxation, he will be rendering valuable service to the State. But if he means simply to fulfill an agreement made before the election that there will be no tax levy on manufacturing corporations it will work disappointment.

The Governor's inaugural address had the merit of brevity and it had other good points. He promises to improve the budget system so as to make it capable of even better results than Governor Pinchot obtained from it. His intentions with respect to the highways are admirably expressed in the statement that "construction of the State highway system must be kept moving." Within the last four years great results have been achieved. Pennsylvania is now well up toward the lead in road construction and it should be kept there. The construction and maintenance of such highways cost money, but they are worth all they cost and the people are willing to pay the price.

It goes without saying that Pennsylvania will not permit deterioration in the standard of the public schools and Governor Fisher's assurance that he is in sympathy with the best modern methods in education is gratifying. It is equally encouraging to know that he is earnestly in favor of ballot reform legislation. Let us hope that he will press this reform during the present session of the Legislature, while the influence of expectation is working full time. It is also gratifying to learn that the Governor is in favor of law enforcement. The Legislature may give him the support in that direction which it refused his predecessor in office, Governor Pinchot.

Senator Shipstead wants to know something about Nicaragua loans and come to think about it that is a pertinent subject.

The Mexican Muddle Clearing.

On Friday the Senate committee on Foreign Relations adopted by a vote of thirteen to three, the resolution previously introduced by Senator Robinson, of Arkansas. This resolution provided for arbitration of the oil and land controversy in Mexico. The President had expressed a willingness to adopt that form of adjustment and Secretary Kellogg had said he "would welcome an expression from the Senate on the subject." But neither of them seems pleased with the consummation of the plan. After the action of the Senate committee the President declared that "the American people do not understand the questions at issue. Small collateral issues have confused the public mind and obscured the greater one."

The main question appears to have been certain concessions in oil properties made years ago to certain American adventurers. In the course of a redrafting of the land laws of Mexico the legality of some of these contracts has become involved in doubt and the Mexican authorities indicated a purpose to revoke them when the time for putting the new law in force arrived. The administration seems to have adopted the policy of protecting the concessionaires, right or wrong. The Robinson resolution provides for the arbitration of the claims guaranteeing to all concerned full and complete justice. It will avert war, which seemed imminent only a few weeks ago, without humiliating a weak nation.

Of course the Nicaragua affair was a jesture to frighten the timid and the Soviet invasion a smoke screen. With the clearing away of the Mexican muddle the confusion with respect to Nicaragua will blow away. What reason the President and Secretary of State had for presenting it to public view may never be known. There is no way to make the President "show cause." But whatever the purpose was it has failed, and left those responsible for it humiliated before the country and the world as no other President has been in the history of the country. The American people are not as stupid as Mr. Coolidge imagines. They understand the question in dispute as well as he does.

It may be necessary to send a few American marines to settle the exciting trouble in China.

King Ferdinand, of Rumania, is about to abdicate and at that he doesn't give up much.

No Violation of State Rights.

All the Senators who supported the claim of Smith, of Illinois, to a seat in the body based their argument on that provision of the constitution which guarantees two Senators to each State. It would be hard to imagine anything more absurd. Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, quoted Article 5 of the constitution which declares that "no State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate." But when any State sends an unfit man it clearly gives the other States the right to assume it has consented to abridgment of its suffrage. The right to reject an applicant for membership has always been recognized, and the right of expulsion has never been disputed.

Mr. Smith, of Illinois, acquired his claim to the seat by the most brazen expenditure of money. A large part of the slush fund employed to compass his election was contributed by public utility corporations, of which he had control as president of the Public Service board. This fact marked him as a type of man morally delinquent. Placing men like him in posts of honor set a bad example to the electorate and work injury to the public service. Mr. Vare, of Pennsylvania, occupies precisely the same position. Therefore if Smith, of Illinois, and Vare, of Pennsylvania, are refused seats in the Senate it will be for the reason that Illinois and Pennsylvania have relinquished their right to equal suffrage.

The southern Senators who hold that each State has the sovereign right to choose whomever it pleases for Senator, and that challenging that right is attacking the doctrine of State Rights, are equally wrong. The most ardent advocate of State Rights would hardly claim that Pennsylvania or Illinois has a right to send a burglar to the Senate. So long as States exercise their right to choose by picking out fit men who have acquired the public favor in a proper way, there ought to be no objection to the choice, and there probably never will be. But when men unfit to associate with the sitting Senators and whose admission would be a reproach alike to the Senate and the country their rejection violates no State Rights.

The Duke of York is having a fine time in Jamaica, which indicates that the Prince of Wales is not the only popular figure in British Royalty.

Ballot Frauds in Pittsburgh.

