

INK SLINGS.

—Albert Ladner declares he didn't ask for appointment as Registration Commissioner. He didn't have to. Mr. Vare attended to that.

—From the office window we observe that Spring creek is red with mud from many corn fields. So red, in fact, that the season of 1927 for the fly-caster on that stream is practically over.

—Council has adopted a zoning ordinance for Bellefonte and none too soon, though the desirability of such action might never have appealed to some of its members had their properties not been threatened with depreciation by proposed cheap adjacent construction.

—Since Henry Ford has discovered that the Jews are not as bad as his Dearborn Independent tried to make the world believe them to be, and has made retraction and apology for his accusations, we would suggest that he name his new fliv. model "The Israelite."

—Only four parties will have a place on the ballot to be voted at the primaries in September. They are the Democratic, Republican, Labor and Prohibition. The last day on which you can register for the election is September 17 and you must pay your tax by October 8 in order to qualify.

—All of his many friends in Centre county will be interested to know that the Hon. John Francies has been selected by the warring factions of Pittsburgh as the one candidate upon whom they can unite for the office of city treasurer. It is a very much more desirable position than his present one as clerk of the courts of Allegheny county.

—Lindbergh and Byrd are sitting a top of the world these days. There seems to be no honor too exalted, no gift too lavish, to confer upon these valiant pioneers in aviation. Over in New York twelve year old Joseph Bode nursed a mother stricken with a fatal malady and cared for the humble home and a three year old brother for months without a whimper. When Gotham found that out the streets were not knee deep with confetti and ticker tape, but the courageous little boy had done quite as fine a thing as either of the nation's present idols.

—The Coolidge bally-hoo announced, on Tuesday, that the "Black Hills natives praise famous neighbors for simple hospitality and friendliness." We commend the President and Mrs. Coolidge for attempting to be nothing more than they are—just folks—and condemn their press agents for trying to make political capital out of something that the Coolidges would make themselves ridiculous for if they were to attempt to be anything else but. "High hatting" isn't indulged in by those who have earned their honors or wealth. That nauseous gesture is the sole asset of the accidents in public life and society.

—Hastings H. Hart, who is consultant in penology for the Russell Sage Foundation, has taken a crack at those who were responsible for as well as those who are continuing the work of building the new Western penitentiary in this county. Mr. Hart says there has been woeful waste, needless delay and bad planning at the big institution and that it probably won't be completed for forty years and then the total cost will be twenty million dollars. We accord every man the right to his own opinion and reserve the same to ourselves. Therefore we express ours to the effect that Mr. Hart probably doesn't know as much about penology or more about prison planning than the gentlemen who had to do with the beginnings of Rockview. Like as not he is a second Ellie Potter. The best evidence of his superficiality is seen in his failure to even hint at the real cause of any waste or delay there might be in this great enterprise of the State. Had the successive Legislatures since 1916, when the work was started, appropriated the necessary funds with which to carry out the plans the institution would have been completed by this time.

—Democrats of Centre county are in nowise discouraged by what the registration shows. The records reveal that there are many more Republicans in Centre county than there are Democrats, but the Democrats who know don't believe the records. In every precinct in the county there are dozens of voters who are actually Democrats whom Republican assessors have either wilfully or carelessly registered as Republicans. This practice has been going on for years. We have known of it, but have been content with the opposition's desire to build paper castles that are so often blown down by November's storm of ballots. Everywhere in the county the Furst and Fleming force have been busy persuading Democrats to register as Republicans so that they might vote at the primaries for one or the other of these gentlemen. In one precinct we know of fifty-two who have complied with whatever of persuasion or pressure was brought to bear on them and of the fifty-two only three will vote part of the Republican ticket in November. No, the Democrats, and the Republicans who have no sympathy with such manipulation of the franchise, know all about this registration "build up" and are not at all discouraged.

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Senator Dave Reed's Smoke Screen.

Senator Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, attorney in fact if not at law for William S. Vare, has erected another smoke screen to deceive the public in relation to the Senatorial contest in which Mr. Vare is concerned. Mr. Reed announced in Washington, the other day, that he is preparing to have the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections impound all the ballot boxes used in the general election of 1926 in Pennsylvania and recount the votes. He knows that such a proceeding would be a physical impossibility within the period of time to make the result available as evidence in the pending contest. But he imagines that other persons less familiar with the tricks of politicians may be deceived by such a gesture. Political crooks are proverbially optimistic.

