

INK SLINGS.

If Vice President Dawes had free choice in selecting his company he might not pick "Cautious Cal" as a political partner.

The question of who is entitled to the credit for the Federal Reserve Act is becoming as much a mystery as who struck Billy Patterson.

Those who are looking around for an explanation as to why the population of Centre county has increased only two and three tenths per cent during the last thirty years while that of the State as a whole has advanced thirty-eight per cent might find part of the cause in our infant mortality rate. The death rate of live born babies in Centre county is among the highest in the State. Prospective infants should arrange to be born somewhere else.

The death of W. Harry Baker has removed the most widely known man in Republican politics in Pennsylvania. In a way its effect will reach into every county in the State. Take Centre, for instance. Senator Scott's best touch with the organization was through Mr. Baker. While the latter was publicly deposed and supposed to be entirely outside the breast-works, even though retained as secretary, everyone who knew anything of the situation knew that Mr. Baker was still a potential political factor. He was Senator Scott's good friend and through him the Senator was more of a threat than he can be with Baker gone. Harry's passing might not have serious effect on the struggle for control of Centre county between the Scott and Dorworth factions, but it will have some.

We have a card from our old friend A. Curtin Thompson, who gave the Hon. Holmes such a scare in the last legislative contest in the county. In it he says: "For the first time in all the years I have been taking it the Watchman failed to make its appearance this week. How do you expect me to get along without it?" Among other activities Mr. Thompson is a sort of grand exalted ruler of Sunday School workers. Such employment of his time would imply an inclination, at least, toward truthfulness. In fact we have ever regarded him as an exemplar of the ninth Commandment. And in order that our faith in this virtue of his may not be shattered we are going so far as to make ourselves believe that we have only been dreaming these many years that we have thought the Watchman has "failed to appear" every Christmas and Fourth of July week.

Chemists from all over the world are in conference at The Pennsylvania State College. The scientists are there for an interchange of ideas and no group of humans are as full of ideas as scientists. In fact science would have made no progress whatever had it not been for notions that this, that or the other of its exponents have had that so and so ought to be true and, because of such conviction, have spent years of research in the proof of it. Up to the moment of their success, however, many of them are looked upon as "nuts." It is a sad thought to contemplate, but we are fearful that one of the high-brows up at the College is destined to remain forever in the class of those believed to be minus a few pieces of the mental running-gear. In discussing modern warfare and means of incapacitating enemy armies he proved, the other day, that poison gas is generally abhorred as inhuman—it is really very much less disastrous in its effect than are bullet and bayonet. He was so enthusiastically insistent that gas is the least harmful of all engines of human destruction that he thinks some city of at least ten thousand population ought to volunteer to be gassed in order to prove his theory beyond peradventure. The learned gentleman might be right, but where's the city that's going to permit itself to be gassed just to prove that he is?

In another column of this issue appears a political advertisement which is designed to give the impression that Governor Fisher is not interested in the matter as to whether Hon. Jas. C. Furst or M. Ward Fleming Esq. should be made the Republican nominee for judge of this district. According to the statement of Dr. Jones the Governor likes both "boys" so well that he is sorry he couldn't have appointed them both to succeed Judge Keller on the bench. We call attention to the matter because it was only a few months ago that the Governor's Secretary of Forests and Waters, Mr. Dorworth, in his own paper, the Bellefonte Republican, stated that the administration was unreservedly behind the candidacy of Judge Furst. There seems to be an African concealed somewhere in the political wood-pile. Mr. Dorworth would scarcely have made such an assertion without the sanction of the administration unless, per chance, he imagines himself to be it. On the other hand the Governor could easily say what he is quoted as having said to Dr. Jones without even committing any of his lieutenants. In a district where Democrats have been fired from jobs because they declined to register as Republicans in order to vote for Judge Furst at the primaries it is hard to make people believe that even if Governor Fisher isn't personally interested his administration is keeping hands off.

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Responsibility for the Filibuster.

