

## INK SLINGS.

—It must be encouraging to the Prince of Wales to learn from Ramsey McDonald that his job is safe. With his seat in the saddle it's different.

—It is charged that Mrs. Miller, of Pittsburgh, chairman of the Woman Voters' League, has been admitted into the Mellon-Vare partnership.

—The foreign radicals may "shout their heads off" for the pardon of Sacco and Vanzetti, convicted of murder in Massachusetts, but the authorities are deaf.

—Our most consuming curiosity right now is to know how a lot of folks manage to live within their incomes. The landlord, the grocer, the clothier the beauty parlor, the milliner and the filling station might gratify it, but they won't. They'll all wait until they get stuck before they join us in the contention that everybody is living beyond his or her means.

—Lord, how the times are changing. At this time, forty years ago, High street, from Heverly's corner on the Diamond up to Peter McMahon's cobbler shop—now the back end of Heverly's building, and the road-way in front of the Episcopal church were smoother than any modern highway engineer could make them. Boys were playing marbles then. They did the leveling and surfacing with their hands in those days. They gambled with the "commies," the "white-allies" and the "agates," while their mothers worried as to whether they were "playing for keeps." How many mothers of today have a concern as to what their kids are doing?

—Seventy thousand fans turned out in New York, on Tuesday, to see the opener between the Yankees and the White Elephants. Think of what seventy thousand clicks on the turnstiles meant to Col. Jake Ruppert. It meant all of the Bambino's new salary for the season. And think of the fact that the King of Swat gets within five grand of the President of the United States, except Ruth works only seven months to get it and Cal. has to toil twelve. Isn't ours a whale of a country! Gosh, we're a devilmaycare lot. Seventy thousand turn out in one day to see a baseball game and President Coolidge won't draw that many in the months he expects to vacate in the McNary-Haughten belt.

—The Hon. Carter Glass thinks that Al Smith's candidacy for President would be effected not nearly so much by reason of his being a Catholic as it would because he is wet. If Governor Smith is qualified for the office of President of the United States it seems to us that the fact that he is a Catholic and wet ought not to enter into the consideration of any broad official voter, for there is no possible official way in which the President can advance or retard either the interests of a church or the association for the repeal of the Volstead act. But are there enough broad-minded voters in this country to elect anyone President who happens to be out of harmony with the fanaticism—whatever it may be—of the day.

—While you are reading this we will probably be blundering over the slippery rocks in Fishing creek, not knowing what moment we are to be immersed in the icy waters of that notoriously cold stream. Long before those gray and jade green ribbons that come streaming over the top of Long mountain to herald the rise of the sun somewhere in the east have dissolved into the opals and reds that proclaim its nearer approach we'll be up for the great day. Numb by the night in a cold camp, nervous with fear lest someone beats us to it, we'll light the fire, shove the coffee pot on to the griddle and don our fishing clothes—tackle was arranged last night. While the coffee was getting to the boil we made a fried egg sandwich and that was all. What more could one want or sacrifice the time to prepare when trout were actually sticking their noses out on the banks to look for the food they knew we had brought for them.—This is as of 4.30 a. m. this Friday morning.

It is now eleven o'clock and we are back in camp. It is a cold, cheerless place. The other fellows in the party never thought of having a fire on the hearth or cleaning up the smear we made when we thumbed that first egg shell to deep and the yolk broke and ran all over the stove. We didn't fall in, but we dipped one boot and it's half full of water. At home, if we were as miserable and mad and discouraged as we are right now there'd be a divorce proceeding begun at once because we couldn't be tolerated by any sane person. And we haven't a d...d trout. Nearly everybody we met on the stream had at least one. Some had a dozen. They all told us what they "caught 'em on," but, as usual, they lied, for we instantly changed to their bait and continued making water hauls.