There has been no change, there has not been even a suspicion, of corruption in the vote or the returns of the elections in the several interior counties of the State where safe and substantial Republican majorities were reversed in the vote for Senator in Congress last year. The change which gave William B. Wilson a majority of more than 50,000 in the State, outside of Philadelphia, was the natural and proper revolt of thousands of conscientious Republicans against the methods by which Mr. Vare had acquired the nomination of his party, and the aversion of other thousands to the thought of putting a man of Vare's reputation and equipment in high office as the representative of the moral and mental standards of Pennsylvania.

Senator Dave Reed believes, or at least hopes, that because of the effect, in a partisan sense, of rejecting Vare and admitting Wilson to a seat in the Senate at the opening of the Seventieth Congress enough members of the Senate Standing committee might be enticed or dragged into perverting the evidence, as was done in the case of Newberry, of Michigan, a few years ago. That shameful prostitution of power and opportunity sent several Senators into a rather disgraceful oblivion, but the memory of it fails to deter Senator Dave Reed from striving for a repetition of it in order to secure for his party control of the Senate for another brief period of time. But he will be no more successful in his enterprises than Vare was in fooling the people.

—The Boston man who left his wife stranded in a distant city and ran away with her clothes and money may not be the meanest individual in the world but he is trying to qualify for that title.

Has the Governor Violated the Law?

In creating a new registration commission for Philadelphia Governor Fisher has not only sadly disappointed the friends and supporters of honest elections but he seems to have violated the law under which he acted. The law authorizes the Governor to appoint a registration commission consisting of "five duly qualified electors, not more than three of whom shall belong to the same political party." In pursuance of this mandate he named George J. Brennan, Sarah McNeil and William Walsh, Republicans, and Benjamin H. Renshaw and Albert H. Ladner as Democrats. But the records show that for several years past Mr. Ladner has been registering as a Republican and voting that ticket.

As a matter of fact during the past several years Mr. Ladner has been a willing and servile instrument in the hands of William S. Vare to betray the Democrats of Philadelphia. At the instance of Vare he was appointed chairman of the registration commission by Governor Brumbaugh and was largely responsible for the fraudulent registrations during the period of his incumbency of the office. When Governor Sproul reorganized the commission in 1919 he dropped Ladner in order to give the Democrats of Philadelphia just and legal representation. In the Republican primary campaign of 1926 Ladner not only spoke but voted for Vare and was among his most active campaigners.

In reply to criticism of the appointment of Ladner Governor Fisher declares that he might have named one commissioner from each of five parties and remained within the law. That is true. But he cannot, within the law, appoint four men of the same political party. If Ladner had been registered as a Prohibitionist, or socialist, his appointment would be within the law. But the records show that he is quite as fullfledged a Republican as Vare or Harry Mackey, and it is generally understood that he was appointed at the request of Vare. A movement has been started to have the appointment revoked but whether that result will be achieved remains to be seen.

Technicalities of the Law.

In quashing fourteen indictments against a group of officers and employees who had robbed one of the Harrisburg banks of nearly a million dollars Judge William M. Hargest, president of the Dauphin courts, expressed regret at the technicalities of the law compelling such action. "The reason for technicalities have disappeared," he said, "but the technicalities themselves remain imbedded in the law. The day of the special pleader is past. The courts no longer look with favor on technical objections. Lawyers and courts are the constant subjects of criticism for the delays of criminal justice. The courts are bound to decide according to the law, antiquated though it is. The remedy is with the Legislature."

The technicality which temporarily at least released these bank robbers from just punishment was in the fact that the information made before the committing magistrate and the indictment presented by the grand jury were not literally in accord. The information was in the form and language of a charge of embezzlement under the common law and the indictment in the form and language of an Act of Assembly. "A defendant," the judge said, has a right "to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him," and that must be expressed in the information. "Before the trial," he continued, "he should know what action he is to meet in order that he may prepare for it." His source of knowledge is the transcript.

Probably not more than two out of ten committing magistrates are "learned in the law" or sufficiently versed in the language of the law to discriminate between a common law and statutory offense. In the case in point the Alderman before whom the information was made knew that a crime had been perpetrated in the nature of an embezzlement and clearly expressed that fact in his transcript. But the District Attorney who framed the indictment understood the difference and realized the distinction and made the presentment conform to the requirements of the law he intended to proceed under. Probably the court had no alternative in the circumstances but to the laymen it looks as if a way might have been found to punish palpable guilt.

—Grundy seems to have failed in his effort to put a horse doctor in control of a State institution for feeble minded children.

Decision Will Not Stop Inquiry.

