

INK SLINGS.

Col. Terry didn't get a military reservation for Centre county, but he greets the realtors on the fringes of Mt. Gretna a few sleepless nights.

Well, the new moon is far enough around to the South to indicate mild weather for a while, but since we've given up believing in signs we're not very optimistic.

Sunday's was the robin snow and Monday's was the saplin bender, so that's that, and "the onion snow is back yet" as Mr. Bartholomew told us Monday afternoon.

With the surplus in the State Treasury larger than it has ever been the Legislature might see some reason for putting another cent of tax on gasoline, but we can't.

Ten years ago, on Wednesday, we entered the world war and it seems only yesterday that the contingents were marching down High street to entrain for the various cantonments.

After describing a catch of tons of fish from a lake down there a Florida correspondent expresses the hope that we'll "have some such luck on the opening day." If wishes were fishes there would be no trout in any of the streams of Centre county, because we'd 'a' had them all long ago.

Eighty-five more stars have been listed—not at Hollywood. The new ones are in the heavens and their listing is the result of fourteen year's study by astronomers at the University of California. It doesn't take so long to discover stars at Hollywood. Every time a shop girl turns up who can osculate a little longer than the ones already on the lot the movie magazines devote pages to the discovery of a new star.

The first time Charley Swabb was at State College he had a fight with Dr. Atherton, Gen. Beaver and others in authority there. They wanted him to give them fifty or sixty thousand dollars with which to enlarge the chapel in Old Main. Charley wouldn't stand for the proposal and got so mad that he blew off to Mrs. Schwab and she went fifty-fifty with him just to show the modest College authorities that they didn't know good things when they were right at their door. The result of the pleasant unpleasantness is the magnificent Schwab auditorium on the College campus. We refer to this incident because Charley is coming back to the College in May and we want Dr. Hetzel, Comptroller Smith and Dean Sackett to ask big if they deem it proper to ask at all.

Never was there such inelegant, incorrect, poor English as now," said Dr. William Mather Lewis, president elect of Lafayette College, at the final event of school men's week in Philadelphia on Saturday. There are few who will refute the learned gentleman, but how and why are we getting that way? There are many answers to this question; the best one being that in this cynical, materialistic time of today there is much attempt to tear down revered customs and reputations. Everything is as is and not as was and to prove this is so we will tell you one of John Drew's latest stories: Two very pious and lovely old ladies went to see the picture "What Price Glory?" It is notorious for the profanity of its titles. When it was over one of the nice old ladies said to the other: "Come on Amelia, let's hurry home." "Wait till I find my opera glasses and we'll get to h— out of here," Amelia replied. "And that," as Mr. Drew remarked, is a type case of how we are mirroring the language about us today.

We heard a sermon last Sunday morning that completely coincides with our idea of what Christianity is. It was at once laughable and weird to us. Laughable because its text was the very one we had selected for the next "Lay Sermon" this column is to preach. Weird and uncanny, because somehow we had the feeling that they were our very own thoughts that came floating through the auditorium to us, only clothed in the language of another. Some months ago we commented on the futility of Mr. Thompson's plea for a recrudescence of the old fashioned church sociable. We intimated then that he didn't know his people. We might have been wrong in that inference but we'll never retract or modify this statement: He knows his gospel. Doubtless, a few who were in the Presbyterian church Sunday morning thought that his fundamentalism was taking him dangerously near to heresy. That sounds like a paradoxical way of putting it, but it isn't. Mr. Thompson was preaching on the one fundamental—and there is but one—on which Christianity rests and his treatment of it was so convincingly simple and fundamental that it might have appeared modernistic to some. Ever since we have been old enough to think of such things, to ponder them with an intelligence begotten of more study and thought than we might be generally credited with, we have held to the belief that there is nothing to real Christianity but Christ. If Mr. Thompson is to be branded as a heretic for saying that the law, the prophets, doctrines, creeds—aye—even most of the Bible, itself, are only the machinery of evangelism we want to be branded with him.