It is now twelve thirty. We've gotten into dry clothes. There is a grand fire crackling on the hearth, the camp companions are out at the foot-log cleaning the trout they caught for dinner, a friend who can't be made understand that there is no danger of snake bites so early in the season and always carries the antidote has just left and we are sitting in a rocker paring potatoes and thinking—thinkin' that home ain't nothing like this.

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## End of the Legislative Session.

The 1927 session of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania has gone into history and we are constrained to express the hope that one of its kind will never again convene. It enacted a few fairly good bills, passed a good many very bad measures and scrapped worthy legislation that came before it for consideration. At this time, however, it is impossible to accurately or fairly appraise the value of its work. A vast proportion of it was left on the Governor's desk and until the expiration of the thirty days which the constitution allows him to examine the bills the question is left to conjecture. But good or bad in the bulk there is little reason to hope for improvement by the veto process.

At the opening of the session The Watchman predicted that little if any improvement would be made in the atrocious ballot laws of the State. There were men in both chambers willing and some anxious to create such a system of conducting elections as would give every voter and every political organization at least the semblance of a guarantee that the votes would be fairly cast and honestly counted. The Governor even made a reluctant gesture in that direction by having prepared and introduced four measures which contained some virtues. But the bills offered by Senators and Representatives who were sincere in the action as well as those sponsored by the Governor were so emasculated that they are practically worthless for the purpose they were intended to achieve, or killed outright, murdered in cold blood.

Take the Governor's bill for compulsory opening of ballot boxes, for example. As passed finally it requires the petitioner to reside in the ward in which the alleged fraud was committed. Most of the cause of complaint lies in the River wards of Philadelphia and the "Strip" in Pittsburgh. Everybody knows that it would be almost "worth a man's life" to petition for the opening of a ballot box in those districts. If he were a business man he would be boycotted by orders of the bosses and if an employee he would be discharged. The system of espionage in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh is almost perfect and the cruelties with which the penalty for offending the bosses are enforced are almost unbelievable. Picking pockets, bootlegging and other forms of crime are protected if not encouraged but voting against the bosses, never.

The Governor is as much to blame for this miscarriage of opportunity to secure justice and serve the best interests of the people as the Senators and Representatives of the General Assembly and the political organization they represent. As The Watchman said in the beginning he could have obtained from the Legislature any legislation he desired during the session. If he had asserted his authority and employed his prerogatives as he might the Legislators would have fallen over each other in expressing servility. But he adopted the opposite course. Possibly mindful of the service rendered to him in the "Strip" at the primary election and the help given him by Mellon and Grundy before and after that event his mind was influenced to serve them rather than the people and their hope lies in corrupt elections.

In the apparent split over the old age pension proposition between Vare and Mellon the cloud reveals a silver lining. The break-up of this "unholy alliance" may vastly change the political outlook in Pennsylvania. Of course the Governor "lined up" against the measure because of his obligations to Grundy. An old age pension would probably not cost anything like the figures named by the Governor but it would cost a good deal and might compel the taxation of corporation capital and the Governor is under implied pledge to Mr. Grundy, who contributed \$400,000 to his slush fund, to prevent that. But neither of the partners is much interested in moral obligations.

—Max Leslie, boss of the strip district in Pittsburgh, looks back over his many years of political endeavor and concludes that there's been nothing in it. At the age of sixty-two and armoring himself for a fight with Mellon for a share of the Allegheny County offices the Senator looks with gloom on the past and foreboding of the future. No, he's not slipping. He's just beginning to see that politics ought to be something better in Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, than he and his kind have made it.

—That Doctors disagree is proverbial and it's small wonder that the audience was divided in opinion as to which won in the debate between Senator Borah and Dr. Butler on the booze question.

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## Causes That Led Us Into World War.

The anniversary of the entrance of the United States into the World War brought out many expressions, some interesting, some enlightening and some amusing, as to the reasons which influenced the administration and the people to take that vital step. Among those who spoke on the subject was Newton S. Baker, then Secretary of War, and his address before the United Press, at a meeting held in Washington, was both interesting and informing. "It was not," Mr. Baker said, whether Great Britain or France needed our help or ought to have it. Not a moment's thought was given to the rescuing of any nation's cause." It was purely to maintain the honor of the country.

