

INK SLINGS.

—Who said that Earth is gradually cooling off. —We recall a great many Aprils but none that have been as warm and spring like as this one has been thus far. —Up to this time there has been nothing to indicate that we'll have to smoke or pickle our excess trout for use next winter.

—Won't somebody please start throwing a few bricks. We're not having near the fun out of the local political campaign that we expected to be enjoying by this time.

—What China needs is more automobiles. Give all the Reds a high powered car and a barrel of gasoline and they'll never stop going until they get so far away that they can't get back.

—The terribly disastrous floods on the Mississippi are furnishing ammunition for the negative side of the much debated question: "Resolved that fire is more destructive than water."

—What some women are prone to look on as merely "affairs" are probably just what Ruth Snyder thought she was starting when she met Judd Gray and started for the cell of a murderess.

—This is certainly fine growing weather. It affects vegetable and human life in directly opposite ways. The one is fairly jumping from the ground. And the other is suffering with that tired feeling that just drags itself from one leaning post to the other.

—Now that the Legislature is adjourned it might be supposed that a few appointive plums might be falling in Centre county. Some are due. Possibly they are being held up until it is discovered just how much the applicants can deliver in the Republican judicial fight in the county.

—Tuesday evening, for a moment or so, we thought the millennium had come. In reading over the story of the council proceedings of the night before our eye fastened on the order to pay bills. They amounted to only \$352.36. They were so unusually low that we had visions of reduced millage some where in the office, but the town's emeritus councilman dispelled that illusion by explaining that someone had forgotten to present the most of the bills.

—United States Steel cut a whole of a "melon" when it declared a forty per cent stock dividend on Tuesday. It seems only a few years ago that a tariff was said to be absolutely necessary to the fostering of this particular infant industry. Judged from Tuesday's action we must conclude that the tariff is a wonderful nostrum—for them that get its benefits—but how about the fellows who have to pay it? Where does their slice of melon come from?

—Well, our fishing trip turned out nearly as predicted last week. Instead of getting up at four "numbed by the night in a cold camp" we crawled out at twelve-fifteen to put more logs on the fire and got up at two—and staid up because even the logs and four blankets couldn't keep us warm enough to sleep. And at twelve we weren't sitting on the porch paring potatoes for dinner. It just happened that for once we had a couple of guests in camp who act on suggestion. They pared the potatoes.

—Elsewhere is a letter of appreciation of service received at the Centre County hospital by one who signs him or herself "Patient." It is a gratifying acknowledgement of pleasing treatment received at the local institution, but the part that interests us, especially, is the reference to its admirable location. That interests us because it is witness to the fact that we were right, many years ago, when we stood alone and finally frustrated the purchase both of the small J. A. Beaver Miller property on east Curtin street and the Cruse property on east Linn street for the hospital.

Putting it as succinctly as we have ever heard it expressed Gov. Al Smith, of New York, answering Charles C. Marshall's inquiry, published in a recent number of the Atlantic Monthly, says: "You imply that there is conflict between religious loyalty to the Catholic faith and patriotic loyalty to the United States." And after saying that he does not believe there is any the Governor makes this striking statement: "I believe that no tribunal of any church has any power to make any decree of any force in the law of the land other than to establish the status of its own communicants within its own church."

The eternal disposition to make mountains out of mole hills is probably accountable for the supposed break between President Coolidge and Herbert Hoover, his Secretary of Commerce. The President said he would not appoint Mr. Hoover Secretary of State even if Secretary Kellogg should resign that port-folio. The statement was jumped on by political gossips and friction was seen between the President and Mr. Hoover. Why should that be a necessary resultant? There is no reason whatever. Mr. Hoover was not an applicant for any other post than the one he fills and he would be a poor sport, indeed, to resent the President's right to select his own Cabinet officers.

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Committed to Ballot Fraud.

The hearing of the petition of the Slush Fund committee of the United States Senate for possession of the ballot boxes used in Delaware county, last fall, which was held in the United States District court at Philadelphia on Monday, clearly revealed the fact that the leaders of the Republican party of Pennsylvania are committed to the evil policy of continuing ballot frauds. The result of the effort to open the boxes and expose the corruption perpetrated for the purpose of electing William S. Vare to the Senate will not be known for ten days. Judge Thompson promptly and properly refused Secretary Woodward's attempt to "butt in" but allowed each side five days to file briefs.

There can be no possible result of the opening of these ballot boxes other than the exposure of frauds, if any were committed. If no illegal ballots are found in them the charge of fraud will be completely refuted and the Republican organization vindicated. But the Republican leaders know that an honest recount of the votes in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Schuylkill and Delaware counties will show that William B. Wilson was elected Senator in Congress in Pennsylvania last fall, and that the certificate of election given to William S. Vare by the then Governor Pinchot was not only correct but appropriate. It declared that his majority was half purchased and half stolen.