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Mass Meeting for Honest Elections.

At what might justly be called a "mass meeting," held in the hall of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, last week, for the purpose of urging the enactment of ballot reform legislation, former Governor Gifford Pinchot correctly labeled the opposition to the pending measures. "The programme which the Vare-Mellon political partnership proposes to substitute for the four Fisher bills," he declared, "has for its sole purpose the prevention of interference with the present opportunities of election buyers and ballot thieves." The Vare-Mellon political partnership has taken the place of the former Republican organization in the management of the party machine.

In the event that the United States Senate will refuse to admit Mr. Vare to the seat he paid for so liberally, and in view of the possible event that the right of W. B. Wilson to the seat is not recognized, Vare and Mellon's lawyer, Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, would be candidates next year and with the abundance of money of the Steel trust and the collections from the Philadelphia bootleggers and protected criminals behind them, it will be an easy matter to purchase the nomination and election for both. This is the reason for the Vare-Mellon partnership objecting to a law limiting primary expenses. With proper restrictions on primary expenditures Vare could not be named for office.

The meeting in question was an extraordinary political event. It was held in the hall of the House of Representatives, the largest auditorium in the capitol building, and it was filled to the limit. There was no party spirit revealed either in the speeches or the side discussions. But intense earnestness was expressed in the language of every participant and as one of them remarked, "it will accomplish much good in the future." In concluding her statement Miss Martha Thomas, of Meadville, said "the Commonwealth is stirred to its depths over this question of strengthening the election laws." Mrs. Mary Flinn Lawrence, daughter of the late Senator Flinn, expressed the deep interest of the women in the subject.

The Appropriations committees of the General Assembly find it necessary to revise their allotments in order to use up the probable surplus. It never occurred to the statesmen that reducing taxes would achieve the purpose.

Victory for the Ultimate Consumer.

The shippers first and ultimately the consumers of the country have won a great victory in the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission fixing the book value of railroads at the cost of reproduction in 1914. The contention of the bankers and railroad managers was that for purposes of passenger and freight rate making the present book value of the railroads should be the present cost of reproduction. That would have fixed the value at \$41,400,000,000, upon which a rate of five and a-half per cent might be levied. The valuation fixed by the Commission is \$20,000,000,000, or \$21,400,000,000 less than the property owners claimed. That is a considerable difference.

A prominent railroad official in commenting on the decision immediately after it was made public remarked that if the plea of the railroads had been granted "the American people would have been forced to pay, in increased passenger and freight rates, income on an amount equal to the present national debt of over nineteen billions. Even as it is the corporations get all that is coming to them. A very considerable proportion of the railroad building was done at less than the labor and material rates of 1914, so that the corporations had opportunity to charge in a good deal of "water."

It is worthy of notice that the Interstate Commerce Commission split six to four on the decision. Commissioners Hall, Atchison, Woodcock and Taylor dissented. All the commissioners appointed since Mr. Coolidge became President voted to mulct the public out of the vast sum named by a railroad official whose name was not given. The chances are that a process of weeding out will be begun to bring the commission into harmony with the administration. The Tariff Commission was trimmed into the form the administration desired in order to protect the tariff mongers in their franchise to fleece the public, and it is altogether probable the Interstate Commerce Commission will be punished.

The refusal of the Washington Supreme court to give Harry Sinclair a new trial must be interesting as well as ominous to Tom Cunningham.

The Mellon Resolution.

In discussing the Mellon resolution "to appoint a commission to codify the election laws of the Commonwealth," introduced by Senator Bonbrake, of Franklin county, Senator Huffman, of Monroe county, said "it is a gesture to delay all present legislation for better election laws now before the General Assembly." Senator Bonbrake seems to be a willing instrument in the hands of the machine bosses to prolong and promote ballot frauds. During the extra session of last year he practically offered to support the ballot reform legislation recommended by the Committee of Seventy-six, if Governor Pinchot would declare that he would not be a candidate for Senator in Congress. This proved that it was politics rather than principle that influenced his official action.