In a speech delivered at Pottsville, the other evening, Senator David A. Reed declared that Senator James A. Reed, of Missouri, chairman of the Slush Fund committee, was responsible for the filibuster that defeated much important legislation at the close of the Sixty-ninth Congress. In this absurd statement he deliberately insulted the intelligence of his audience. The filibuster was a vicious enterprise. It crippled the federal courts in all sections of the country by defeating appropriations necessary to enable them to function, impaired many other agencies of government and postponed for a time the complete exposure of frauds perpetrated in the Pennsylvania Senatorial election of 1926.

During several weeks preceding the starting of the filibuster Senator David A. Reed professed sympathy with the effort to lay bare to public view the frauds which had created a fictitious majority for William S. Vare over his Democratic opponent, William B. Wilson. Thus assured of co-operation from the Republicans of the Senate Mr. Reed had delayed asking that the Slush Fund committee be authorized to continue its investigation until within a few days of the end. In similar situations, previously, such authority was given without objection. But on this occasion Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, objected and checked all business of the Senate to support his action.

Chairman Mellon, of the Republican State committee, has since admitted that the filibuster was for the "good of the party." It held for the Republican party a majority in the Senate for the purpose of organization at the opening of the Seventieth Congress. What happens afterward is of less importance. The formation of the standing committees will be accomplished, and even if Mr. Vare is subsequently thrown out and the election of Mr. Smith, of Illinois, pronounced "null and void," the vast influence of a majority in the committees will remain with the Republicans. It will be a stolen power like the Vare majority in Pennsylvania, but it will be a potent force nevertheless.

It doesn't matter much what kind of bait the President uses in fishing for trout in the Black Hills, there will be a roar that may "be heard round the world" if he fishes for votes for a third term with the Vare-Mellon type of lure.

Farmers' Best Bet.

The "safe and sane" instrument for improving the condition of farmers lies in co-operation both in selling products and buying supplies, according to a bulletin issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the other day. During 1926, this official statement declares, the farmers of the State, through their co-operative associations, transacted a business of \$35,177,010, an increase over the volume of 1925 of 13.8 per cent. Of this total \$28,876,419 worth of products were disposed of through seven large interstate organizations and \$6,300,591 by local co-operatives, there being ninety-five such organizations in the State. This indicates genuine activity.

It is surprising that the co-operative marketing of milk showed the largest increase. The reason for this is that those concerned in this product of the farm have been employing the system longer and have adhered more closely to the method. In marketing as well as in other activities of life fidelity to alertness count for much and the producers of milk have been alike energetic and faithful for a considerable period of time. During 1926 the total sales of milk in Pennsylvania amounted to \$28,542,342, an increase of 14 per cent. as compared with the previous year. The sales of fruit, vegetables, wool and eggs show a decrease of from six to eight per cent.

The mistaken notion that agricultural prosperity may be obtained by price-fixing legislation still obtains to a considerable extent but is rapidly vanishing. "The Lord helps those who help themselves," is as true on the farm as anywhere else, taxation discriminates against the farmer and levies a burden on his shoulders that might be relieved by legislation. Tariff taxation affords no protection on what he has to sell but increases the price of everything he has to buy. Co-operation is the best remedy for that as well as the surest method of marketing.

It has been proved on various fields that our soldiers are always ready to face death in battle but it now appears they are not willing to die of starvation or indigestion.

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Coolidge a Candidate in the Open

That President Coolidge is an active candidate for re-election is now admitted by his intimate friends. For a long time he was afraid of the third term issue and hesitated. But he has been persuaded that he has nothing to fear from that source. One of the most dependable Washington correspondents writes that "the big Republicans who raised it against Roosevelt in 1912 are now on the band wagon." What he means is that "big business" didn't altogether trust Roosevelt but is entirely confident that Coolidge will serve it faithfully. Mr. Roosevelt was more or less erratic. He was generally obedient to the call of Wall Street but occasionally balked. Coolidge never utters a protest.

