

INK SLINGS.

Babe Ruth has demanded one hundred thousand dollars as the price of his services to the New York American base ball club next season.

The Supreme Court of the United States has put the seal of condemnation on Edward L. Doheny and Albert B. Fall, former Secretary of the Interior.

It may be noticed that the tariff mongers are enthusiastic in applauding what the President said about the Farm Relief bill, and if the same language had been directed toward the tariff law, as it might have been, the farmers would have been quite as enthusiastic in praise.

To the contest for county offices that is to be staged next fall will now have to be added another. Governor Fisher will appoint a successor to the late Judge Keller, but as he will serve only until January 1, 1928, a new Judge will have to be elected in November.

A lot of fuss is being made over the fact that Fannie Ward, at the age of sixty-one, is still successfully playing juvenile parts on the stage. Her latest characterization is that of a child of seven.

Haven't we told you, time and again, that we haven't lost faith in or hope of American youth. Beneath the veneer of cosmetics and the trouser legs that resemble the hoop-skirts of the Sixties the girls and the boys are just as true as were their grand-fathers and grand-mothers.

What ever else might be said of Mussolini his newest edict is one that should command the respect and admiration of the entire world. He has created a new type of nobility in Italy.

Wednesday morning we opened a letter bearing a Somerset, Pa., postmark and were reading the message it contained. Part of it was as follows: "For another year's subscription for my paper dear old letter from home, which brings its joys and its sorrows as the years pass."

Writing from Scranton H. D. R. admonishes us that there is a possibility of a paragraph we published last week coming back to haunt us. It was the one in reference to the arrest of A. Mitchell Palmer, in Florida, for driving a car with a 1926 license tag on it.

Any-way the local merchants who were visited by the "Coal-oil Johnny" who was in town shopping, on Saturday, had a grand time for a few moments. He made what otherwise appeared as a dull day take on a very rosy hue until they discovered that his supposed riches were merely brain-storm products.

It was necessary to send General Smedley Darlington Butler to make China behave.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 72.

BELLEFONTE, PA., MARCH 4, 1927.

NO. 9.

Governor's Fraud Bills.

If the plans of Governor Fisher on the subject of ballot reform is fully expressed in the four bills introduced into the General Assembly, last week, the cause of political morality in Pennsylvania will not be improved by his interference.

The Governor's bill making mandatory the opening of the ballot boxes is fine, but there was a better one pending on the same subject. The Governor's bill restricting assistance to voters might be helpful but there is an infinitely better one pending.

The Governor's bill on the subject of primary expenses is hardly in line with reform thought. It would "limit the expenditures of a candidate to ten cents for each of the highest number of votes for any office in the preceding election."

If the evil of vote pollution were less securely entrenched in the centers of population in Pennsylvania, the four measures of legislation sponsored by the Governor might serve to eradicate it. The opening of the ballot boxes, for example, would reveal the fraud but in the absence of severe punishment it would not stop or ever check the evil.

The bill relating to the assistance of voters is practically destroyed by the provision which allows assistance to any voter who cannot read. A voter physically unable to mark his ballot may be as amply qualified to vote intelligently as his neighbors.

The four bills sponsored by the Governor, supplemented by the excellent measures sponsored by Senator Harris, now pending in the Senate, would afford a fabric of law that would be well-nigh impervious to fraud. Therefore, if the Governor's purpose is to advance his measures in conjunction with the Harris bills, which have the approval of the Pinchot Committee of Seventy-six, he will be able to contribute much toward the purification of elections in this State.

It was necessary to send General Smedley Darlington Butler to make China behave.

Veto of the Farm Bill.

President Coolidge had so frequently and with such emphasis declared opposition to the McNary-Haugen farm relief bill that he could not have approved it without stultification. But the veto of the measure is not to be taken as conclusive proof that it expressed vicious legislation.

In his veto message the President declares the measure is "vicious, un-sound and indefensible," and that it confers no benefits upon the farmer. He declares it would "work a direct and disastrous hardship to all non-agricultural elements of the nation, blast the law of supply and demand that fixes prices."

There are two sides to this as well as other questions. The farmers of the West have been striving for years to get legislation that would serve them as the tariff legislation serves the manufacturing interests. Possibly some of the things alleged by the President against the McNary-Haugen bill are true, but they would be equally true if charged against the tariff law, which is now looting the public to the tune of billions annually in order to guarantee to the manufacturers abnormal profits.

The United States will co-operate with the League of Nations next month "in drawing up a convention on the manufacture of arms and munitions." This fact indicates that we are getting closer to the League.

Comotions in Washington.