One of the considerations in the political partnership between Mr. Mellon and William S. Vare is that Vare is to get a seat in the United States Senate. If he purchased and stolen title under which he is now claiming a seat is repudiated by the Senate he will be a candidate next year to fill the vacancy with David A. Reed, of Pittsburgh, attorney of the Steel trust, as his colleague on the ticket. To elect either of these men will require all the resources of the ballot thieves in both cities and everywhere else that votes can be bought or stolen. Mr. Mellon is new in politics but he understands the movements enough to know with just election laws it will be impossible to carry out his plan.

It is possible that some of the reform bills now pending before the Legislature will be enacted into laws, but the particular measure that Mr. Mellon hopes to defeat is one limiting the expenditures of candidates for nomination. By the lavish expenditure of \$800,000 Mr. Vare was able to get 600,000 more votes at the primary election last year than he received at the general election. With the elements which supplied the cash behind Vare, and the Steel trust and Mellon interests behind Reed in the next Senatorial campaign, the combination would be practically invincible if there is no restraint on expenditures. The purpose of the Mellon resolution is to guarantee this result. If it is adopted a machine made commission will perfect the plan.

Miss Thomas, the militant leader of women voters, believes that Mr. Mellon's legislative policy is based upon an anxiety to re-elect Senator Dave Reed. Mellon probably thinks he is rich enough to own a Senator.

An Overflowing Treasury.

According to the Treasury statement the revenues of the Commonwealth for March amounted to \$14,300,848 and the disbursements to \$10,914,069, thus increasing the surplus by \$3,386,777. State Treasurer Samuel S. Lewis estimates that at the end of the fiscal year, May 31, the treasury surplus will amount to \$9,248,896. The totals of all funds in the Treasury on March 31 was \$56,969,973, which creates a record. The highest previous balance was \$53,583,137 at the end of February this year. Mr. Lewis adds that "if the receipts during the next two months equal the \$8,048,368 received during the corresponding months of 1926, the general fund will total \$27,180,480 at the end of the 1926-27 period."

The balances in the principal funds outside of the general fund, Treasurer Lewis states, are motor fund \$21,488,582; State bond road fund, \$9,247,863; insurance tax fund, \$1,659,073; dog license fund \$302,677; game fund, \$356,372; fish fund, \$183,427; securities bureau fund, \$172,504; athletic commission fund, \$29,997 and Delaware river bridge fund, \$236,670. These figures would indicate that these several bureaus of the State government are in no danger of suffering from lack of money to function during the present biennium. Unless something goes wrong in the management they will be able to continue Governor Pinchot's policy of "pay as you go."

In view of these facts thoughtful citizens are forced to wonder why the authorities in the State government are constantly urging the General Assembly to impose new taxes. It is entirely proper for those in control of public affairs to see that the revenues are equal to the obligations of the State. There could be no harm in maintaining a reasonable balance in each of the funds upon which demands are made in the course of administration. But a surplus of over \$27,000,000 is not necessary and is on the other hand a menace. While the treasury figures remain as they are we can see no excuse for imposing an additional tax on the consumers of gasoline.

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Ballot Reform Hopes Vanishing.

The hope of substantial ballot reform legislation from the present session of the General Assembly is rapidly vanishing. On Monday evening the House of Representatives, by a vote of 105 to 93, defeated the bill providing for the compulsory opening of ballot boxes under suspicion of fraud or material error, sponsored by Governor Fisher. This makes it practically certain that the toothless measure reported from the Senate Committee on Elections will constitute the sum and substance of ballot reform legislation. It will give the twenty river wards of Philadelphia and "the strip" in Pittsburgh a blanket license to stuff ballot boxes and make fraudulent returns to their heart's content.

There is a chance that the vicious Homsher bills will fail of passage but with the facilities for fraud as practiced last year unrestrained that is comparatively unimportant. There is also a chance that the Harris resolution for optional use of voting machines will get through, but as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh will not adopt them, their corrective influence will be meager. The Mellon-Vare partnership has determined to continue every facility for stealing majorities and the General Assembly seems to be completely submissive to its will. The partnership is in complete control of the Legislature and legislation.