The big Republicans who raised the third term issue against Roosevelt were not influenced by fear of a dynasty or respect for the tradition set by Washington. Ninety per cent. of them would be perfectly willing to see the government perverted into an empire or a dictatorship if the corporations were in control. They were afraid of Roosevelt because at intervals he revealed sympathy for the people and was liable at any time, if his power were secure as it would have been with a third term conferred on him, to scourge the despoilers of the public. But they have no such apprehensions with respect to Mr. Coolidge. They know he will do what they want done and appear to enjoy the operation.

Thus having convinced Mr. Coolidge that opposition to the third term will not develop into a menace to his election he has cast off the pretense that he is not a candidate and entered into a strenuous canvass for votes. But he is not willing to have Vice President Dawes associated with him on the ticket. He is as suspicious of Dawes as the big Republicans were of Roosevelt, and he wants a tail to his kite that will help to keep it aloft. He would like to have former Governor Hadley, of Missouri, because of his popularity in Missouri and Kentucky, but Missourians are proverbially incredulous. His second choice is said to be Senator McNary, of Oregon, author of the farmer's bill he vetoed.

Business is slowing up everywhere and it is not all due to the hot weather. The bait fisherman of the Dakotas is believed to be responsible for part of it.

Careless Voters Rebuked.

Only a few weeks ago an entire School Board in one of the townships in Luzerne county was thrown out of office for malfeasance. Since that time a similar result followed the prosecution of the School Board of Coal township, Northumberland county, on the same charge. In this case it was proved that within recent years two Secretaries who could neither read nor write served terms and another of the Secretaries of the Board refused or neglected to make records of the proceedings of the meetings. Each of these Secretaries was paid \$2,000 a year for his services, a figure which might have enticed competent men to aspire to the service. Probably the political machine preferred the other kind.

The Coal township School Directors unwisely appealed from the decision of the Northumberland county court to the Supreme court of the State which has just handed down an opinion, not only sustaining but cordially approving the decision of the lower court. It declared that "some of the Directors were utterly incompetent and others had acted in utter disregard of their plain and lawful duties. The evidence," the Supreme court declared, "revealed extravagance and wastefulness of the funds of the district and general lack of business methods." It must be admitted that the penalty imposed was anything but severe. A prison term would have much better "fit the crime."

The significant feature of the Supreme court's deliverance, however, was not in affirming the lower court. It was in laying the blame for the malfeasance on the citizens of the district. "The evidence in the case," says the opinion, "should be deeply humiliating to the taxpayers by whose votes these delinquent officials were placed in office." Coal township is a mining settlement but there ought to be and no doubt is ample intelligence in the electorate to discriminate between fit and unfit men for service in a capacity which has control of the educational machinery of the community. The fact that the delinquents have been prosecuted and convicted is a hopeful sign.

The State highway between Centre Hall and Bellefonte is being oiled this week.

Death of W. Harry Baker.

W. Harry Baker who died in Harrisburg on the 5th instant had been a conspicuous figure in the public life of Pennsylvania for many years. He began his political career as a page in the State Senate in 1895 and advanced by gradual steps and as a just reward of efficiency until he had attained to potential leadership of his party. From page in the Senate he was promoted to a minor clerkship and finally to the important office of Secretary, which office was created in order to retain him in the service of the State. In the beginning he had neither social prestige nor powerful pull. He won his way by intelligent and industrious effort and made himself indispensable to party leaders.

Harry Baker became Secretary of the Republican State Committee in 1905 and continued in that office until the death of Senator William E. Crow, then Chairman, in 1922, when he was elected Chairman. During the period of his service as Secretary of the Committee he became intimate with the late Senator Boies Penrose who relied implicitly upon his fidelity and efficiency. Upon the death of Senator Penrose, Mr. Baker, by common consent, became executor of his political estate and administered it with consummate skill and ability. When Gifford Pinchot was nominated for Governor in 1922, he tried to depose Mr. Baker from the Chairmanship but failed. The masterful management of the campaign made Governor Pinchot his admiring friend.

