

Democratic Watchman

INK SLINGS.

EPISTLES I, II, III.

—There are three letters on the desk that we ought to pay some attention to here, but we're not going to do it, for it seems that every time we essay the role of anything else than a political paragrapher we lay up nothing but trouble. And letters are dangerous things to dally with, anyway. Years and years ago we carried on a rather feverish correspondence with a Wilson college girl. Being a Freshman in College at the time we had started German and conceived the brilliant idea that a few mushy expressions in the language of the Teutons might start the fair dame guessing and at the same time impress our erudition upon her. It seemed that our missive had scarcely had time to reach Chambersburg ere we received a sixteen page reply—all in Dutch. Then it dawned on us that the lady claimed Lebanon county as home and two months in German at the Pennsylvania State College was no Trojan horse for any would-be Lochinvar to mount for a ride into that county to "snitch" a lady Heron. Down in Lebanon Dutch is the language they talk nothing else but. Believe it, or not; we've got the letter yet and, at this day we don't know a thing that is in it. We almost died of curiosity to know its contents, but we never got good enough in German to read it and we think too much of the lady to trust its translation to anyone who is.

Having presented a pretty fair prologue we shall proceed with the three letter play.

—Old Harry Rumberger has sent us a clipping of Geo. Nox McCain's story of the remarkable scenes in the Senate of Pennsylvania when the Democrats rallied to the defense of Senator Don Cameron when his fellow Republicans were reading him out of the party for having voted against the strictly partisan Lodge elections bill in 1891. If Col. McCain is right one of the big men in the Senate then was a Bellefontoner, but we're not going to be led into amplification of his story because the Bellefonte of today thinks of present big fish and not of past big men.—End of Epistle I.

—Dave Kelly has sent us another bunch of dahlias from West Virginia and writes to know what we think of the specimens from his culling basket. Last season Dave sent us a bunch of these posies and we undertook to make our readers believe that no such dahlias could be grown anywhere on earth except in Monongalia county, West Virginia. No sooner had the edition reached its readers than the desk began to bank up with such a deluge of dahlias that we had no time for anything else than keeping them in fresh water, clipping the stems and gathering up the fallen petals. Every local grower presented his bouquet in much the same mental state that the local merchant approaches the proprietor of a Sears-Robuck catalogue and he and she wanted to know wherein his or her floral exhibit fell short, botanically, of anything from West Virginia that we had on display.

Well—never having been Flora of a local Grange and not having been interested in flowers prior to 1918 and since then having specialized only in dandelions and elder blossoms, we found defense of our assumed knowledge of floriculture as futile as was our attempt to read the German letter of the Wilson college girl and we shall not blow Dave's dahlias again.—End of Epistle II.

—We have a friend who has attained world wide fame as a scientist. From time to time he has sent us copies of his publications. He is so much of the intelligencia that his stuff sort of makes us hunt for a place in the "I have saw" and "You done it" crowds.

—The "female form divine" has long been recognized in all parts of the world, Christian and Pagan, civilized and savage, as the highest point of nature's achievement, "the very acme and pitch of life for epic poetry," to quote from Pope. To say as Doctor Bolton does that "the male figure is decidedly more decorative than the female figure," may serve to flatter the vanity of the saps and the sheiks who adorn society parades, but it is not clear to the average mind even if it be true "that throughout the ages the male figure has been used as a model for the creation of things of beauty with considerable more frequency than the female figure," as Doctor Bolton declares.

—But it may be gravely doubted that flattering the vanity of saps and sheiks will greatly contribute to the promotion of human progress and there may be, here and there, old fashioned men and women who have been and are now unable to see that beauty contests, as they have been conducted in the past or might be in the future, if Doctor Bolton's suggestion should be adopted, have advanced and spiritual, social or material interests of the justly celebrated human race. There are possibilities in all things, however, and the public exhibition of a ten or twenty thousand dollar "male beauty" might be of some use to somebody besides the exhibit, but like us Missourians say, you'll have "to show us."

—In response to the curtain call we want to make this dramatic declaration:

God forgive us! We have never wished anybody aught but good fortune, but we wonder now why Sacco and Vanzetti had to die while the writer of Epistle III is permitted to live.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Mr. Mackey's Absurd Pretense.

In his testimony before the Senate Slush Fund committee Harry Mackey, the Vare machine candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia, declared under oath that in the twenty wards of the city in which the big machine majorities are rolled up the voters are so illiterate or stupid that they do not know the names of the candidates they are voting for. He acknowledged that as manager of the Vare campaign for Senator he disbursed the slush fund and controlled the propaganda. If that were true he must have known that the \$50,000 contributed by Tom Cunningham was collected from bootleggers and gamblers in the city in expectation of favors in the event of Mr. Vare's election. The crooks don't work for nothing.