After a rather long drawn out legal battle two Pittsburgh election officers were convicted of making a false and fraudulent return of the election held on November 2, 1926, and called for sentence on Monday morning. They, with other members of the election board, had been charged with conspiracy but acquitted on that charge. For making a false return of the vote they were each sentenced to pay a fine of \$100.00 and costs and paroled for one year. Whether the parole gave them a year in which to pay the fine is not stated in the report of the court proceedings. It may be assumed that the victims will not be "handled rough," however.

In handing this mild rebuke to the prisoners who had made false returns of a vote the Judge expressed the hope that "it would be a lesson to them and members of election boards throughout the State." What sort of a lesson does the court expect to draw from it? It might easily be pointed to as evidence that the making of false returns of elections is a trifling offense. If they had stolen a loaf of bread a jail sentence might have followed. But simply stealing a man's seat in the General Assembly gets them a fine of \$100.00 and a parole, whatever that means. Probably the loser wasn't in favor, anyway. Of course votes of a community were stolen but the people don't count much in Pittsburgh elections.

Governor Pinchot appraised ballot stealing as the most serious crime against the public. Other statesmen have classed it in the rank of treason. Debauching the ballot is certainly striking at the fountain of popular government. But sentences of a fine that is probably paid by the party machine will not go far toward correcting the evil. When the courts come to imposing penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offense those mental cripples and moral degenerates who serve the party machine in that way will draw from the sentence of the court a lesson that will carry a deterrent influence.

The Smithsonian Institute is trying to find out when the use of fire for heating purposes was begun while the rest of us are trying to find out why the price of coal is so high.

Ban Johnson saves his face but at the expense of his health.

Smith and Vare Condemned.

By a vote of 48 to 33 the United States Senate, on Thursday, refused to allow Frank L. Smith, of Illinois, to take the oath of office as Senator designate under appointment by Governor Small, to fill a vacancy. The objection to Mr. Smith was that he had corruptly used an excessive slush fund to procure his nomination for the term beginning on the 4th of March, next. It was not charged that his appointment for the short term had been corruptly obtained. But a majority of the Senators held that in the corruption in the primary election in the summer of last year there was involved such a measure of moral turpitude as to disqualify him from membership of the Senate.

The case of William S. Vare, of Pennsylvania, which will come up for consideration upon the assembling of the New Congress on the 4th of March, is precisely like that of Mr. Smith. According to sworn evidence taken before the Slush Fund committee of the Senate some \$800,000 were spent in behalf of Vare. In the case of Smith objection was raised that a large part of his fund was contributed by the Public Service corporations and that Smith was president of the Public Service board. But it is known that a large portion of the Vare slush fund was levied off municipal employees and bootleggers of Philadelphia. The law forbids the collection of campaign funds from one and morals forbid the other.

We sincerely believe that if all the votes cast for William B. Wilson had been counted for him, and only the legal votes cast for Vare had been counted for him, the certificate of election would have gone to Mr. Wilson and it would have been a regular certificate that would have gone to Washington. It may not be possible to develop the facts, and though Vare will not be seated, it may devolve on the Governor to fill the vacancy. But some good will have come out of the political Nazareth, for it will admonish rich men to refrain from attempts to buy seats in the United States Senate. The Senate will not stand for plutocrats who are without qualification other than money.

In 1925 fire losses in Pennsylvania aggregated \$30,173,327, according to figures just released by the national Board of Fire Underwriters. It was an increase of 14 per cent. over the losses from the same cause in 1924. Pennsylvania is third among the forty-eight States in this respect. The leading originating cause of the fires is given as "matches and smoking." Possibly if every community had such capable fire departments as we can boast there would not be such appalling losses.

The refusal of the United States Senate to confirm the appointment of the Hon. Cyrus E. Woods as a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission is disappointing to his many Centre county friends, but will not lessen their admiration for him one bit. It wasn't the Cyrus Woods we know who was rejected. It was a Cyrus Woods whom a lot of Senators don't know. Incidentally, Mr. Woods is now spoken of as a possibility on the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission.

It isn't much wonder that there are three times as many musicians as there are dentists. Most every one prefers the sound of a musical instrument, no matter how poorly it is played, to the buzz of a dentist's drill.

China appears to be "electioneerin'" for a "lickin'" again and the Boxer rebellion is still within the memory of middle-aged men and women.

M. Millerand, ex-President of France, needn't feel so bad because of his defeat for Senator. Our own Eddie Beidleman has also been "eliminated."

They are doing surgical operations to music in a certain New York hospital and probably the appendix will be removed to jazz time.

The collection of State proclamations by the Congressional library will take up room and may be useful in other ways.

The discovery of rich ores in the Apennine mountains will be a great boon to Italy and incidentally a help to Mussolini.