The deep-seated affection in which Harry Baker was held by the people of Pennsylvania is shown in the comments upon his life and death in the press, without respect to party affiliation. He was a candid and obliging public official and a truthful and courageous party leader. His fidelity to friendship cost him the only defeat he ever met. He supported his life-time friend, E. E. Beidleman for Governor in the primary contest against the Mellon entrant at the expense of his most fondly cherished ambition and accepted the consequence with characteristic composure. He might have made himself secure by sacrificing his friend but preferred to maintain his honor and public confidence.

Twenty-one cars were lined up at the curb market last Saturday morning and a good quantity of everything in season was offered for sale. The first home grown potatoes made their appearance and sold for 55 cents a peck, but green grocery stores in Bellefonte were selling them for 49 and 50 cents.

Mr. Mellon an Uneasy Boss.

State Chairman Mellon is beginning to realize that the path of a political boss is not always strewn with roses. The boss is held responsible, by the rank and file of the party, for the success or failure of the campaign. If the party wins at the polls, even by the usual majority, the boss may hold a place in the confidence of the organization. If the majority is considerably reduced the boss is blamed and no excuses will be accepted by the disappointed followers of the machine. To avert this sometimes unjust penalty the boss lives through the period between active campaign work in a wretched state of uncertainty and mental anguish. He is the victim of all sorts of danger.

Chairman Mellon was chosen boss of the Pennsylvania Republican machine, not because of his experience in party management or his efficiency in influencing the minds of men. His fitness for the office of party boss was measured upon an altogether different standard of values. It was expected that the vast wealth of his family would serve as a certain guarantee of a full slush fund and have a tendency to promote harmony through the deference which the minds of men invariably yield to very rich men. In the beginning this expectation was partially fulfilled. The Mellons were very generous in the last campaign. But when it came to the matter of dividing the spoils Mr. Mellon fell down completely.

Whether it was because he was over zealous in rewarding his own friends or too arrogant in disposing of the claims of men not within the circle of his acquaintance is left to conjecture. But the fact that within three months of the date of the primary elections for local nominations throughout the State the Republican organization is in a state of utter demoralization. Even in Mr. Mellon's home town he is unable to draw the factions together and a state of war exists in nearly every county in the State, and naturally enough this untoward condition is generally ascribed to his mismanagement of the "patronage mill." He may be able to "bring order out of chaos," but it will be an expensive process.

Corporate Profits.

There are differences of opinion about the state of trade. There is a good deal of complaint that business is not active, that trade is dull, that an impetus to business is necessary. The textile trade has not yet recovered from the slump of about three years ago, although there has been much improvement. Railway net earnings, taken as a whole for the country, are not abundant, and even in the best part of the country they have not reached 6 per cent.

Yet their earnings are better than for several years, and the quotations are correspondingly high. The Pennsylvania Railroad raised its dividend last fall, and the New York Central now announces an increase. The news article in The New York Journal of Commerce says that "conditions now prevailing in the business world are 'spotty,' and competition in various lines of endeavor is more marked, foreshadowing smaller corporate earnings in a number of instances, as compared with last year, than for quite a while. For this reason Wall Street does not think that favorable dividend announcements will be as numerous as during recent years."

But that is guessing about the future. What is known about the present is that corporate interest and dividend disbursements payable next month will make a new high record. They will reach a total of \$553,550,000 over a year ago. The compilation by The Journal of Commerce shows that dividends will be more than \$8,000,000 better than a year ago. The industrial and miscellaneous corporations will pay nearly \$3,000,000 more, the railways more than a million and a half more, the street railways about the same gain, and there is an estimated gain of more than two millions in the payments by Greater New York banks and trust companies. The interest payments will be more than \$50,000,000 in excess of a year ago, the increase by the railways being about \$21,000,000, reflecting large borrowings last year; the industrial and miscellaneous companies will disburse \$23,500,000 more than in 1926, the street railways about \$6,000,000 more, the Federal Government about \$4,000,000 less, and Greater New York about two millions more.