As the political "friend, philosopher and guide" of Mr. Vare, Harry Mackey must have known that emissaries of the Vare machine had warned District Attorney Fox that if he persisted in prosecuting election crooks he would be defeated for the party nomination for the office for the full term, and that because he did persist in prosecuting the ballot crooks an obliging and obedient judge has been taken from the bench for the purpose of preventing his nomination. As a participant in all the machine conferences during the past dozen years Mr. Mackey must have known that the Vare machine has maintained a partnership agreement with the criminals in which the criminals contribute votes and the machine guarantees protection.

Yet in the face of facts Mr. Mackey, who never made a protest against these iniquities, asks the people of Philadelphia to believe that Mr. Vare selected him as the Republican candidate for Mayor in order to reform the abuses which have kept the machine in power all these years. He must have sublime faith in the force of the illiterate voters or a pervading confidence in the indifference of the better class of voters to their civic obligations. Mr. Mackey knows that Vare prevented the passage of ballot reform legislation during the last session of the Legislature, and that if Vare believed that Mackey's professions of reform were sincere he would not have been chosen as the party candidate for Mayor.

—The President intends to visit Yellowstone park before he returns to Washington. It will probably be his last chance to view wonders at public expense.

Concerning Male and Female Figures.

It is to be hoped that the "male of the species" will not take too seriously the suggestion of Dr. Thaddeus L. Bolton, of Temple University, Philadelphia, that men should participate in the completion with women in "beauty contests." "If young men were entered in the contests as well as girls," Doctor Bolton ventures the opinion, "the affair might develop into what might be called a course or school for the real appreciation of the human body." In the absence of this innovation Doctor Bolton is afraid that beauty contests will be discontinued for the reason that "every extreme carries its cure with itself," and he appears to be persuaded that such contests are "wholesome and healthful to society."

The "female form divine" has long been recognized in all parts of the world, Christian and Pagan, civilized and savage, as the highest point of nature's achievement, "the very acme and pitch of life for epic poetry," to quote from Pope. To say as Doctor Bolton does that "the male figure is decidedly more decorative than the female figure," may serve to flatter the vanity of the saps and the sheiks who adorn society parades, but it is not clear to the average mind even if it be true "that throughout the ages the male figure has been used as a model for the creation of things of beauty with considerable more frequency than the female figure," as Doctor Bolton declares.

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—Universal regret will follow if Mildred Doran, the plucky lady aviator, has perished.

Smoke Screen Still Working.

The Senator Reed smoke screen to prevent exposure of the frauds practiced in the Senatorial election in this State, last year, for the purpose of electing William S. Vare is still serving the purpose of delay. At a conference held in Washington, last week, in which the contestant, William B. Wilson, and an attorney for Mr. Vare participated, the adverse replies of several judges to the request of the Senate sergeant-at-arms were considered, and it was determined that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Vare "will prepare and submit to the courts formal petitions for the preservation of the ballot boxes." This will take up considerable time, and time is an important element in the equation.

It may be possible, between now and the 20th of September, four and a-half weeks, to prepare these petitions and present them in legal form to the several courts. But proceedings in law are proverbially slow and at least in some of the counties concerned every expedient for delay will be invoked. In counties where no frauds have been committed, and they include vastly the greater number, there will probably be no trouble. But in counties such as Delaware, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Schuylkill, where the fraud systems are nearly as perfect as in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, every possible means of preventing a recount of the ballots will be resorted to.

This procedure, whether successful or not, will cost the people of Pennsylvania a good deal of money. If it will result in the exposure and penalizing of the frauds committed it will be worth all it costs and more. But it might have been accomplished at less expense. There is neither sense nor justice in aspersing the vote of Centre county because it is strongly suspected that the vote of Schuylkill county was debauched. The people of Centre county, however, will have to pay the expense of impounding and conveying the ballot boxes to Washington and probably of procuring new boxes for the primary election because Senator Reed imagined the process would conceal the frauds in Schuylkill.

—Political gossip in Pittsburgh indicates an impending quarrel between Senator Max Leslie and Mayor Kline for control of the organization. This ought to result in a war for extermination of both sides.

Harry Mackey Admits Corruption.