"On January 31, 1917," Mr. Baker continued, "Germany notified the United States a new war zone had been established around the British Isles, the coast of France and all ports of the Mediterranean which led to France or Italy. Any ship, enemy or neutral, within this zone was to be sunk without regard to life or property, the German Ambassador informed our State Department. The German envoy further told our Government that one American ship would be allowed to pass through this zone each week provided it arrived on Sunday and departed on Wednesday, sailed on a certain parallel of latitude and was painted on both sides with red, white and blue stripes."

This usurpation of authority over the commercial life of the United States and the face of the common seas was too much for the thoroughly American and sturdy administration of Woodrow Wilson. It was equivalent to blockading our ports with war vessels while we were still at peace. "The German Imperial government was attempting," Mr. Baker added, "to dictate to the United States and impose grotesque humiliations upon us." The war was immensely expensive. It cost 122,900 American lives, 326,524 casualties and billions of dollars. But the result was worth the price, for it measured a long distance in the direction of permanent world peace and improved conditions generally.

—Bill Feather says "never hesitate to ask for advice because everybody loves to give it." And that's just the reason that so many get into trouble, because, Dumas said: "One never asks for advice unless he wants somebody to blame his mistakes on."

## Governor Fisher Wins on Tax Laws.

Of course Governor Fisher will approve the bills increasing the tax on gasoline to three cents a gallon. They are among his "pet" measures. The Republican organization of the State was inclined to oppose them. State chairman Mellon was rather averse to putting the additional burden on the consumers of gasoline. State Treasurer Sam Lewis issued a statement of the financial conditions of the Commonwealth which left the advocates without a leg to stand on. But the Governor, presumably under the impression that only the users of automobiles for pleasure, were concerned, insisted on the passage of the bills and will promptly complete the operation of making them laws.

In view of the assertion of the principal fiscal officer of the State that the present tax levies will yield revenues far in excess of requirements for the biennium just beginning, it is not easy to imagine why the Governor insisted upon the passage of these bills. Probably he correctly estimates the automobile drivers as "easy marks." They and other consumers patiently submitted to first one cent tax and then a two cent emergency tax, though what the emergency was has never been revealed. But the consumers of gasoline have multiplied in recent years and the automobile users are only a fraction of the whole. The farmers, the merchants and hordes of others are now concerned.

But the strangest thing about this affair lies in the fact that the Governor was able to force the Republican organization and chairman Mellon to consent to the passage of the bills. In the matter of ballot reform he couldn't do a thing with his obdurate party leaders. He professed to be deeply interested in the subject and in his inaugural speech made some glittering promises of legislation that would guarantee clean elections. But the party organization tore his pledges into tatters and chairman Mellon threw them out of the window. We are likely to get three or four toothless measures in favor of ballot reform, but they will have no influence in the "neck" or the "strip."

—Assistant Secretary of War Davison predicts the government will have 2000 airplanes in 1932 and 1650 flying officers. Going some.

## Pittsburgh Reed Fights the Inevitable.

It literally breaks the heart of Senator Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, to think that the ballot boxes of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia for the election of last year may be opened and the corruption of the Republican machine exposed. Having been "signed" as the Messenger Boy for the Mellon-Vare partnership he feels it his duty to shield his masters, in so far as possible, from popular execration, on the eve of the impending Presidential campaign and the Senatorial contest in Pennsylvania, at which he hopes to be re-elected. Influenced by the fear of political oblivion he "sees red" every time a sign favorable to the complete investigation of election frauds in Pennsylvania appears in view.

