

INK SLINGS.

—Well, we didn't win the first lap in the Susquehanna base-ball league, but we've got as good a team as any of them and the second lap runs until Labor day.

—It is not surprising that the Black Hills are palling on the President. The attempt to transplant a being so indigenous to New England soil wasn't justified, even by the exigencies of politics.

—If there is any sanity and power of concentration left in us we'll find it out after tomorrow. The fishing season closes then and our one excuse for procrastination, dereliction and general neglect of everything will have been snatched away until next April.

—In this race for the Republican nomination for County Treasurer Charley Long, of Spring Mills, is worth keeping an eye on. We have been told that he has something more than advantageous location back of his candidacy. Certainly it can't be the preferential finger of the new boss.

—This young Mr. Stillman must have loved his humble, back-woods bride very genuinely to have given her a million and a half as a wedding dower. Let us hope that her new estate will not turn her head so that she will not be the good wife that this democratic youth undoubtedly deserves.

—Mr. Ford might have thought his apology to the Jews well timed, since it was made just on the eve of the disclosure of his new model car. Henry reckoned with the wrong host, however. It was the poorest business gesture we have known him to make. The Jews don't have to ride in Ford cars. Their sagacity made that a Gentle ordeal years ago.

—Last week we heard nothing but of Fleming's strength. This week all our information has been to the effect that Judge Furst is going to get it—the Republican nomination for Judge. All the winds, political and otherwise, have been vagarious this season so we shall essay no guess on the outcome of this pretty contest until the early hours of September 21.

—Attorney Carr, of Philadelphia, gave it as his opinion in Harrisburg, on Wednesday, that "the official acts of the Governor of a State are above the jurisdiction of courts." The matter under discussion was the legality of the Governor's action in appointing four Republicans on the Philadelphia board of registration. Had the chief executive of Pennsylvania happened to have been a Democrat we wonder how far above the jurisdiction of courts Mr. Carr would have thought him to be.

—The consolation we get out of the unexpected outcome of the recent Dempsey-Sharkey fisticuff is the disinclination of the sports-writers to dethrone Tunney. We make predictions about nothing that we are not fairly well up on—and the doings in the squared circle are certainly one of them—but notwithstanding Jack's rather surprising showing against Sharkey we opine that Tunney will "take" him in September much more handsly than he did at the Sesqui a year ago.

—William B. Wilson is of the opinion that a mere recount of the vote cast in Pennsylvania last November, for Senator in Congress, will not satisfactorily clear up the charges that Mr. Vare secured his election by fraud. The proposal has been made that the vote be recounted and both sides pledged to abide by the totals. Mr. Wilson would be very foolish to join in such an agreement. The real fraudulency of that election was not so much in the ballots actually in the boxes as it was in the phantoms and repeaters who put them there.

—Good Lord, what they won't do to get space and make a "build up" for President Coolidge. Bait fishing and clowning in cow boy chaps, having worn out had him pushing a mired wagon out of the mud on Saturday and judging butter on Tuesday. Anybody could lend a hand at getting a wagon out of a rut, but when it comes to judging butter—well, that's different. We remember that once the head of the dairy husbandry department of a great American college awarded first prize for gilt-edge butter to an exhibit of oleomargarine that had been slipped into the show by Andy Palm, of Meadville.

—On Tuesday, before the world's great minds in chemistry, now assembled at the Pennsylvania State College, was exhibited a living model gowned in a bridal costume that was wholly synthetic. That is, the fabric of the dress, veil, underthings, slippers and even the bouquet of orange blossoms had been made in the chemists' laboratories—from wood fibre—instead of from products of the cotton fields of Louisiana, the silk worms of China, the flax and pelts of animals and the hot-houses of the florist. The incident drew passing notice in the metropolitan papers. Not one in a thousand who read it will think of what real significance laid hidden in that news story. To us, if we had any investments in securities of industries, the business of which might be effected by these substitutes, the incident would be admonition to keep very close tab on their market action.

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Governor's Blunder Wilful and Wicked.

Though abundance of evidence was presented to Governor Fisher that Albert H. Ladner Jr., of Philadelphia, is and has been for at least eight years a Republican, and though the law creating the Board of Registration Commissioners for that city distinctly forbids the appointment of four Republicans on that board, the Governor has commissioned Mr. Ladner and three other Republicans. It may be true that Governor Fisher was misinformed as to the party affiliation of Mr. Ladner. But he did not get the misinformation from Democrats of Philadelphia or elsewhere, and he had plenty of time between the date of appointment and the issuance of the commissions to correct the mistake he was led into by persons not Democrats. He certainly knew Ladner's politics when commissioned.