The decision of the federal court in Philadelphia that it had no jurisdiction in the case brought before it to impound the ballot boxes of Delaware county for use in a contest for a seat in the United States Senate delays but it does not defeat a complete exposure of the frauds perpetrated, in the interest of Mr. Vare, at the election last fall. On the announcement of the decision Senator King, of Utah, a member of the Slush Fund committee, promptly directed counsel for the committee to enter an appeal and steps were immediately taken to prevent the destruction of the ballots before they become available as evidence in the contest. This was the real purpose of the action.

In view of these facts the adverse decision of the court is of no importance so far as interference with the investigation is concerned. The members of the committee will probably postpone their work until the sultry season has passed and the proposed injunction against destroying the ballots will guarantee presence of the evidence when wanted. Viewed from another angle, however the decision of the court is regrettable. It indicates that all the machinery of government in Pennsylvania, at least, is employed to protect rather than punish ballot crimes. Every expression of this lamentable fact gives encouragement to those who commit or are benefited by fraudulent votes.

The gist of Judge Thompson's decision is that the question of the rights of the Slush Fund committee is for the Senate to decide and not for the courts to determine. But the Senate had already expressed its opinion on the question. When the Slush Fund committee, an official and fully credited organ of the Senate, asked the court to direct the surrender of the ballot boxes, it inferentially declared its right to impound and take possession of the boxes. Mr. Vare's attorneys claim that with the adjournment of the Sixty-ninth Congress the committee created during that Congress, died. While there has been no direct ruling on that point the custom of the Senate in the past refutes the claim.

—If Mussolini is not "spoiling for a fight" he must be heading for a "bug house."

Fair Field for Tax Slashing.

Our esteemed contemporary, Labor, published in Washington and dedicated to the interests of wage earners, says "if Congress wants to slash taxes there is a fair field for such action. Customs receipts for the fiscal year just ended were \$605,500,000, as compared to \$2,225,000,000 from income and corporation taxes. At the most conservative estimate the tariff, as it stands now, adds \$5 to the cost of living for every dollar that it puts into the public treasury. If Congress can pare the tariff enough to reduce revenue receipts from that source, say \$200,000,000, it will save a billion dollars to the country. If the reductions are made with a view to relieving agriculture of the tribute which the farm now pays to the factory, better yet."

We see no just cause of complaint against the income tax in its present form. Single men or women who earn less than \$1500 are exempt from payment and married persons with incomes of less than \$3500 are equally favored. Those in either class whose incomes are above those figures can easily pay the small amounts assessed against them if their incomes are less than \$10,000. Where the income reaches the level that involves a high rate of per centage and sur tax the victim will have plenty left after payment to recompense him for his labor and "keep the wolf from the door." During the World war income taxes in England ran as high as eighty per cent, and there was little complaint. Government must be maintained and it costs money to keep the machinery in order.

But there is no such measure of equality in the levy of tariff taxes. The laborer who earns \$3 a day is required to pay the same tax on a given article as the millionaire who gathers in a hundred times that amount. Besides the proceeds of the tariff tax are not as justly distributed. Out of every hundred dollars collected through the custom houses probably ten dollars goes into the treasury and ninety dollars goes to unearned bounties to the corporation or monopoly that produces and markets similar and frequently inferior merchandise. For this reason our esteemed Washington contemporary is everlastingly right in its statement that Congress has a fair field for tax slashing. The present tariff is a crime against the people.

—It was a short lived strike, that of the miners of the American Lime and Stone Co., but it was long enough to prove our oft repeated belief that it is much easier to push wages up than to pull them down.

—Anybody who has the price may get a view of the magnificence of Judy Gray's mansion before it is demolished. A good many people would prefer a view of the processes of "how he got it."

—It may be unimportant but the Geneva naval conference has proved that the Washington conference was not the perfect piece of diplomacy it was "cracked up" to be.

—The Ku Kux Klan contributed \$10,000 to the Republican campaign fund in Indiana, last year, which accounts for Senator Watson's tender feeling for the Klan.

—Henry Ford may have saved a good deal of money and vastly increased his business by apologizing to the Jews. But it was the right thing to do.

—The man who objects to Governor Smith and Mr. McAdoo on the ground that they are politicians must have a curious idea of Mr. Coolidge.

—The death of John Drew removes from the stage an attractive figure. He represented the highest ideals of the amusement world.

—The Irish gunmen also seek "shining marks." The assassination of Kevin O'Higgins, on Sunday, inflicted a great loss on Ireland.

—The most difficult task the State administration has encountered thus far is finding a congenial job for Eric Fisher Wood.

—The number of aerial heroes is multiplying but there is no abatement in the enthusiasm with which they are applauded.