The effort to prevent the investigation was begun in the Senate by Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, immediately after the Mellon-Vare partnership was made to enlist the Vare support in next year's Senatorial contest for Mr. Reed, who now represents the Steel trust and the Mellon interests in the Senate. The conspirators in this sinister enterprise imagined that if the Senate refused to renew the life of the Slush Fund committee it would go out of existence with the end of the Sixty-ninth Congress and the Vare title to the bought and stolen seat made secure. But they "reckoned without their host." The Missouri Reed is of a different type.

The Socialists of Glasgow refuse to dine with the King. Some of us here are thinking of adopting the same resolution.

Great Scramble Impending.

Now that the General Assembly has adjourned it may be expected that a great scramble for the "spoils" of the administration will set in. Comparatively few changes have been made in the offices on "The Hill" and throughout the State, though the pressure in that direction has been great. Only the big offices have been disposed of and it is said that Governor Fisher has been holding the seekers back with the promise that as soon as the Legislature adjourned he would turn his attention to "weeding out" the Pinchot appointees. The time has arrived for action and probably as soon as Mellon and Grundy have made the selections the roster will be written.

There are a good many offices to be filled in the capitol building and elsewhere throughout the State, and the Mellon-Vare partnership will have a "halcyon and vociferous" time in apportioning the favors. Mellon is new at such work and Vare a glutton for spoils, so that the small ruction started over the old age pension question during the closing days of the session may develop into a real quarrel. Of course Mr. Grundy will be with Mellon and the Governor; well, Mellon and Grundy were good to him both in May and November last year. Vare has the reputation of being a fighter, though his unconditional surrender on the age pension question rather tarnishes it.

In any event there is certain to be some lively doings on "The Hill" in the near future. Grundy got the bulk of the favors so far as they have been distributed and Mellon has been learning the ropes and cultivating an appetite for patronage with considerable success. But Vare has the votes which will be needed to put Dave Reed over next year and that fact makes a strong appeal to Mellon, who takes much delight in the ownership of a Senator in Congress. All in all the promise is for an unusually interesting period between this time and the completion of the work of "turning the Pinchot rascals out" and putting their own servile tools in.

When they turn out airplanes capable of carrying 125 passengers it is time for the railroads to "sit up and take notice."

A device to prevent airplane accidents has been found. If one to prevent automobile accidents could be discovered it would be worth while.

Making it Easy for the Governor.

The esteemed Philadelphia Record, in an appraisal of the work of the Legislature says: "Governor Fisher championed the cause honestly and decently, but the forces that controlled the law-makers succeeded largely in thwarting his efforts and in emasculating the bills prepared for their consideration. The result is discouraging but not surprising." This is an exceedingly friendly and certainly a partial estimate of the Governor's part in the legislation. Obviously The Record has reference to the ballot reform measures which were enacted and defeated. The Governor favored some improvements in the existing laws, but not much, and he failed absolutely to exert the power he has to secure them.

Everybody knows, and the esteemed Record has frequently declared, that if Governor Fisher had been sincerely and militantly in favor of genuine ballot reform legislation, with scarcely a dissenting voice, it would have been enacted. He promised in his inaugural address to pursue that course. But when the Legislature assembled he seemed to have forgotten the pledge. After being prodded more or less he had prepared a series of measures that indicated a half-hearted, rather than earnest, desire for honest elections which have been so emasculated as to be practically worthless. The compulsory opening law may only be enforced where no fraud has been committed, in rural communities.

That Governor Fisher might have controlled the action of the Legislature on ballot reform is revealed in the result of his effort to defeat the old age pension amendment resolution. In that case Mr. Vare had the goods practically "tied up" until the Governor intervened and completely reversed the conditions. But on the ballot reform measures he assented to almost every change suggested by Mr. Mellon and protested that he could not control the Legislature. It wasn't the Legislature he was unable to manage. It was Mellon, Vare, Grundy and Max Leslie. Those crafty politicians don't want ballot reform laws to bother them and they are equally averse to pensioning anybody except corporations.

That foolish and now somewhat famous town in Tennessee has little, if anything, on West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Reasons for the Declination of Fess.