Quite a commotion was raised in official circles in Washington, the other day, because it was discovered that Senator Borah, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, had been indulging in some correspondence with the President of Mexico. Evidently the Senator had some doubts as to the accuracy of statements made by Secretary of State Kellogg in relation to the oil and other concessions in Mexico held by Americans.

All this occurred more than a month ago but did not reach the attention of President Coolidge until Monday of this week. Of course it excited his indignation. There is a tradition that all correspondence between this and other governments and between individual Americans and foreign governments must be carried on by the State Department. It seems there is a law, enacted during the Washington administration, making correspondence between Americans and officials of other nationalities an offense against the law, and President Coolidge has not only cited that law but threatens to issue a proclamation denouncing the act of the Idaho Senator.

Reduced to the last analysis it may be assumed that the President is not so greatly outraged because of the violation of the ancient law as he is chagrined because the Borah correspondence revealed the fact that the Secretary of State, probably with the assent of the President, had been caught in a willful and somewhat mischievous falsehood. Mr. Kellogg had stated to the Senate committee that only a small fraction of the American concessionaires had agreed to the provisions of the Mexico constitution and the information obtained by Borah indicated that a vast majority of them had done so.

The great success of Ann Nichols with "Abie's Irish Rose," is gratifying, but it is to be hoped it will not "turn the heads" of a lot of girls who may imagine they have "something equally good."

Harry Keller, Christian Gentleman.

Another and most lamentable tragedy has fallen in our midst. We call it tragedy, for what else can the passing of one so eminently useful in life as was the Hon. Harry Keller be.

To be cut down just as he had entered into the duties of the highest office that the people of his native county could confer upon him, just when he had reached the goal that is the ambition of every man of his profession and to have the cup of happiness snatched from him in the twinkling of an eye is indeed inscrutable. So much so that we might rebel at death were it not that memories live to reincarnate the lives of worthy mortals and make them eternal in immortality.

Judge Keller was a man of deep and abiding convictions. He brought a true heart to his work and from the days when he entered with the zest of youth into the sports of his companions until the moment he adjoined his last court we have known none who have more consistently exemplified them. In all things he charted his course with a well balanced, analytical and God fearing mind and kept it against every temptation.

By nature he was a serious man, yet he loved the leaven of occasional contact with the more frivolous, ebullient types of life. On the teaching of devoutly christian parents he built a charter so strong that he entered, fearless of taint, into any companionship and it is probably among those who have seen with his eye that the nobility of his life has sown seeds for its greatest harvest.

In a span of nearly half a century of conscious knowledge of men and with more than usual opportunity to appraise those with whom we have been at times associated we know of none who have more fully fulfilled our thoughts of what we ought to be when the call comes.

God, give the world vision to get the lesson of such a christian's life.

Cloture doesn't seem to be popular in the Senate.

On Saturday it was defeated twice and in one case, that of the Boulder dam, it deserved to win.

Move to Defeat Exposure.

The opposition to the motion of Senator Reed, of Missouri, that the powers of the Slush Fund committee be continued during the recess of Congress reveals the scheme by which the Republican majority hopes to save William S. Vare and others from just punishment for their political crimes. During the period since the investigation was begun Senator Reed has been industrious as well as efficient. But he early discovered that it would be impossible to complete the task within the life of the Sixty-ninth Congress and asked for the impounding of the ballot boxes of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. But upon a subsequent motion that the boxes be opened and canvassed, the opposition developed.

Of course the ballot boxes of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh in storage in Washington will not help the process of tracing fraud. Without the authority of the Senate the Slush Fund committee will not have a right to open the boxes and count the votes. In the absence of this right the returns of the election in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, as made by the election boards, will stand. The power of the Slush Fund committee dies with the expiration of the Congress that created it and unless it is extended by a vote of the Senate all the time consumed in the investigation is wasted and all the valuable work accomplished is lost. That is a sacrifice which the Republican machine asks to save crooks.

Senator Dave Reed, of Pennsylvania, the friend of William S. Vare, who said before the nomination last May that the election of Vare to the Senate would "be disastrous to the industries of Pennsylvania," led up to the present situation by acquiescing in and agreeing to everything until a situation arose in which his opposition might prove fatal. Then instead of acquiescing he objected and summoned to his help all the administration supporters in the Senate. The issue will be determined within a day or two and upon the vote of the Senate stands the chance of punishment of Cunningham and his crooked comrades. It also reveals the insincerity of Republican professions of reform.

To an outsider it looks as if the Senate has been monkeying with Tom Cunningham, but he will probably get all that is coming to him in the end.