Therefore the conviction is inevitable that the violation of law by the appointment of Mr. Ladner was both a wilful and wicked act and the unavoidable impression is that it was for the purpose of aiding William S. Vare and his corrupt political machine in their vicious purpose to continue the practice of illegal voting and false counting which gave Mr. Vare the Senatorial nomination and a bogus majority over William B. Wilson at the general election last year. If the Governor had been sincerely opposed to ballot frauds in Philadelphia he would have promptly withdrawn the appointment when he obtained conclusive evidence that Mr. Ladner is not a Democrat and that appointing four Republicans was a gross violation of law.

The critics of the press and public in this matter have been entirely too polite to Governor Fisher. Those who have protested to him directly, as well as those who have publicly discussed the subject in print and speech, have uniformly exculpated him from an intent to violate the law. If he had, when the truth was spread before him, withdrawn the appointment of Mr. Ladner or one of the other Republicans named, he would have been entitled to this charitable appraisal of his blunder. But in issuing commissions to four Republicans, nearly a week after the facts were laid before him, he simply revealed the regrettable fact that it was not "an error of the head" alone but a deliberate purpose of the heart.

—Henry Ford may become as expert in making apologies as he is in building popular priced automobiles.

Wise Suggestion to Boroughs.

The president of the Pennsylvania Motor Federation, Mr. Richard C. Haldeman, of Harrisburg, in a timely letter addressed to the burgesses of the several boroughs, suggests that borough authorities refrain from purchasing expensive control lights until after the Department of Highways has designated the "arterial roads," under the motor law enacted during the last session of the General Assembly. The new law authorized the Secretary of Highways and the mayors of cities to "establish boulevard stops on certain streets and highways." According to the chief engineer of the Department of Highways many of the traffic signals now in use will be unnecessary after the new code becomes effective.

This is a wise suggestion. The traffic problem in cities and towns has become not only intricate but expensive. Various signals have been devised, many of which have disappointed public expectation, and good or bad, they cost a lot of money. The natural and proper desire of municipal authorities to avoid accidents has influenced many cities and boroughs to invest in these devices and indulge in experiments along the lines of safety. If the provisions of the new law will make some of these signals unnecessary it would be wasteful to purchase them now and discard them in the course of four or five months when it becomes effective. There are less expensive methods of building scrap heaps.

Any expedient that will considerably decrease the number of automobile accidents is cheap enough to any community at the price it costs. But expensive devices which fail of their purpose are not worth anything, and experimenting with them is a futile gesture. The highway officials and the Motor Federation officers are in agreement on this point, and the action of Mr. Haldeman may save the boroughs of the Commonwealth a great deal of money. The plan expressed in the new code may not fulfill expectations and in that event the experimentation with signal devices and the expense attending it will have to be continued. But the facts will be fully developed in a short time and it is safe to wait.

Commission to Fool People.

When, during the recent session of the Legislature, Governor Fisher yielded to the demands of the Mellon-Vare partnership on the question of ballot reform legislation, the insincerity of his professions on that subject stood revealed. The people of Pennsylvania demanded honest legislation against ballot corruption, and in his inaugural address Governor Fisher promised his personal and official influence in that direction. In pursuance of his interpretation of that pledge he sponsored four measures of doubtful value. At the instance of Vare and Mellon, however, he afterward consented to the defeat of the most important of them and the substitution of a commission to revise all elections laws.

With the Governor's consent, and subsequently his approval, the General Assembly passed a joint resolution authorizing him to name five members of a commission, the president pro tem and chairman of the Committee on Elections of the Senate and the Speaker and chairman of the Elections committee of the House, ex officio, completing the body. The other day the Governor announced his appointees and to say the public was surprised, is a conservative statement. The chairman of the Commission is Francis Shunk Brown, Mr. Brown, is Mr. Vare's personal attorney, and with president pro tem, Schantz, of the Senate, and Speaker Bluett, of the House, as parliamentary experts, it may be called a Vare hand-picked bunch.

There is only one Democrat of State-wide acquaintance on the commission. Judge Shull will do all that is possible in so hopeless a situation to get something of real value for the people out of this body. But it was never intended to make improvements in the election laws of the State. It was conceived as an expedient to postpone reform ballot legislation for a time. Mr. Mellon wanted no law that will interfere with his plans to re-elect Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, to the United States Senate next year and his purpose was achieved the moment the resolution creating the Commission was signed by the Governor. And the projectors of the scheme imagine they have fooled the people.

—A Chicago scientist declares that whiskey is not an antidote for snake bite but the Volstead law robs this fact of its importance to fishermen.