It is not surprising that Senator Fess, of Ohio, declined the appointment to a seat on the Slush Fund committee tendered to him a few days ago by Vice President Dawes. Senator Fess is a man of considerable ability and clean life and would probably prefer a decent to a doubtful environment. But he represents Ohio in the Senate and continued affiliation with the leading politicians of that State has probably corrupted his manners in a measure, and in political affairs he is guided less by conscience than by prejudice. The "Columbus crowd" organized by Attorney General Daugherty was a corrupting force.

The Slush Fund committee as originally organized was composed of two Republicans, two Democrats and one Independent, but it was unanimously against fraudulent voting. Some time ago Senator Goff, of West Virginia, one of the Republicans, resigned though protesting that he was in full accord with his associates. The pressure of the administration and the leaders of his party to "stick to party and let conscience go to the devil," if we may borrow the language of the late Thad Stevens, was too strong for him and he dodged out. No doubt in selecting Mr. Fess to succeed him the Vice President hoped to get one dissenter in the body. But Fess could not bring himself to agree to so mortgaging his manhood. He lacked courage to either obey his conscience or the party bosses.

Senator Fess knows as every other man capable of reasoning knows that the completion of the investigation will show that William S. Vare, of Pennsylvania, and Frank Smith, of Illinois, should be punished rather than rewarded for the frauds which gave them a claim to seats in the Senate. He also knows that his party organization has set itself to reward them and that exposure will not only destroy the party and politically bury Vare and Smith but will change the political complexion of the Senate when it reassembles. He could not contribute to what must have seemed to him a crime and was not willing to become a party to the destruction of the Republican organization as an element in public life.

Governor Fisher will win widespread praise for vetoing the bill requiring that the flag be carried at the head of all processions.

Fight for Voting Machines.

The resolution proposing a constitutional amendment giving the voters the option to adopt voting machines passed both branches of the Legislature with little opposition, and as it does not require executive approval, will be ratified or rejected by the people at the general election in 1927. It is a matter of much merit and ought to receive a big majority. It will guarantee an honest vote and fair count and that will remove all cause of complaint, no matter which party wins. It will also secure a prompt return of the vote, thus depriving the Philadelphia "neck" and the Pittsburgh "strip" of the power to control State-wide elections which they have exercised for many years.

But the adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly and the submission of the question to the people does not guarantee this great improvement in the electoral system of the Commonwealth. It is not unlikely that the absence of opposition in the Legislature is ascribable to the confidence of the Machine leaders that they can defeat it at the polls. In the campaign which will ensue for and against it all sorts of arguments will be brought out, the main hope of those opposed being that the rural district voters "will be afraid of the expense." Now as a matter of fact the testimony of those who have used it is that the saving in other election expenses will recompense for the expenditure in eight years.

The vote on the question of adoption will not be registered by voting machines and it may be predicted that the "neck" and the "strip" will do their level best to defeat it. But the Senatorial contest in Pennsylvania last fall demonstrated beyond a doubt that if the voters of the smaller cities and rural districts put energy and vigilance into the fight the forces of vice and crime will not prevail. The opening of a campaign of education should be attended to at once and continued with unabated zeal and determination until the question is decided. The vast majority of the people of Pennsylvania want honest elections, and if they will express that fact at the polls victory is certain.

Rumor has been current for some time to the effect that Ford is going to launch a new four speed model with lines more nearly approaching those of a regular automobile. Due to the low prices and more striking types of other makes of cars Ford sales have fallen off amazingly. The most recent statement of the Ford business shows inventories lower than they have been in many years. This would indicate that Henry is getting ready for a change of some sort and the only change that would meet the serious competition he has now in the low priced car field is one of models.

New Highway to Be Built Without Interference with Traffic.

Secretary of Highways James L. Stuart has directed that the 2700 foot stretch of road to complete the concrete highway over the Seven Mountains be built without necessitating the use of a detour by motorists. Secretary of Forests and Waters, Charles E. Dorworth, enlisted Mr. Stuart's interest in the matter, impressing upon him that closing the highway while building approximately one-half mile would subject all traffic to the inconvenience of a sixteen mile detour. If the arrangement of a temporary road along the stretch to be concreted is found to be possible this will be the plan followed. Otherwise, Mr. Stuart announces, the highway will be built with the half-width plan; that is, one-half will be finished and thrown open to traffic before the other half is undertaken.

Of course it's sad to be without a new dress on Easter Sunday but committing suicide is a poor remedy as Helen Duvany, rescued from the Delaware river on that day, probably realizes now.

The Cramp shipyard, which has turned out more warships than any other concern in the country, is about to give up that work. Like the saloon, warship building is becoming unpopular.

The American students who intend to visit Russia this summer to study Soviet life may be influenced more by curiosity than a desire to improve public conditions.