An Appeal for a Larger Mothers' Assistance Fund.

A bill providing for a State appropriation of \$4,000,000 to the Mothers' Assistance Fund for the biennium 1927-1929 has been introduced in the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, by Mrs. Lillie H. Pitts, of Philadelphia. The bill, which is designated as H-722, was referred to the House committee on Appropriations.

In urging full legislative support of the proposed \$4,000,000 State appropriation, Stanley Bright, of Reading, chairman of the State-wide Mothers' Assistance Campaign committee, said: "The Governor's budget for 1927-29 recommends an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Mothers' Assistance Fund, an increase of \$250,000 over the last biennium. The budget recommendation says, 'As this amount is matched by the counties, accepting the provisions of the Acts of the Assembly, \$4,000,000 will be available for this purpose.'"

"During the last few months wide publicity has been given throughout the State to the fact that the Mothers' Assistance Fund is in urgent need of a State appropriation of \$4,000,000 for 1927-29. This appropriation would, of course, be matched by an equal sum from the counties, making a total of \$8,000,000 for the biennium, or \$4,000,000 a year.

"The proposed State appropriation of \$2,000,000, even when matched by the counties, would not begin to clear up the waiting list, whose very existence is a violation of the good faith of the State. The appropriation would permit the giving of aid to only about one-fifth of the waiting list. In other words, about 480 of the 2400 waiting mothers would receive grants. More than 1900 mothers with over 6000 children would still wait. The appropriation would still be too small to grant them the aid which the State has pledged in the Mothers' Assistance Fund Act of 1913. For at least two years more Pennsylvania widows and their children would seek in vain the aid to which they are legally entitled."

To give this in figures understandable to the people of Centre county it might be added that the Mothers' Assistance fund of the county is now giving aid to 18 mothers with 50 children under sixteen years of age. On the waiting list are 20 mothers with 60 children. Therefore the smaller appropriation would mean that only 4 mothers and 12 children additional would receive grants, while 16 mothers and 48 children would not be included in the distribution of aid to which they have looked forward for several years.

Because of this condition, locally, the Mothers' Assistance Fund committee of Centre county appeals to all those interested in the success of House bill 722 to write or telegraph the Governor, Senator Scott and Representative Holmes asking for their favor for the bill.

Mrs. John S. Walker, Mrs. W. F. Reynolds and Miss Mary H. Linn appeared before the Kiwanis club, at their regular luncheon on Tuesday, and appealed for the club's influence in support of the bill.

How to Get into Military Training Camps.

Sufficient funds have been appropriated by Congress at its current session to provide food, clothing, transportation to and from camps, training, etc., of 4,300 young men from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia at citizens' military training camps this coming summer. Announcement to this effect has been made by Major General Douglas MacArthur, of Baltimore, Maryland.

Since the original enactment in 1921, this annual period of one month's physical training and citizenship instruction has become increasingly popular. Applications to attend these encampments invariably exceed the number provided for and are gradually increasing with the development of new features. It has therefore become necessary to assign population quotas to the various counties, and to follow the "first come, first served" rule in approval of applications. A large number of applications to attend this year's encampments have already been received. The entire quota for Centre county is twenty two.

In past years, Camp Meade, Maryland, has been one of the largest camps for this purpose but will be supplanted this year by other military stations in the Third Corps area, to be announced in the near future.

Young men desiring to attend camp this year should make early application to the local representative of the Military Training Camps association, or to the C. M. T. C. officer, Headquarters Third Corps area, Baltimore, Maryland, from whom the necessary information and application blanks may be obtained.

Some people in Germany still think that others shared responsibility for starting and prosecuting the war. Possibly that is true, but the others were unimportant figures in the affair.

Subscribe for the Watchman.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

H. J. Rubright, of Stowe, Bucks county, on Monday shot a twelve-pound ground-hog which he caught feeding on an ear of corn, which he had placed in a field for rabbits and birds.

Snow-bound at Masontown last week, members of the Waynesburg College freshmen basketball squad spent a night sleeping in empty caskets at the undertaking establishment of H. A. Johnson, a trustee of the college. The morgue offered the only available sleeping quarters in the town.

Mrs. Mary D. Camwell, convicted of embezzlement in connection with misappropriation of \$5000 in school children's deposits at Midland Savings and Trust Company at Midland, in Beaver county, on Monday was sentenced by the court to serve seven and one half years in the Allegheny County Work House and pay a fine of \$500.

Believed to have suffered a stroke of apoplexy, Frederick Craft, 61, of Erie, Pa., was found on Tuesday sitting on a hot plate in his room at the home of Frank J. Falch, with fire going in full blast. He had been burned so seriously before the fire in his clothing could be extinguished that he died in a hospital shortly afterward.