The recent decision of Vice President Dawes affirming the claim of the advocates of honest elections that the Slush Fund committee of the Senate is still alive with full authority to function, caused Senator Dave to "throw a fit." He not only vehemently denies the fact but declares the Vice President had no right to fill a vacancy on the committee and has nothing to do with the activities of the Senate except while it is in session. It appears to make no difference to him that not long ago the Supreme court of the United States expressed the same view of the subject as that contained in the Vice President's opinion and that the Senator appointed to fill the vacancy is opposed to investigating.

As a matter of fact eighty per cent of the people of the United States are in favor of honest elections and fair returns of the votes and cordially welcome this opportunity to restore that virtue to our political system. Senator Dave who is in politics for personal glory, and Chairman Mellon and Mr. Vare who are in the game for plunder may prefer the corrupt methods of the Mellon-Vare partnership. But the better condition will prevail. The administration at Washington and Senator Dave may entice or by favors, buy or dragoon, a few Senators of the type of the late Senator Lodge, who gave power to principle, to strive for vice instead of virtue in politics and resist the tide, but they will not change the current of opinion.

—Dr. Butler in his Boston debate with Senator Borah said of the evils of the Eighteenth amendment, of which he thinks there are many, "the only hope and the only cure is the repeal." That settles the question for so long as one-fourth of the States have veto power there can be no repeal.

## Slush Fund Investigation Goes On.

Vice President Dawes has finally settled the most question of the right of the Slush Fund committee of the Senate to continue its investigation in the affirmative. In appointing Senator Fess, of Ohio, to fill the vacancy in the committee, caused by the resignation of Senator Goff, of West Virginia, the Vice President expressed the opinion that the Supreme court, in the case of John J. McGrain vs. Mal. S. Daugherty, "conclusively disposes of the question in the affirmative." This decision renders futile the strenuous fight made by Senator Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, at the instance of the Mellons, in behalf of W. S. Vare and others who have attempted to buy seats in the United States Senate.

The resolution creating the committee to investigate the charges against Attorney General Daugherty, accused of the fraudulent disposal of certain alien property, was couched in much the same language as was employed in that creating the Slush Fund committee. Mr. Daugherty's brother, an Ohio banker, refused to answer certain pertinent questions and was cited to answer a charge of contempt in the Supreme court of the District of Columbia and was pronounced guilty. He appealed to the Supreme court of the United States where the judgment of the lower court was affirmed in an elaborate opinion. Mr. Dawes holds that the conditions are parallel and in this view he is supported by able lawyers.

The movement to choke off the investigation of ballot frauds at the primary and general elections of 1926 is a Pennsylvania conspiracy in the interest of the Vare-Mellon partnership. If it had succeeded the ballot boxes of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, now in possession of the Senate in Washington, never could have been opened and the frauds committed in the interest of Vare never would have been exposed. In that event Mr. Vare might have been able, as Senator-elect for Pennsylvania, to participate in the organization of the Senate at the opening of the Seventieth Congress on the First Monday of December, if an extra session is not called. His failure in this may make a vast difference.

## THE CENTRE COUNTY HOSPITAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

May 12th has been designated for the past six years as National Hospital day, and the occasion is now generally observed not only through the length and breadth of the United States, but is officially recognized in Canada, Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Egypt, the Philippines, China, and other countries. Appropriately May 12th commemorates the birthday of Florence Nightingale, known as the pioneer of modern nursing. Emphasizing the importance of the occasion, President Coolidge has said: "The observance of May 12th as National Hospital day throughout the country, with the aim of directing attention to the fine humanitarian effort of these institutions of mercy, is worthy of co-operation and support."

The management and trustees of the Centre County hospital, in keeping with the spirit of National Hospital day, have chosen this memorial date as the beginning of the annual drive to acquaint the people of Centre county with the aims and benefits of the hospital and to enlist the support and co-operation of every citizen in the county in the beneficent work being accomplished by that splendid institution.