Fisher Again Flouts the Law.

In the appointment of Registration Commissioners for Pittsburgh Governor Fisher has expressed the same indifference to the spirit of the law that characterized his selections for the same service in Philadelphia. In the Philadelphia appointments he named four registered Republicans recommended to his favor by the Vare machine. That was in direct conflict with the letter of the law which declares that not more than three of the same party may be appointed. In Pittsburgh he appointed four men selected by Senator Max Leslie, but one of the four is registered as a Democrat. The difference is without distinction. The Democrat chosen by Leslie is a servile tool of the Leslie machine.

The other Democrat named for service in Pittsburgh may be fairly representative of the real Democrats of the city but he was not recommended by any Democrats. His sponsors are Senators Harris and Coyne, Republicans, and though they are not affiliated with the Leslie machine they are not militant opponents of the methods of that piratical organization. The real Democrats presented four names from which to select two commissioners. But neither of them was chosen, probably for the reason that Leslie wants as little interference with his political operations as possible. With four commissioners completely submissive to his will the "strip" boss may carry on as he likes.

In any other communities in this or any other State such a flagrant expression of contempt for public opinion would be resented by the voters at the election. Mr. Charles Flinn, who has been displaced, is a Republican but not of the Leslie brand. He is a son of the late Senator William Flinn and was appointed by Governor Pinchot, which made him anathema to the machine boss. But his high standing in the community and his record for efficiency should have secured his reappointment if the interests of the public had been given any consideration. But with Governor Fisher, the Mellon-Vare partnership and Grundy public interest and efficiency are of little consequence.

—It is suspected that the "big navy boy" is responsible for the failure of the arms parley at Geneva.

Sacrificing Labor to Greed.

The strangle hold which the corporate interests have on the State of Pennsylvania is revealed in the recent order of the Insurance Department discontinuing the differential between the rates of the State Workmen's Insurance Fund and those of the other insurance organizations carrying casualty insurance. Ever since the creation of the Workmen's Insurance Fund the so-called standard companies have been striving to get the differential abandoned on the ground that it is an unfair discrimination against competing companies. The leader in this effort has been Joseph R. Grundy, head of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Casualty company, and, incidentally, sub-boss of the State administration.

The ostensible purpose of the Workmen's Insurance Fund was to enable wage earners of the State to get insurance for the protection of their families at the lowest cost possible. An appropriation of half a million dollars was made to start the enterprise and a survey of the field led to the fixing of the rate ten per cent. less than the rates of other companies. As was expected this differential enticed most insurers to use that perfectly safe vehicle for protection with the result that rival concerns engaged in the business for profit only found diminishing returns on their investments. They at once organized a lobby to influence the authorities to abandon the differential.

Insurance Commissioner Taggart gives various reasons for presenting the standard insurance companies a substantial gift next New Year's. One is that the Workmen's Insurance Fund has been making too much money. He says that the original capital borrowed from the State was repaid long ago, and that since 1918 the profits of the fund have amounted to upward of \$1,000,000. If the purpose of the fund is to give wage earners insurance as cheaply as possible that would be good reason for increasing the differential rather than abolishing it. As a matter of fact the real and only reason for the discontinuance is to put money in the treasury of Joe Grundy's Casualty Insurance company.

Councilman Harry Flack will Not Run Again.

Borough councilman Harry Flack has decided not to be a candidate for re-election this year in the South ward. He has served three terms, or twelve years, and is of the opinion that that is long enough for any man. Mr. Flack has made a good, conscientious councilman and as chairman of the Fire and Police committee has discharged his duties with the utmost fidelity to the borough and the various interests his committee represented. His decision not to be a candidate will mean the selection of another man and friends of Robert Kline are urging him to make the run. Mr. Badger will be a candidate to succeed himself and it is likely Mr. Garbrick will also be a candidate for a term of two years.

In the North ward the term of John S. Walker will expire with this year. He has also served for some years and while he is not especially keen on being a candidate again will probably yield to the desire of his friends and stand for another term. In the West ward John P. Eckel's term will expire with this year and while he is not overly anxious to serve another term will do so if the voters want him. The last day for filing nomination papers is August 16th, so there is still plenty of time to make decisions.

—Aimee Semple McPherson, of Los Angeles, California, evangelist is on the front pages again. She and her mother are in a row over who controls Angeles Temple, where Aimee attained notoriety as a sky-pilot. The incident provides another peg on which to hang the argument that these women have been seeing the Gates Ajar through the eyes of the collection plates.

—The President is growing weary of his Black Hills environment. The fish are not biting eagerly and playing cowboy is not congenial amusement.