Leaving his horse and wagon in front of a house, William H. Augsten, of Pittsburgh, returned from delivering a sack of coal to find only the neck and head of the equine in view. The rest of the animal had sunk into soft dirt thrown into the street by a working crew. It took three hours and a block and tackle to rescue the horse.

J. Fred Weaver, prominent socially and a well known lumber dealer, of Clearfield, was found dead last Saturday afternoon in the Susquehanna river near that place. Weaver had been interested in real estate at Gulfport, Miss., and was reported to have lost heavily. Since his return from the south he had been in ill-health and despondent.

Miss Rosa Kuback, for thirty years employed as a domestic in the home of Mathias Sedinger, shipbuilder and real estate operator, of Philadelphia, has been made the sole heiress to the fortune left by the financier, who died January 23. While appraisement of the estate has not been made, it is believed by friends that it may total \$200,000.

Returning of hundreds of checks and pieces of other mail to those who had addressed it to the Acme Farms, started last week at the Bloomsburg post office. The firms figured in an alleged nation-wide swindle which was uncovered last December, but the mail was held there until permission was received from the Post Office Department to return it.

Rosie Black, 25, of Altoona, afflicted with deafness and the loss of speech for 22 years, due to a malady in childhood, has been partially cured. She is able to pronounce her name and can hear a watch ticking. She is undergoing treatment at DuBois, and it is believed she will recover. She was graduated from the Edgewood Park School for the Deaf in Pittsburgh.

Charles Miller, wealthy Franklin resident and former head of the Pennsylvania national guard, in a suit filed on Tuesday in common pleas court against the News-Paper Printing Company, publishers of the Gazette-Times, Pittsburgh, asked \$30,000 damages for publication of an article in the paper in connection with a divorce action filed by Miller's wife. The item was published December 4, 1925.

Dr. William Mather Lewis, president of George Washington University, Washington, D. C., has accepted the presidency of Lafayette College. His election to head Lafayette became publicly known on Tuesday when Judge E. J. Fox, president of the Lafayette board of trustees, received word of his acceptance. Dr. Lewis was elected last December at a private meeting of the board held in Philadelphia.

Dr. B. E. Bamble, of Manchester, York county, attended a public sale last Saturday and purchased an old muzzle-loading shotgun. His friends teased him a bit for buying such a relic, and the physician took the joshing good-natured. When he got home he tried to remove what he supposed was a collection of old paper from the barrel, but did not succeed, and called in a friend, who knew more about guns. They made a ramrod and set to work, when out came a \$5 bill. The "excavating" continued with the result that they extracted thirteen \$10 bills. All the bills were dated twenty-three years ago, and were covered with soft rust.

Clinton C. Seebold, fifteen-year-old boy, of Riverside, Northumberland county, was killed instantly when a shot gun was discharged into his breast at the home of his parents at ten o'clock Sunday. John Morris sixteen years of age, a companion of the dead youth, who was in the act of receiving the gun from Seebold's hands when the fatal shot was fired, was not held in an inquest conducted later by Dr. Joseph K. Fisher, county coroner. Companions of Seebold and Morris testified at the inquest that the tragedy was the aftermath of a hectic evening, during which Seebold "ran wild" with a gun during a demonstration of wild west methods and indicated that the shooting was an accident.

Cashiers of three banks in Scranton have been subpoenaed to appear before the federal grand jury in Cleveland investigating an alleged beer running syndicate said to have shipped the beverage from Scranton, Edwardsville and Lock Haven into Ohio. Deputy United States Marshal Gould, of Cleveland, went to Scranton last Thursday and served summons on the cashiers of the Dollar State bank, First State bank and the Anthracite Trust company. The subpoenaes order the bank officials to produce records involving the financial transactions of William Loughran and W. J. Vincent, of Scranton; Patrick F. McGowan, or William A. Quinn, Harry Stahl and George L. Perick.

A fractured coccyx, injury to the sacro-lumbar point, two broken ribs, bruises and contusions from the back to the knee, and a blow on the head with attendant pain, and nervous shock entitle one to a damage of \$55,000. That amount is claimed by Miss Fern A. Everett, employee of the Citizens National bank, of Washington, Pa., in a suit filed against Mr. and Mrs. John S. Brookman, owners of a property in North Main street. Miss Everett avers she fell on the pavement in front of their property and suffered the injuries described in her statement. She claims that the owners are liable as the ice on which she fell was formed by water dripping from the roof of a porch which projects out over the pavement.