—The Soviet government of Russia is preparing for war. It may also be said that pernicious conspiracy is "riding for a fall."

—Maybe if Mr. Coolidge would appear in a clown's costume he might win the support of a few very credulous people.

Value of Education in Farming.

From the Pittsburgh Post. That "book learning" pays, even in farming, has been strikingly demonstrated by surveys just completed by the United States Department of Agriculture. Comparing the incomes of tillers of the soil in various States, the department's investigators have proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that education brings a handsome pecuniary return. Thus there has been added another vocation to the already long list of those in which profits will be larger if one has gone to school.

Numerous examples may be cited of successful men who did not go to college. Some of our multi-millionaires had only the most rudimentary schooling. But it cannot be too strongly emphasized that their cases are extremely unusual. So far as the generalty of mankind is concerned lack of education is a severe handicap. Uneducated men who have succeeded in spite of their want of instruction are the first to admit that "book learning" is an advantage.

If there were any important occupation in which it would seem that there was no imperative demand for high school or college instruction it would appear to the uninitiated to be farming. The cultivation of the soil one might suppose, could be learned without recourse to books. But an examination of farming problems shows otherwise. The man who hopes to win success in farming must be fairly well acquainted with half a dozen sciences. He must understand something about the chemistry of the soil, so as to know how to use fertilizers to best advantage; he must know something about botany, so as to get the biggest possible yield of grains, fruits, and vegetables; he must know something about dietetics and veterinary science, so as to get the best results from his chickens and livestock. All these things and kindred subjects of interest to the farmer are now taught at colleges.

How valuable such instruction may be to the agriculturist is indicated by the government figures. It has been found that every day at school increases a farmer's earnings. The soil tiller who has gone through high school earns more than the one who has not advanced above the grade school. The college graduate has a larger income from his farm than his neighbor who went no farther than the high school. The Department of Agriculture has found that each day of schooling is worth \$9.25 to the farmer.

If it were out of the question for any large proportion of the farm boys and girls to obtain an education, it would be cause for regret that they should be so handicapped. But as it happens there is opportunity for all to receive the instruction which has been shown to be so valuable. Every youth of intelligence and grit can go through college if he will. Where there's a will there's a way.

Further Liberty Restriction.

From the Pittsburgh Times. The leisurely driver has no secure place on modern highways. He may not want to drive fast, he may prefer to go a moderate pace and look over the country. It he does so, pretty soon a line forms behind him and he is made aware of his slow speed by persistent honking behind him, unless the road be wide enough and the traffic in the opposite direction be slight enough to permit those in a hurry to run around. In practice it seems to be the demand that everybody shall drive as fast as anybody wishes to go. The situation is such that the slow driver obstructs traffic on crowded thoroughfares. Therefore personal predilection must yield to those who want to go as fast as the law allows, perhaps even faster if there be no traffic officer in sight, and in this traffic officers are siding with the cause of the fast driver.

Where the traffic is light the situation is not so acute but since even the slow driver prefers the best roads and the best roads attract the most drivers there are not many places where leisurely driving may be indulged without causing somebody in a hurry to berate the driver ahead for his failure to speed up or to give road room for passing. It is a condition which has come with the motor car. Formerly one's speed on the highway could be regulated by one's own desire but that privilege is passing rapidly and we are at the threshold of punishing drivers for going too slowly as well as too fast. Another restriction of personal liberty is in the making.

—The third term enterprise is not prospering as well as might be expected. Republicans of one corn-belt State have formally asked Governor Lowden to enter the fight and a convention of farmers has demanded the repassage of the McNary bill.

—The naval parley at Geneva is not making much progress in the direction of decreasing navies. Great Britain appears to want to increase rather than decrease naval strength.

—It is said that the ultra dry politicians are not satisfied with President Coolidge's attitude on the question. Wonder how they found out how Cautious Cal. feels on the subject.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSER.

—With his left hand almost severed from his arm as a result of being caught in a circular saw while working on his farm near Lewistown Saturday morning, John Lindsay, 21, is a patient in Lewistown hospital.

—Joseph Naughton, 25, a Pennsylvania Railroad brakeman, died in the hospital at Berwick, on Monday, from a broken back and severed foot, suffered when he fell under his train at the Pond Hill water tank while looking for a hot box on one of the cars.

—The burned body of George Vohl, of Williamsport, aged 40, known to the police as "Jiddy" Vohl, was found in the ruins of a burned shack on Sunday, by a fireman who loaned him a knife on Saturday to repair a pair of shoes. The origin of the fire is not known.