In round millions the industrial dividends in the first seven months of the fiscal year were \$350,000,000 in 1926, \$367,000,000 in 1926 and \$384,000,000 in 1927. The railway and traction payments were \$250,000,000 in seven months of 1925, \$263,000,000 in 1926 and \$279,000,000 in 1927. It is hard to believe that much business is bad or poor when corporate dividends and interest payments are increasing this way. The country as a whole must be doing a very good business, and the country as a whole includes the agricultural regions. There has been a good deal of exaggeration, for political purposes, of the difficulties of the farmers. Undoubtedly there have been serious difficulties, but much of the indebtedness of four years ago has been cleared off, and the farmers must be buying pretty liberally, or these corporation dividends would hardly have been possible.

World War History.

An important item in the general appropriation bill approved by Governor Fisher was \$32,500 for the preparation and compiling of the records of the soldiers of Pennsylvania who participated in the World War. This is important from several standpoints, especially the fact that as time goes on it will be more and more difficult to obtain first-hand information of those who served in the armies of the United States.

Pennsylvania responded as no other State, perhaps, in the great struggle for human liberty and as soon as possible the official record of its participation in the World War should be made available for the people. Not only must it be a statistical and official record; it should also reflect in narrative form the splendid service rendered by the men and women with the colors and also of those who backed them with patriotic effort at the home stations.

Another interesting item in the general appropriation bill was \$200,000 set apart for the use of the Governor in "repelling invasion, subduing insurrection, riot, tumult or disorder, or imminent danger thereof" and "in the event of all or any portion of the National Guard being called into active service of the United States by the President or furnishing a quota of volunteers from Pennsylvania under a call of the President." Thus Pennsylvania officially, through an act of the Legislature, recognizes the importance of preparedness in time of peace.

It was Pennsylvania that supplied so many volunteers in the World War that the first two drafts did not affect the State. Such a record of patriotic service is unusual and justifies every effort to set down for all time in permanent form a history of what transpired when the call came in 1917.

An esteemed contemporary asks "why people drown." Without any profound study on the subject it would be safe to say because they can't help it.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYTSTONE.

Ralph Sterling Clearfield, superintendent of the General Refractories Company plant at Mill Hall, sustained serious injuries to his spine when he fell from a ladder at the plant Thursday afternoon, striking a concrete floor.

Five of the six cows owned by Chas. Burrell, of Salona, in Nittany valley, were killed last Thursday morning when a tree under which they were standing during a thunder storm was struck by lightning. The sixth cow, a short distance away was not injured.

Mrs. Cathrine Fair, 35, and her six children ranging in age from one to fifteen were burned to death early on Saturday morning, when flames following a terrific explosion destroyed their farm home at Belleville, fifteen miles north of Reading. County police blamed a still.

Dale Thomas, of Reading, has purchased the property of the former Robsona Iron Company, at Robsona, comprising 1700 acres, with 40 dwellings, a superintendent's mansion, blast furnace and large slag bank, from the Bethlehem Steel Realty Corporation, for \$100,000, it was announced today.

Blood poisoning, a fracture of the jaw and throat injuries, suffered when he was said to have leaped from the roof of his home after ramming a soldering iron down his throat resulted in the death of Tony Polek, aged 32, of Pittsburgh, in St. Francis Hospital on Tuesday, according to a report to the coroner.

While working in a potato field, last Thursday, Jennelle Louise Smith, aged 11, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Smith, farmer of East Hanover township, Dauphin county, was killed by a bolt of lightning as her father and mother and two younger sisters were running for shelter from an approaching thunder-storm.

By the will of Mrs. Julia T. Shepherd, of Hanover, probated on Monday, the following institutions are benefited by bequests in trust: Tressler Orphans' Home, Leesville, \$2,000; Hanover public Library, \$5,000; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Hanover, \$1,000; Hanover Y. M. C. A., \$1,000 and building fund of St. Mark's church, \$1,000.