The late Senator Quay worked fifty years to acquire ownership of a Governor. Joe Grundy adopted the "cash-and-carry" plan.

There seems to be a great demand for the summer capitol. Uncle Sam says the rent and he is a fairly reliable lessee.

Bad News for Vare.

By one stroke of a pen Vice President Dawes has settled, so far as such a question can be settled out of Court, the status of the special Senate committee appointed to inquire into the elections. It had been claimed that the life of this committee expired with the life of the Congress whose Senate created it. To meet such a claim Senator Reed, of Missouri, vigorously fought in the closing days of the Congress to obtain a specific extension of its authority. His efforts were frustrated by Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, whose filibuster, conducted to prevent the committee from continuing its inquiry into the validity of William S. Vare's election to the Senate, killed all the legislation scheduled for eleven-hour action in the Senate. Now Vice President Dawes, by appointing Senator Fess to fill a vacancy on the Senatorial Investigating Committee, recognizes its continued existence. More than that, he issues a statement explanatory of his action, and points out that his authority for regarding the Reed committee as a going concern rests upon a recent decision of the United States Supreme Court.

This appointment by the Vice President must be ill news both to Senator David A. Reed and to Congressman Vare. To the former it is notice that the enmities he incurred by playing a stellar role in the slaughter of legislation urged by many of his constituents were incurred in vain. He had no objections to this legislation, but he prevented its enactment in order to accomplish, as he hoped, the destruction of an investigating committee. To Congressman and Senator-elect Vare it means an investigation into the methods by which he attained his majority in November at the hands of an inquisitorial body not of his own preference. That must be a matter of considerable moment to him, else his friends would not have exerted themselves so vigorously to avert it.

It is possible, of course, that the Vare forces will not be content to accept the view of Vice President Dawes as final. The authority of the Reed committee is already an issue in a Federal Court, and the test there inaugurated will presumably proceed to conclusion. But the Vice President has given great encouragement to the proponents of the idea that the Vare inquiry should be as thorough and searching as possible, and his filing of the committee vacancy leaves little room for doubt that eventually Vare's title will be examined by experts in whom the country has entire confidence.

Pennsylvania Apples Grow in Favor.

The report of the State Department of Agriculture showing that after Pennsylvania apples appeared in the home markets last year there was a sharp falling off in shipments from other States, as compared with those in the corresponding months of 1925, suggests that Pennsylvanians are taking more kindly to the home grown fruit. Total receipts of apples were 560 carloads less than the average for the period since 1920, which may be taken as another indication that the local orchardists are more and more supplying the home demand.

But there is ample room for expansion of the Pennsylvania apple growing industry. We received last year 1,394 cars of apples from the State of Washington and 2,232 cars from New York. Since apples just as good as those raised on the Pacific coast can be grown at home and there is plenty of land on which they can be produced, it seems wasteful to pay freight charges for bringing them all the way across the continent. The money paid for them could be kept at home.

A survey made by the State Bureau of Markets elicited some information that should be profitable to Pennsylvania apple growers. Inquiries at 291 retail stores in ten cities disclosed that the best sellers among the home-grown varieties were the Stayman, Jonathan, Delicious, Baldwin and Rome.

More Than Meets the Eye.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. It is reported that Great Britain at the coming three-Power naval conference will propose reducing the tonnage limit for cruisers from 10,000, as set at Washington, to 7,500, or even lower. It is scarcely questionable that, for use in ordinary defense and for commerce protection, the smaller type would serve all three nations as adequately as the larger and would probably prove less expensive. Under battle conditions, the case might be different. Comparative figures for the British and American navies may in this connection be interesting. Great Britain has eleven of these 10,000-ton cruisers under construction; the United States has two under construction and three more appropriated for. This eleven-to-five ratio in 10,000-tonners may not be important, but there is usually something more in such proposals than meets the naked eye.

The 14-year old Philadelphia boy who held up a grown man on the street and got away with it would probably make more money in the end by joining "the gang."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Dr. Joseph S. Illick, of New Cumberland, on Monday assumed his duties as State Forester in the Department of Forests and Waters. The promotion was announced by Charles E. Dorworth, secretary. Dr. Illick has been with the department for about twenty years.

While patrolman Michael Driscoll, of Eddystone, was on his beat hunting for chicken thieves, who had been active in that borough, his own yard was robbed of 10 chickens. The same gang of thieves, it is believed, broke into the Methodist church and robbed the children's collection box of 65 cents.

Charles Kaudsen, of Mt. Wolf, Pa., was seriously burned about the head and face when a galvanized tank containing a tree spraying solution exploded, after lighting a match to ascertain the contents of the container. His entire face was blistered, while the hair was burned from his head and his eye brows scorched.