The humiliating thing about this lamentable situation is that Governor Fisher has absolutely abdicated his powers to the Mellon-Vare partnership. If he had asserted his authority in making appointments and in the exercise of his prerogatives his legislative programme might have been adopted. A couple of weeks ago he had Mellon "on the run" and Vare in hiding. But he equivocated and dilly-dallied until they recovered their assurance and shoved him off the political map. The chairman of the Senate Committee on Elections declared that he had consented to the amendments to his bills and the chairman of the House committee reaffirmed that statement Monday night. It is simply shameful.

The President says that "it would be difficult to support the foundations of government and society if faith in Bible teachings was lost." It is to be regretted that the President doesn't practice what he preaches.

County Chairman Zerby Appoints Executive Committee.

County chairman W. D. Zerby has announced his executive committee for 1927 as follows. George R. Meek, Ivan Walker and P. H. Gherrity, Bellefonte; Robert M. Foster, State College; S. W. Smith, Centre Hall; Dr. S. S. McCormick, Hublersburg; W. H. Noll, Pleasant Gap; John C. Hosterman, Millheim; Dr. F. K. White, Philipsburg.

As there is to be a full county ticket and a Judge elected in the fall it is none too early for a start on the work of effecting a complete organization of the county.

The weather man has been flirting with winter most of the past week, and the man who predicted an early spring is doomed to disappointment. The month of March was exceptionally nice from beginning to end and many farmers did a lot of their spring plowing. But Saturday saw a change, with rain and cold and some snow. It snowed again on Sunday night and Monday night there was thunder and lightning, rain and hail, and cold enough for ice to freeze on the trees and bushes. It is hardly likely, however, that the fruit buds are far enough advanced to have been damaged by the cold weather.

Henry Ford is having a bunch of troubles. First came the libel suit for a million dollars, next an attempt to assassinate him and finally the retail merchants of Detroit have organized a boycott against him.

The army air corps may not contemplate a trip to the moon but it is estimated that in the manoeuvres in Texas next month the planes will cover a mileage equal to such a trip.

The President's son is now guarded by the secret service of the government. If this custom extends to full limit it may become an expensive feature of government.

American capitalists are organizing to control the manufacturing industries of Poland. Of course they expect the government will support them in anything they do.

Statistics show that 207 Americans have incomes of over \$1,000,000. We are glad to learn that there are over two hundred of us.

Have You Moral Indurance?

From the Pittsburgh Post.

Judge John B. Broomall expressed a thought that has no doubt been in the minds of many shrewd observers of contemporary life when he remarked in the course of an address before the cadets of the Pennsylvania Military College, recently, that "moral endurance," by which he meant the ability to stand unavoidable mental discomfort without whimpering or yielding, was an even greater need of the age than physical endurance. We admire the endurance of the swimmers who battle the waves for hours, and that of the pugilists who "absorb punishment" without quitting. But moral endurance is of greater practical value in the ordinary affairs of life. Comparatively few of us ever have occasion to undergo a prolonged and arduous physical ordeal; nearly everyone is frequently or constantly confronted with some test or other of his moral strength.

Judge Broomall said his attention had been directed to want of moral endurance by criminals brought before him for trial. Many of them, he said, committed crime because they did not have the stamina to endure what they regarded as an unpleasant situation. What he had particularly in mind, it seems, was the frauds and robberies of persons who chose to get money dishonestly in preference to enduring privation during the tedious period of acquiring it in a legitimate way. As Judge Broomall said, they did not have the moral stamina to play the game straight until they had attained the goal of success. "Before the fight was half won they sickened at the slow progress they were making and took a short cut via criminality."

A suggestion of the extent to which this is being done is afforded by the annual report of one of the largest bonding companies in the country, which reports an increase of thirteen per cent. over the year before in defalcations and embezzlements of employees holding positions of trust. In their impatience to "get rich quick," to "keep up with the Joneses," some persons will not endure to live modestly, they will not submit to being without fine houses, furs and automobiles. They lack moral endurance.