The drive beginning May 12th will be conducted by the Women's Auxiliary to enroll every citizen in the county as members of the Hospital corporation. The captains and assistants, selected from the Women's Auxiliary for the various precincts in the county, have been appointed and a thorough organization effected to reach every man, woman and child in the county with a cordial invitation to become members and thus to unite their efforts in this very commendable community enterprise.

Mr. Herbert Hoover has said: "The American hospital is constantly making large contributions to that most valuable of conservations, the saving of human life." Inasmuch as our hospital is highly essential to the welfare of the people of this county, the public will, no doubt, be glad to avail itself of this opportunity to lend such an institution its whole-hearted support and encouragement by the payment of at least one dollar each, which amount is designated in the charter as the minimum annual fee for membership.

There are more than 8000 hospitals in the United States and they represent an investment of more than a billion dollars. In the main this vast outlay has been provided by public spirited citizens who are convinced of the hospital's advantage to the community. Hospitals, with few exceptions, are not run for profit. The hospital does not turn away a patient who cannot pay the full cost of service, and this group alone precludes the possibility of profit in the average institution. During the past year the Centre County hospital treated and cared for 890 patients, representing a total of 8669 hospital days, averaging 9.7-10 days each, at an expense of \$34,982.50. The total collections for this service, including money received from appropriation, amounted to \$29,339.21, with a net deficit of \$5643.29. This has been the common experience in the management of the hospital each year since it was organized, and the same thing is true of thousands of other hospitals the world over. Such deficits must be taken care of through the benevolence of philanthropic citizens who recognize that the presence of a hospital in a community is the very best insurance for saving the lives of the people.

The management is also cognizant of the inadequacy of the equipment and appliances of our hospital, at the present, to meet the growing demands for the modern scientific treatment it is called upon to administer. Some of the equipment now in use is out of date and should be replaced by more modern apparatus, and some has been worn out by long and constant use. The income from this membership drive, therefore, will not be used for building purposes, but rather to enhance the usefulness, comfort and effectiveness of the space already available.

The ministers of all the churches in the county are requested to address their congregations upon the importance of this great movement on May 8th, the Sunday preceding the Florence Nightingale anniversary, and to distribute literature in their congregations appropriate to National Hospital day, as well as to promote the membership drive for the Centre County hospital.

Thus will be built up a larger and more general interest in our hospital and the people who contribute their annual dues of \$1.00 will be kept in closer harmony and co-operation with the excellent work it is doing. A neat and attractive membership certificate

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## SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—When an automobile crashed into a culvert, last Friday, a spoke of the steering wheel was jammed down the throat of William Stackhouse, 40, of York, Pa., which resulted in his death.

—Thirty-four engineers on the Pittsburgh division of the Pennsylvania railroad were demoted to firemen during the past week and it is said further reductions will be made. Many regular firemen are on the extra list, others furloughed.

—Calvin J. Dietrich, 54, retired farmer of Richmond township, Berks county, and connected with the firm of Heffner, Dietrich and company, grain merchants, was killed when a tractor which he was driving up a steep grade on his farm, upset backward and crushed him underneath.

—George W. Rockwell, of Sunbury, on Saturday was awarded the contract to build a concrete bridge across the Susquehanna River between Watsonstown and White Deer at his bid of \$394,523. Northumberland county will pay 88 per cent. of the cost and Union county the rest.

—Kite flying came near resulting fatally for Wallace McNeal, aged 11 years, of Tyron, on Saturday. In raising a kite near his home he toppled over a 45-foot cliff and fell into the waters of Bald Eagle creek, being unconscious when rescued by companions. He is in the hospital with skull and left wrist fractures and many body and head cuts.

—Glenn Dunlap, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Dunlap, of Beech Creek township, Clinton county, was kicked in the jaw by a horse which he was leading to water on his father's farm Sunday afternoon. The boy suffered the loss of four teeth in his lower jaw and a compound fracture of the upper jaw. While his injuries are quite painful they are not necessarily dangerous.