—The world production of diamonds increased twenty-eight per cent. last year. That ought to be encouraging to the wage earners.

—Secretary Mellon announces his purpose to buy a large estate in Monaco. Maybe he has designs on the "Bank of Monte Carlo."

—According to current gossip of recent years a good many Frenchmen and some others "want the scalp" of Georges Clemenceau.

Mr. Vare Overlooks Some Issues.

From the Philadelphia Record. William S. Vare's statement that the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections should at once take possession of all the ballot-boxes used in the late Senatorial election in Pennsylvania and proceed with an immediate recount of the contents thereof bespeaks a laudable desire to procure as early as possible an official computation of the vote by which he claims election. But Mr. Vare's assumption that such a recount would clear away "all the partisan and demagogic charges or inferences that have been fathered by those who have sought to create a doubt as to the bona fides of our State election" involves an oversight.

There is more at issue, as we understand it, than the number of ballots in the ballot-boxes marked for Mr. Vare. There is some question as to the means by which he obtained the support implied in those ballots. There is some question as to the means by which he obtained the nomination for the disputed office. There is some question as to the legality of many of the ballots which contributed toward his election, and as to the propriety, if not legality, of his expenditure of large sums of cash in his primary campaign.

Mr. Vare cannot dismiss these matters by characterizing them as "partisan and demagogic charges or inferences," and he should be as anxious to have them sifted as he is to have the ballots recounted. Whatever may be the response of the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections to the Vare request, if any, we have reason to believe that the Senate itself intends to go further into all the circumstances of Mr. Vare's application for admission to that body than a committee can go through recounting the vote of the general election.

State's Election Methods.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record. The Election Law Commission appointed by Governor Fisher is charged with the task of looking into the laws of this State and other States and making recommendations to the 1929 session of the Legislature. The appointments follow the plan inaugurated by Governor Pinchot when he named seventy-six prominent citizens of the State to suggest radical improvements to the method of conducting elections. The only citizen named on the new commission who was a member of the Pinchot commission is Guy W. Moore, publisher of the Wilkes-Barre Record. The new commission has the opportunity to go over the whole ground and suggest vital reforms that have been shunted aside. When it has formulated its recommendations it will be necessary for the newspapers with independent inclinations and for various civic organizations to create strong public sentiment. It will not be possible to eliminate all fraud from campaigns and elections but there are ways by which improvement can be effected over what has been done. The ballot box stuffer and the crook can be restricted more than at present. A majority of the people want clean, honest elections but the small minority of citizens in alliance with the crooks has managed to stave off real reform. It remains to be seen what the new Commission will do and in what manner the public will back up its findings.

Small Farms and Small Apartments.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer. About two-thirds of Pennsylvania's 200,000 farms contain less than a hundred acres. The big farm is disappearing. The number of holdings comprising more than a thousand acres has shrunk measurably in the last half century. With 244 listed in 1880, the total in 1925 had dwindled to 114, or less than half.

Perhaps the same explanation is to be seen here as in the case of large estates—the help problem. Acreage figured in only two digits is about the maximum that may be tilled today available. The size may have increased slightly in the last twenty years owing to the substitution of gasoline and electricity for human power, but the increase is far below the days when the land was virgin. To this slight extent the farmer has an advantage over the family that tries to run an old-fashioned mansion. The farmer can increase his production with the aid of mechanical devices. But all the ingenious domestic appliances of the present century have not made it easier to obtain servants for housework. The few-room apartment and bath have become a necessity, but the one-horse farm is not yet in sight. Half of the agricultural enterprises in this State comprise between twenty and ninety-nine acres.

Can We Remember War?

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. Diplomats fear war between England and Russia. War will not be so easily brought on as it once was. It used to be a game around a table, arranged and played by diplomats.

The people will have more to say about the next war. Public memory is short, but it is not short enough to have lost the lesson which the deaths of 18,000,000 men made vivid.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSONE.

—A community chest is being advocated at Mauch Chunk in order to do away with scattered charity drives.

—Tossed thirty feet by a passenger train when his truck was reduced to splinters on a grade crossing at Espy, Conrad Hess, a Wapwallopen merchant, brushed himself off and refused to be taken to a hospital or a doctor. He landed in a large mud-hole and said he was only slightly bruised.

—Entering the Shenk and Tittle Sporting Goods Store, 315 Market street, Harrisburg, shortly after ten o'clock Saturday night, by prying in a transom over the front door, in plain view of any passerby, burglars jimmied the company safe, got \$63 in cash, and helped themselves to merchandise valued at approximately \$1,000.