The responsibility lies in part in the widespread custom of measuring success in terms of wealth, and in regarding money as the key to happiness.

Judge Broomall proposes that moral endurance be taught in the colleges. Perhaps there is no better way to teach it than by holding up before the students, as worthy of attainment, the ideals of Christian fortitude and the Stoic philosophers. Epicurus and Marcus Aurelius have been dead for many centuries, but their advice in many respects is still sound. They will help one to endure philosophical poverty, ill health and other conditions that make life almost intolerable for those who have no moral endurance.

Senator Norris' Heresies.

From the Philadelphia Record.

When Senator Norris, of Nebraska, came into Pennsylvania last year to champion the cause of William B. Wilson, the Democratic candidate for Senator against William S. Vare, he was denounced by the supporters of the latter as a carpetbagger, an intruder and an impudent fellow generally to dare to cross State lines and to speak in behalf of a wicked Democrat, while nominally himself a Republican. These attacks, however, had no effect upon the Nebraskan, whose speeches had no little influence in persuading the voters of the State, outside of Philadelphia, to roll up an impressive majority for Wilson over Vare.

In the eyes of machine politicians Mr. Norris has sinned again by announcing, as plank in his platform in a prospective candidacy for Governor of Nebraska, the elimination of a large percentage of State officials and the reconstruction of the Legislature as a body of not more than 25 members elected on a nonpartisan basis. The effrontery of the man! Everybody knows, of course, that a large part of the employees of any State, whether Nebraska or Pennsylvania, could be dispensed with without injury to the Commonwealth, and that the bicameral system of State Legislatures, patterned after the congress of the United States, is unnecessary and unwieldy; but it is not considered good form to make such admissions. Senator Norris is evidently no politician, or he would not give advance notice of such heretical views.

We hope that Mr. Norris will succeed in his ambition to become Governor of Nebraska, but we have our doubts. This is a period of political reaction, and radical theories are not popular. But he has shown himself a high-minded gentleman of courage and independence, and that fame will be enduring, whether or not he shall sit in the gubernatorial chair at Lincoln.

We have a very useful Auto-Strap Safety razor all done up in a neat little velvet lined metallic case, to give to everyone who sends or brings a new subscription to the Watchman.

The "Watchman" is the most readable paper published. Try it.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

A coroner's jury making inquiry into the death of four miners killed last week at the Ehrenfeld No. 3 mine of the Pennsylvania Coal company, in Cambria county, found no evidence of negligence.

Katharine M. Kline, a stenographer for Harry C. Weber, badge manufacturer, at Reading who died about four years ago, on Monday won a suit in equity in Judge Schaeffer's court to retain \$14,650, invested in mortgages in her own name, given her by Weber in 1921.

Otto Spelcher, 74, a retired farmer of Lebanon county, died at his Cleona home from blood poisoning resulting from a nail scratch received six weeks ago while he was building a house for his son-in-law. The wound was so slight that at first no attention was paid to it.

Thieves gained entrance to the Paul Hornick Hardware store in Johnstown early Monday morning and stole \$800 worth of guns, revolvers, pocket knives and other merchandise. Their loot also consisted of \$60 in cash and \$150 in Liberty bonds, which were obtained from a safe.

Twenty-five thousand concrete railroad ties are now being placed by the Pennsylvania Railroad near Tyrone and at Columbia, Pa., as an experiment. The road will keep a check on the maintenance cost, replacement cost and the riding qualities of the ties, as well as to wear on rolling stock.

Robert Maury and some friends of Lewisburg visiting the James Wan cottage on Potlicker Flats, Seven Mountains, witnessed a herd of fifty-three deer at dusk Sunday night. "Paddy" McGarrath, worker at Standard steel works, was started the same night when a pheasant hen alighted on his hat while walking in West Market street. The bird didn't seem the least startled when a human hand picked it off.