A Reading man died the other day while pitching quoits in a church cellar. Maybe that isn't a good place to pitch quoits.

Next Tuesday will be groundhog day. He'll decide the weather to follow.

The Sovereignty of Phantoms.

From the Pittsburgh Post. With the recognition that there never was a people in history more jealous of their sovereignty than Americans, the significance of the fact that most Pennsylvanians simply laugh at the efforts of the few who would strain Constitutional interpretation to the point of making it appear that this State would lose its sovereignty if "Boss" Vare of Philadelphia is not given a seat in the Senate on his purported plurality padded with the "votes" of dead men and other phantoms will scarcely be lost.

The obvious fact is that Pennsylvanians do not take seriously the attempt to draw a picture of Constitutionality favorable to Vare. One of the significant demonstrations of this was the laugh that was raised over the State by some who voted for Vare under the fetish of "party regularity" as well as by those who were openly against him when Governor Pinchot gave him that "trick certificate" of election; a laugh by those who ordinarily are against Pinchot as well as those who profess a liking for him. It was a reminder that the majority sentiment of the State is against Vare; that some who voted for him simply for party reasons would be as tickled as many of his avowed opponents to see him lose in the end.

The picture of Constitutionality that most Pennsylvanians draw does not have to do with the splitting of legal hairs over the authority of the Senate as the judge of the election and qualifications of its members, but of the sanctity that should be around the ballot box. Where any political machine attempts to make a farce of the ballot box it may expect only derisive laughter when it seeks to use the very Constitution it has violated as a shield between itself and retribution. It takes clean hands to make an effective appeal to the Constitution.

What the people of Pennsylvania and the country generally want to know is the extent to which Vare's claim to election rests upon the "sovereignty" of the dead and other phantoms with which the voting lists of Philadelphia and sections of some other cities of the State were padded, and also the extent to which Wilson was denied an honest count of the votes cast for him.

The picture of Varemism that ticks with the great majority of Pennsylvanians is the ugly one presented of it in the primary campaign by some of the eminent Republicans of the State it is now looking to save it. Those who now attempt to picture Vare as a martyr of an attempt to misconstrue the Constitution make themselves look worse than ridiculous. The Vare machine itself, with its voting of dead men and other phantoms, is the only menace to the Constitution in this case.

Being Governor of Pennsylvania.

By Melville H. James in the Harrisburg Telegraph. One of the press associates the other day referred somewhat proudly to the fact that Pennsylvania pays its Governor \$18,000. At the risk of being called a liar this column remarks that the Governor of Pennsylvania earns \$18,000 before he takes office.

In the annoyance and perplexities to which he is subjected by the ladies and gentlemen who remind him every two or three minutes that they elected him. The first year he earns \$95,000 were his compensation on the piecework basis. The second and third years he is entitled to twice that sum. The fourth year \$18,000 is about right. In other words, the people of Pennsylvania squander \$72,000 on a Governor in four years, but he goes through an experience the cash value of which is \$321,000. Which he does not get. The honor! you say. Quite empty. Did the Governor of Pennsylvania possess the concentrated virtues of the twelve apostles, the political acumen of Penrose, the Cameron and Quay, the charity of the Salvation Army, the forbearance of the Man of Galilee, the foresight of Merlin, the assurance of the German Emperor, the lineage of the King of England, the knowledge of a five-foot-shelf-of-books—did he possess all these qualifications! he would still retire in four years with the unqualified consent and approval of the majority of the electorate.

Where the Big Money Goes.

From the Philadelphia Record. An interesting case has been begun before the Supreme Court of New York, in which minority stockholders of a certain large corporation have brought action to prevent the president and vice president of that organization receiving the increase in salary granted to both executives by the board of directors. The two men are now drawing annual salaries of \$125,000 respectively. Their pay before the increase was \$80,000 and \$40,000 respectively; and that, say these minority stockholders who have taken the case to Court, is plenty. It will be the business of the Court to pass upon the contention of the complainants, and it will be interesting if the Court will go into the matter deep enough to determine how the other employees of the corporation fared in the matter of increased pay. We who are the plain public, and who get no such fabulous pay, are always intensely curious to know how those of the princely wage get that way, and why?

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Plans of the State of Pennsylvania for a bridge across the west branch of the Susquehanna river near Hyner, were approved on Tuesday at the War Department, at Washington.

Carl Sherman, after being missing from his home at Kinzua for several days, was found frozen to death along the public road a short distance from the pump-house on an oil lease where he was employed. He was last seen alive when taken in a car by friends to the lease, on his way to work.

Twenty minutes after he was jailed following a hearing in domestic relations court, John Sura, thirty, Blackmans Patch, Luzerne county, died suddenly. A hemorrhage, was responsible, officials reported. Sura was taken before Judge Coughlin and charged by his wife with neglect and excessive drinking.