Accused by the mother of a four-year-old girl with pulling several locks of hair from the tot's scalp in an electric wash wringer, Walter Baker, of Lancaster, is being held for hearing on charges of aggravated assault and battery. Mrs. Elizabeth Shaub, a neighbor to Baker, is the prosecutrix. She alleged that last Friday he tore the hair from her daughter's scalp in a wringer.

Stricken while operating his engine on the Hunter's Run branch of the Reading railroad, near Toland shortly after noon last Wednesday, Charles J. Stocker, died before the train reached Hunter's Run. Oliver Marks, fireman on the train, a combination freight and passenger service, took the throttle after Stocker was stricken. A heart attack is blamed for the seizure. Stocker had been in the service of the Reading Company since 1888, beginning as a brakeman on coal trains and winning promotion until he earned an engineer's post.

A distressing accident occurred at Caledonia last Thursday morning shortly after 9 o'clock, resulting in the death of Mrs. Felix Cole, a bride of a few weeks. Mr. Cole was shooting ground hogs and was near the barn at the time. He was using a punkin ball and let loose at a stray ground hog. The bullet glanced off a rock, ricocheted and struck Mrs. Cole in the head. The woman was a considerable distance from her husband, but the bullet struck her with such force as to kill her instantly. The horrified husband ran to the side of his wife, but when he reached there she was dead.

J. Vincent Hendrickson, 33, a teller in the Commercial Bank and Trust company, Tintsville, for 12 years, was sentenced last week by Judge Thomas J. Prather, of the Crawford county courts to serve a term of three to six years in the western penitentiary, after pleading guilty to embezzlement of approximately \$9,200 from the bank. Hendrickson was arrested several weeks ago following an audit of his books by the state bank examiner. It was found that since January 1924 he had made 475 individual abstractions of \$10 and \$20 at a time making the deductions from interest accounts of the bank.

Maggie Scott, Negro, of Farrell, holds the unique distinction of having been refused admission for six to 12 years to the western penitentiary after conviction upon a second degree murder charge. Maggie, in custody of Sheriff W. A. Booe, of Mercer, tried to crash the gate at the Woods Run institute on Saturday and was notified by warden Stanley P. Asho that there was no room for her. Maggie was returned to Mercer pending disposition of her case. Warden Asho said that women had been refused at the penitentiary for several years because there are no accommodations for them. Female prisoners, he said, are usually confined to a local workhouse or Muncy, a woman's institution.

Irvin D. Beard, five years old son of Mr. and Mrs. Simon R. Beard, of Granite, Adams county, was bitten by an enraged hog when he entered the pen with another brother, Robert, about three years old, to examine a litter of pigs born the night before. Playfully the children fondled the little pigs in the pen with the mother hog, when the latter made a savage lunge at the older boy and sank its teeth through his arm. His screams attracted a large collie dog, boon companion to the children, which was just outside the pen. The canine leaped into the pen and attacked the hog, driving it away from the boy, who, with the younger child, quickly got out of the sty, while the dog kept the infuriated hog covered. A local physician was summoned and treated the wounds in the child's arm inflicted by the hog.

A mother, rushing to a hospital with her four-year-old son, injured in an automobile accident, died on Tuesday after her skull was fractured in another motor accident. She was Mrs. Earl Wiley of Lower Marion township, near Philadelphia, and wife of a policeman. The father was off duty when the boy was hurt and placing him and the mother in his own automobile together with the driver of the car that struck the child, Wiley was rushing to the Bryn Mawr hospital when another policeman, also off duty, approached in his automobile from the opposite direction. He noticed Wiley's car driving wildly, turned and pursued it. He sought to bring it to a stop by forcing Wiley's car to the side of the road and in doing so Wiley's car was upset. The boy, with additional injuries, was not seriously hurt.