A bullet sent into one nostril on Friday night failed to kill Levi Powl, 95, of Lancaster. When physicians examined him in St. Joseph's hospital, two hours after his attempt to commit suicide, Powl said he was "feeling fine." According to police, he put two bullets into his head, each coming out of his forehead and imbedding itself in the ceiling of his bedroom. He had obtained the revolver expressly to end his life with it.

Four of arrest, after he had fired several revolver shots at Patrolman Edward Myers, when the latter went to his home to quiet him during a drunken brawl, on Monday, led Charles Adam Theophil, 43, retired bricklayer, to commit suicide at his home, in Red Lion, York county, eight miles south of York. The body was found by his wife upon her return home from work Monday morning at 11 o'clock. His widow and two children survive.

A Rupley Isenberg, widely known musician, of Altoona, who was placed on the Pennsylvania Railroad roll of honor on Monday on reaching the age of seventy years, was honored on retiring by being presented with a purse of more than \$125. Mr. Isenberg leaves this week for Los Angeles, Cal., to spend some time there. He played in the Alexandria cornet band, the McMillan band of Cambria Iron company and the Altoona City band, being historian and secretary for this organization.

Ben Tuck, a Lebanon merchant, was brutally beaten early Monday morning by an unknown assailant who laid in wait for him in the vestibule of the Tuck house and attacked him with a monkey wrench. Tuck fought desperately and succeeded in driving off his assailant but then lapsed into unconsciousness. Tuck is in the hospital under observation, his head being a mass of cuts and bruises. He believes his assailant had knowledge of a considerable amount of money on his person, but failed to get it.

Miss Martha C. Feese, of Hartleton, is aunt, great-aunt and great-great-aunt of 168. Her father, Jacob Feese, was married three times and there were nineteen children. She is aunt to five sets of twins and one set of triplets. Miss Feese has done all kinds of work, dressmaking, florist work for the sick, funeral and weddings, helping in coach-making, field work and in the blacksmith shop and housework. She has attended 514 funerals, has given a helping hand in time of need to thousands and on Monday attended her 515th funeral.

After being dragged fifty feet on the pilot of a locomotive, 2-year-old Joseph Panoniti, of Luzerne county, escaped unhurt save from the shock resulting from his experience. He was taken home after being examined at the Pittston hospital to make certain he was not injured. As the train was speeding towards Wilkes-Barre he tumbled onto the track. When the engineer saw the child he applied the brakes. Leaping from the cab, members of the crew hurried to investigate, and found a frightened baby on the pilot hardly scratched.

Facing several charges resulting from an alleged murderous assault upon chief of police Emory Beggie, of Roaring Spring, Matt Kraut has been held for trial in the Blair county court in default of \$2,000 bail at a hearing before a Roaring Spring justice of the peace. The assault is declared to have taken place early last week during an attempt to arrest Kraut and his wife at their farm near Mines. Kraut, who is unnaturalized, denied the charges at the hearing. His wife, son and daughter, also held for implication in the assault, have been released on bail.

The glass industry is expected to undergo a boom in Jefferson county following the announcement that the Standard Sheet Glass company has bought the plant of the Eldred company which formerly operated at Punxsutawney. The new industry is expected to employ at least 200 men, earning an average monthly pay of more than \$30,000. Repairs are to be started on the plant soon and it is expected that the plant will begin to operate during the first week of June. Punxsutawney people bought over \$20,000 worth of stock in the new company.

John Mayers, Cleveland, held in the Northumberland county jail as one of two bandits who robbed the Elysburg National bank of \$1,300 has been positively identified as one of a pair who on March 14, 1924, held up the cashier and his assistant at the Saucon Valley Trust company, at Hellertown, in Northampton county, and escaped with \$20,000. Thomas W. Peffer, assistant cashier of the trust company, visited Sunbury and was taken to the county jail by Sergeant E. C. Kaufman, head of the detail of State police. Peffer said Mayers was, without a doubt, one of the men who figured in the hold-up.