—Slowly sinking to his death in a huge ditch of tar, John Chipper, 8, of Chester, was rescued just in time last Thursday night by a playmate, Joseph Lobedinsk, 12 years of age. Joseph, hearing the cries of Chipper, leaped in the ditch, held the younger boy's head above the surface and cried for help. Railroad workers from the Reading company obtained poles and dragged the two boys to safety.

—Here's a nickel to call the cops," answered one of six bandits who early on Sunday robbed Fred R. Heinz, of New Kensington, as he walked in the Washington, street subway, beneath the Washington boulevard, Pittsburgh. Heinz had explained that the watch and chain taken by the thugs, together with \$144, had been left him by his brother, Walter, who died recently in St. Joseph's Hospital, and had asked that the watch be returned.

—Investigation of thefts of merchandise from trains of the Renovo-Buffalo division of the Pennsylvania railroad, covering six to eight years, have resulted in the dismissal of five freight conductors. It is alleged that they stopped trains at a place where the car to be looted was concealed from the engine crew, hid the plunder and returned for it later. All the men discharged have been in the employ of the railroad company from fifteen to thirty years.

—Thomas Renner, aged 85, was fatally burned in his home at Saegertown, Crawford county, about noon on Monday. With him sleeping in the house was his nephew, Horton Sherman, and Renner is said to have ignited his bed while smoking. Sherman got out of the house and called neighbors, but Renner was fatally burned before he could be carried out. He died two hours later in a Meadville hospital. Renner was formerly a hotel proprietor in Saegertown, owner of the Renner house.

—Fearing to jump from a trestle over Mahoning creek, at Danville on Monday, when she was trapped on it by a locomotive while taking a short cut to her home, eight-year-old Lucille Roberts saved her life by lying flat on her stomach on the ties while the engine and tender passed over her. She escaped with several trifling scratches. The engineer tried in vain to stop the engine before reaching the child, but failed and when it was stopped and the crew ran back, they were amazed to find the girl almost unhurt.

—Averring that the wives of Rev. U. S. Partz have deprived him of the love of his wife, A. M. Whitacre has entered suit in the Armstrong county courts to recover \$10,000 damages. All three live at Rural Valley, the clergyman being pastor of the Presbyterian church, of which Mrs. Whitacre is a member. In his complaint, Whitacre alleges that since February 26, 1926, his wife has been meeting the minister in the post office at Rural Valley in the parsonage of the church during the absence of his wife and in various other places.

—Charles Sattler, in the search for whom a fortune has been spent since he disappeared from his home at Quakertown, Pa., more than 13 years ago, returned on Sunday with his wife, whom he married in Florida, and their 7-year-old son. Sattler, now 34, is the son of Herman Sattler, a wealthy Quakertown silk manufacturer. He left home October 11, 1913, after a dispute with his father. Believing that he had met with foul play, after he failed to return within a few days the family started a nation wide search for the young man.

—Attacking the night nurse as she made her rounds, binding and gagging her to prevent an alarm, Jessie Leonard and Mrs. Sarah Morrey, patients at the Blair county hospital, Hollidaysburg, stole her keys and fled from the institution early on Sunday. The escape had previously been planned, according to authorities. It is said an automobile, which had been waiting outside, aided them in their getaway. Both women were at the hospital by order of the Blair county court, Jessie Leonard having been there for more than a year while Mrs. Morrey was sent there about two months ago. Both were captured on Monday.

—Changes in the rules of the Bachelorette Club of Oil City have been found necessary after an existence of three weeks. Discovery was made that penalties of five cents for each "date" have brought such unexpected income that the weekly dues may be reduced from 50 cents to 10 cents and still keep the finances on a sound basis. The last meeting of the organization resulted in a regular shower of the five-cent pieces imposed for the "sweet penalty." With this indication of frequent erring on the part of the bachelorettes it was decided that the dues were excessive for the needs of the club and the wholesale reduction followed.