Milton B. Carling, superintendent of the Bostwick Lyons Bronze company, of Waynesboro, has purchased the interests of the Smith Fence and Iron Company, in that town, from the heirs of the late George W. Smith. The plant, which manufactures fire escapes, lawn swings and other iron and steel products, changed hands on Monday.

John McClain, 72, of Burnham, died on Sunday, a few moments after being admitted to the Lewistown hospital, from injuries sustained when struck by a train on the Milroy branch of the Pennsylvania railroad. McClain was found unconscious along the tracks near the Burnham freight station and taken to the hospital, where it was found his left leg had been splintered, his right knee dislocated and other injuries inflicted.

Isaac Rumberger, 76, deputy sheriff of Clinton county, died last Wednesday night at his home in Lock Haven. He had been in bad health for several years but had been confined to bed for less than a week. He served as deputy prothonotary, afterward serving two terms as prothonotary, and again as deputy in the same office. At the time of his death he was a deputy sheriff. He was a member of the Evangelical church and the P. O. S. of A.

Plans have been completed for the entertainment of approximately 6000 Odd Fellows from Central Pennsylvania at Berwick on April 26, when the anniversary celebration of the organization will be held. The observance will be larger than usual because of the proximity of the lodges of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, which have been invited to join in the celebration although outside the district. Several of them have accepted and sent word they will have bands.

Believed to have been aided by a rope concealed in a suit case filled with "clean clothes," two prisoners escaped from the Millin county jail at Lewistown Thursday night and are at liberty. The suit case, which is now thought to have contained a rope and plans for the jail break, was taken to the prison by a woman whose identity is withheld. The escaped men both of whom were held in default of bail for court on charges of stealing automobiles, are John Ehrenzellers, 27, and Arthur Fultz, 22, both of Burnham.

George Dolas, 7 years old, gave his life last Friday trying to rescue his toy drum that had fallen into McMichaels creek at Stroudsburg. The lad was playing along the water's edge. His drum fell from his hands and rolled into the stream. He attempted to reach it, toppled in and was carried into the swift current before a fisherman who saw the accident could get to the place to save him. His body was recovered two hours later. Mrs. Theodore Dolas, the lad's mother, became hysterical when told of his death and attempted to jump into the water.

Miles Ford, 32, is lodged in the Ridgeway jail, following his capture by a posse of fifteen men he had held up and robbed of pay checks. The lone, unmasked bandit approached the crew of men employed by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber company, at Bear Creek, fifteen miles from Ridgeway. After engaging the men in conversation, he whipped out a revolver and demanded money and valuables. The men had just received their pay checks and turned these over. The highwayman held them off with his gun and made his getaway through the woods, but the men took his trail, made the capture and recovered their checks.

Rev. Father Ferdinand Kittell, aged 70, rector of St. Michael's Catholic church, and the oldest priest in the Altoona diocese, died at Loretto on Saturday. Death was caused by a complication of diseases. He was taken suddenly ill during mass in his church the Sunday previous. Father Kittell was an intimate friend of Charles M. Schawb, who was a member of his church. He had been a priest for nearly 56 years. Father Kittell was a professor in St. Michael's seminary, Pittsburgh, for three years. He had been stationed at Loretto since 1891. His funeral was held Tuesday morning and Bishop John J. McCort of Altoona officiated.

Mike Valentine of Ralphton, Somerset county, aged 38, jumped to his death Monday night from a fourth floor window of Memorial hospital, Johnstown. During the day he settled his account at the hospital for a week's service resulting from a previous attempt at suicide by slashing his throat with a razor, and was waiting for friends to take him back to Ralphton. However, Sheriff H. L. Markle, of Somerset county, was on his way to the hospital for Valentine and it is thought he became aware of this. April 10, Valentine stabbed Alphonse Zanderie twice in the chest and then went to his home where he placed a dozen sticks of dynamite in the kitchen stove and slashed his throat.

Hidden in the bushes along the William Penn highway, after being missing since Tuesday, the body of William McCorkle, 45, of Mapleton, ten miles east of Huntingdon, was found last Thursday with a bullet through the heart. McCorkle was a poolroom proprietor at Mapleton and was known to be supplied with money, which he usually carried upon his person. As no weapon was found near the scene and as the victim's personal possessions had been taken, leaving his pockets turned outward, Coroner F. L. Schum pronounced the case one of murder, on his examination of the body. Whether McCorkle was killed at the spot where his body was found, or whether it had been thrown among the bushes after his killing elsewhere, has not been determined. He was unmarried, having gone to Mapleton from Clearfield, where his parents live.