—Albert E. Daugherty, aged 36, of Clear Run, until two months ago head machinist of the Milliron Construction company on the State road west of Renovo, died at DuBois of internal injuries sustained a week ago when the motorcycle he was riding collided with a sedan.

—Leopola Curti, of Mount Union, is in the Huntington county jail charged with the killing of his wife and the wounding of George Prevost, a former boarder in their home. According to the police authorities, Curti, who is 46, signed a confession that jealousy caused the shooting. Five children survive the slain woman.

—Suffering injuries received when he fell from a scaffolding on which he was working in front of the National theatre operations at Lewistown last Friday morning, Frank Campbell, negro, 51, is a patient in the Dr. F. W. Black private hospital. Campbell lost his balance and tumbled 25 feet from the scaffold to the brick pavement, landing on his head.

—State Treasurer Lewis has notified various banks in which state deposits have been made that he will be making about \$7,000,000 August 1 for the payment of semi-annual appropriations to fourth-class school districts and the semi-annual payments to counties of their share of gasoline tax collections. The amounts are approximately \$5,250,000 and \$1,750,000 respectively.

—Albert Solt, 35, of Williamsport, is believed to have drowned in the Susquehanna river at Homets Ferry, near Towanda. He disappeared during the severe storm of Friday night and later friends found his boat overturned and his straw hat floating near shore. Crews have been dragging the river, but no further trace of him has been found. Solt was the father of five children.

—Necessary expansion in the facilities at the Clearfield hospital will result in the expenditure of about \$80,000 for new buildings and additions to present buildings at that institution during 1927. This expenditure will include the new power plant and laundry which is complete and in use, the construction of the Cora Arnold Swoope maternity unit, and an addition or annex to the nurses' home.

—Threatened with death at the hands of Thad Hillard, aged 31, following a quarrel at Allison, near Brownsville, about noon on Saturday, George Taylor, 28, fired the contents of a shotgun into the face of Hillard, killing him. Taylor escaped after throwing the shotgun on the back porch of the house where both he and Hillard boarded. A posse of county officers was rushed to Allison in search of the slayer.

—Lewistown police are searching for a thief from whose shoes emanates the odor of sauer kraut. The Brelinger & Leach grocery was broken into and robbed for the second time this year at the week-end. One hundred pennies and a carton of cigarettes were all that are missing, but the thief in entering the building stepped into a barrel of sauer kraut made last year and spoiled. He tracked the kraut all over the floor.

—Patrick McGarrath, a moulder at the Standard steel works, returned home on Sunday from a visit to the "Owl's Club," near the Licking Creek game refuge, and reported finding the carcass of a dead beaver. There is a large colony of beavers there and five weeks ago another full-grown one was found dead. The refuge keeper says they die from old age. McGarrath also reports finding many deer bones in the creek, all of which have been cleaned of flesh, indicating dogs or some other animals are playing havoc with the deer.

—Knock-out drops in a glass of wine are alleged to have placed John Kapinski, of Lancaster, and \$130 in the hands of his supposed good friends and John Pritchard. He is in the Millin county jail awaiting a hearing. Kapinski was a boarder in the home of John Pritchard. He was offered a drink of wine and when he fell off into a sleep he had \$130 in his possession and upon coming to his senses he had only \$70, he claims. Police traced Pritchard's movements and found that he had purchased gas for his car in Yeagertown with a \$50 bill which Kapinski claims was his property.

—Charges and counter charges of a sensational nature bringing into the spotlight once more the Bradford county "divorce mill" which was exposed by the late Judge William Maxwell shortly before his death, were aired in court at Towanda, on Tuesday, when Mrs. Elizabeth Willetts brought action seeking to have set aside her divorce from Major Frank Willetts, New York millionaire contractor. Mrs. Willetts alleges the proceedings were "faked" throughout and that she never resided in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Willetts declares she married Willetts when he was a brick-layer in 1914 and loaned him \$27,000 with which he got his start. His fortune quickly turned to millions, the testimony showing that in one year alone he made about \$275,000.

—A rooster that crows sixty-four times an hour at dawn of day in an otherwise quiet suburban community is a public nuisance, according to Bert Herbert of Forty Fort, Luzerne county, who appealed to police of that borough for relief from the alarm clock tactics of a rooster belonging to Adam Glahn, a neighbor. Herbert produced a tally sheet showing the rooster had crowed sixty-four times an hour each morning for seven days, starting exactly at 3.42 o'clock. Glahn was ordered to appear before Burgess Roselle. He explained that the rooster serves the purpose of an alarm clock and is much more reliable. Herbert was advised to confer with Mr. Glahn, and between them devise a method for silencing the rooster.