Charging her husband attacked and threatened to kill her during an argument in their home on Sunday, Mrs. Elizabeth Shultz, of Lancaster, preferred charges of assault and battery, with intent to kill, and nonsupport against him. She collapsed in Alderman John Burkhardt's office after signing the complaint.

A mine cave directly under the garage of Mrs. Anna Yeworski, 567 Lee street, Plymouth, swallowed a roadster last Friday. The cave occurred in the Ross workings of the Washington colliery, Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal company. No trace can be found of the car as the cave has been partly filled with dirt and surface water.

Harrisburg police are holding five negroes as suspects following an attack on Miss Ruth Smiley, Lemoyne, a school teacher, in that city last Friday. Miss Smiley was walking to the Froese school building when she was attacked. Her screams attracted John Gunderman, the Janitor, who went to her rescue. She is confined to her home suffering from shock and nervousness.

James A. Battles and Miss Bess Camby, Pittsburgh election officers, convicted last week of making a false return of the vote in a legislative contest at the May primary, were each fined \$100 and costs and paroled for one year in criminal court on Monday. Two women clerks of the election board were acquitted of a similar charge and all four defendants were found not guilty of conspiracy.

Advertisements for bids for the Federal building at Lewistown, of two stories and reinforced concrete construction, costing \$108,000, have been ordered by the supervising architect of the Treasury at Washington, D. C., according to a telegram from Representative Edward M. Beers, of the Eighteenth district. The first floor of the building will be devoted to postoffice work and the second floor will be given over to farm and other meetings and activities.

An explosion wrecked the home and store of Alex Duijan on North Shaver street, Mount Union, last Friday at 12:25 o'clock, scattering the wreckage over an area of 150 yards. The house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Duijan and their five small children, all of whom escaped serious injury. Chief of Police Creamer went to the scene shortly after the explosion and an investigation shows that a heavy charge of dynamite had been placed under the steps leading to the store.

The entire plant of the Baldwin locomotive works, located at Broad and Spring Garden streets, near the heart of Philadelphia, for more than half a century, will have been moved to Eddystone, a Delaware county suburb, by the middle of next summer. In moving to the new site, which covers 600 acres of ground, Samuel M. Vauclain, president, said the plant would have "plenty of room for expansion" and that the concern was "determined to go after the world's business."

The dead, charred body of Mrs. Nellie Smyser Ripple, 35, wife of Raymond Ripple, lies at her home in Orbisania, where she took her own life from saturating her clothing and body with kerosene oil, and applied matches. She died several hours after committing the deed. It is said that Mrs. Ripple brooded over alleged mistreatment of herself and her three children. She had been a saleslady in the Shapiro department store, at Orbisania, before her marriage. The oldest of her three surviving children, is a son, aged fourteen.

Siston Miller, of Orwigsburg, recently discovered an ancient Bible in the loft of his home, for which he was offered \$8,000 to-day. The offer was refused, as the only other similar Bible recently was sold in England for \$10,000. The books were printed in England in 1635, and when the other copy was sold it was said it was the only one in existence. Experts pronounced the local Bible genuine beyond doubt. It has been in possession of the Miller family for more than a century and it was not known until this week that it had any value.

Steve Wingo, 40, a miner, was shot and killed by a gang of robbers who invaded his home near Untown, on Saturday night. The robbers, three in number, first confronted Mrs. Wingo, on the first floor of the house, and while one covered her with a revolver, the others went to the second floor where Wingo was shot after a scuffle. Money hidden on the second floor was taken by the robbers who escaped in an automobile. County authorities hope to trace the trio through buttons ripped from their clothing during the fight with Wingo.

George S. Pash, aged 46, of Braddock, died on Sunday in the Braddock General hospital from blood poisoning resulting from a bite on his left hand inflicted by a man he was trying to aid. Last Monday Pash found a man so under the influence of liquor that he stumbled. He extended a hand to help him and the intoxicated man bit it so hard that blood oozed from the wound. The hand began to swell the next day and a physician found infection was spreading through the system and being unable to check the flow of poison the man died as the result.

Tear gas bombs subdued Milton Gerhart, of Black Horse, Lancaster county, after his proficiency with a shotgun and revolver had scared officers of the Adams-town police force, who, in desperation, summoned Chief of Police McCouid, of Ephrata, to capture the man. Gerhart, according to officers, imagined he was a big-game hunter after consuming quantities of home-made wine. Grabbing a shotgun, he chased his family from the house, and practiced marksmanship with their family's egg supply as the targets. Police say he also pulverized lamps and other objects in the home. He was fined \$2 at a magistrate's hearing on a charge of disorderly conduct.