—Jacob Hoepfstein, 52 years old, of Pottsville, dropped dead on Sunday on his front porch. He was regarded as the most powerful man in that section, was six feet tall and weighed 350 pounds before heart trouble developed. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American war and a brother of Captain James W. Hoepfstein, Second ward alderman.

—A fire which was discovered in a baggage car on the Lehigh Valley passenger train enroute to Wilkes-Barre last Friday caused a \$15,000 loss to the express car and cargo. The flames were discovered at Glenn Summit station. Trainmen uncoupled the car from the train and hastily took it to a nearby water tank, where the flames were extinguished, but practically nothing but the wheels and trucks were left.

—George C. Walker, 53, prominent Snyder county farmer, committed suicide early Monday morning at his home in Beavertown, using a 12 gauge shotgun. His wife, returning home, found the body of her husband lying in the living room of her home. Walker had been despondent over ill-health, having suffered a breakdown 10 years ago, resulting from infected teeth from which he never fully recovered.

—Action has been taken for the holding of a special election August 30th, when residents of Lock Haven will vote on a proposal for the issuance of bonds for the erection of a new school building. Dr. Nelson P. Benson, superintendent of schools, told the school board that there has been a steady increase in enrollment annually and that the increase probably would continue making the erection of a new building necessary.

—Max Ludwig, Pittston, must pay \$2,000 to George Wassel under a verdict returned by a jury. Ludwig sold a rifle to two boys, 13 and 14 years old, who wounded Wassel's daughter while on their way home with the new weapon. Wassel sued Ludwig, alleging he was responsible for selling the weapon to a minor. At the first trial Wassel got a verdict of \$1,800 and at the second trial \$2,000. Judge Coughlin refused to set aside the verdict.

—A bolt of lightning accompanied by thunder, which nearby residents described as sounding like a tenfold explosion, wrought irreparable damage to the steeple of the Evangelical Lutheran church of the Good Shepherds at York, Pa., during an electrical storm early Saturday morning. The steeple was ripped from the apex to the cornice above the brick work and thence through the masonry of its Gothic arches down to the buttresses of the base. The tower was so weakened that it will have to be torn down.

—Death sped downward from a cloudless sky to take the life of a Kimberlontown Montgomery county, farmer, Herman Mosteller, 45, was shocking wheat when suddenly and without warning a lightning bolt struck him on the head. The farmer fell to the ground dead, his clothing burned completely off. Two hired men nearby carried Mosteller to his house and summoned a physician, but the doctor said he had been instantly killed. There was only a single stroke of lightning and no thunder. The sky was hazy, but no cloudiness was visible.

—William Lieby, 42, silk worker, was arrested early Monday morning at his home in Allentown, and with his seizure the police feel certain they have the man who has several times smashed windows in Bethel Mennonite church. Lieby's arrest follows a close watch that police have been keeping on the church for several weeks since it was first damaged by someone who threw soda bottles through the windows. Early last week the culprit eluded watchers and hurled a wrapped brick through a plate glass door. Lieby will be sent to the State Hospital for examination.

—Clifford A. Shannon, charged with embezzling \$19,500 in stamps while he was assistant cashier in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, at Pittsburgh, was on Friday held under \$10,000 bond for the September grand jury at a hearing before a United States commissioner. Shannon was unable to furnish the bond and was remanded to jail. Agents of the Intelligence unit of the Treasury department were investigating Shannon's reported claim that others were implicated. Shannon was quoted as declaring he would "raise a racket big enough to move the roof of the federal building" when he was brought to trial.

—Mrs. William Burfield, of Wharton, Potter county, finds she can pick berries in her field at the same time bears are engaged in the same occupation without endangering her peace of mind nor her personal safety. But both Mrs. Burfield and her co-laborers stick to their own side of the busy patch during the operations. A portion of the Burfield farm produced a large crop of wild strawberries which served as magnet for three bears who are vegetarians and ordinarily harmless. Mrs. Burfield went to the patch on various occasions and picked strawberries while the bears were also busy. Neighbors for miles around went to the Burfield farm to witness the spectacle.

—Three-fourths of Ival Brandt's weekly salary of \$20 will be paid to his bride of six months, the Marquise Frances Adelaide Eleanor Felicie de Tournour, of Orisier, France, under an order of the court issued at Pittsburgh on Monday. Counsel for the Marquise said they were married while Brandt was studying French in a school conducted by the plaintiff. They eloped, he said, and lived in New York largely on the Marquise's money. When her funds were exhausted, he alleged, Brandt deserted her. Brandt's home is in Pittsburgh. The Court ordered Brandt to pay back rent on a New York apartment in which his wife said she had furniture valued at \$4,000. She sued for support.