The Vare machine hand-picked candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia, Mr. Harry A. Mackey, made an interesting statement for publication the other day, in a sweeping renunciation of existing conditions in the city. "It is a well known fact beyond contradiction," he declared, "that the police have been taught how to collect graft. They learned it through the highly specialized prohibition methods adopted by the Department of Public Safety." Like the equally highly specialized system of fraudulent registration, voting and computing the returns of elections the election boards like the police have "become thoroughly corrupted. Every one on the street knows their price."

This is a startling indictment against the present Vare-made administration of Philadelphia. But there are no reasons to believe that it is an exaggeration. Investigations made of the elections of 1925, when Judge Renshaw was counted out of an election to the municipal court bench; of the primary in 1926, when Vare was counted in as the Republican candidate for Senator, and of the November election last year when William B. Wilson was counted out of the Senatorial election, revealed an organized system of fraud which is amazing. The public is not quite so well informed concerning corruption in the police department of the city but it may be assumed that Mr. Mackey "knows what he is talking about."

The Vare machine is responsible for the present administration in Philadelphia as it is for the candidacy of Mackey for the office of Mayor now. For years Mr. Mackey has been the guiding spirit of the Vare machine. His selection as the candidate of the machine now is a reward for his fidelity to Vare and his efficiency in directing the fraudulent operations in elections and the grafting in the police department. In his statement he adds, every police official knows me and they know I know the inside of their work." No doubt that is literally true, and it might be said with exact justice that that is why he has been chosen by Vare for the office of Mayor.

—The great number of candidates entered for the primary election this year may indicate increasing patriotism or something less worthy.

Pinchot Holds Mellon Responsible.

Gifford Pinchot continues to be the militant champion of liquor law enforcement and incidentally the uncompromising opponent of the Mellon-Vare partnership. In an address before the World Congress against alcoholism at Winona Lake, Indiana, on Sunday, he said, referring to his four years' fight for law enforcement as Governor of Pennsylvania, "the chief obstacle against which I had to contend was not the bootleggers and the wet politicians; it was not the breweries and the distilleries. The chief obstacle to law enforcement in Pennsylvania during these four years was the federal government at Washington. The thing which hampered me beyond all else was the refusal of Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, to have the law enforced."

In view of the fact that Governor Fisher, professing to favor the enforcement of the Volstead law and the Eighteenth amendment to the Federal constitution, has declared his support of Mr. Mellon for the nomination for President by his party, this statement is significant. If Mr. Mellon was the principal cause of the failure of prohibition enforcement as Secretary of the Treasury, what basis can there be for hope that he would pursue another course as President. Mr. Pinchot declares that "there was a power in Washington that could have made even Mellon enforce the law. I mean the President of the United States." If Mr. Mellon should become President there would be no higher power to influence him or compel him to enforce the law.

In this matter Mr. Pinchot is absolutely correct in his analysis. The failure to enforce the Volstead law during the past several years is largely ascribable to indifference in Washington. Mr. Mellon, on account of personal interest or environment, may have been careless on the subject and the President was afraid of offending Mellon by intervening. The whiskey ring, in the pre-Volstead period, was the source of the slush fund and the bootleggers and saloon keepers have served that important purpose since. As the official head of the Republican party the President was compelled to silence, and as putative head of the Pennsylvania machine Secretary Mellon was forced to acquiesce in whatever the Mellon-Vare partnership deemed expedient.

—Governor Fisher is rather tardy in filling the vacancy in the Board of Registration Commissioners of Philadelphia, caused by the resignation of Mr. Ladner. He probably finds it hard to please Vare and satisfy his own conscience.

How the Candidates will Line Up On the Official Ballot.

The drawing for position of the judicial candidates on the official ballot took place at Harrisburg, last week, and that for all the other candidates on the county ticket was held in the commissioner's office on Tuesday of this week. Only a few of the candidates appeared in person for the drawing. On the Democratic ticket the candidates will appear as follows, only those offices for which there is more than one candidate being given:

- Judge—W. D. Zerby, W. Harrison Walker.
 - Sheriff—Elmer Breon, Harry E. Dunlap, H. E. Shreckengast.
 - Treasurer—Lyman L. Smith, Deemer T. Pearce.
 - Recorder—D. A. McDowell, Sinie H. Hoy, D. Wagner Geiss.
 - County Commissioners—John W. Yearick, John S. Spearly, Burdine Butler.
 - County Auditor—O. J. Stover, Harry E. Garbrick, W. W. Tate.
- The position of the various Republican candidates will be as follows:
- Judge—Arthur C. Dale, M. Ward Fleming, James C. Furst.
 - Prothonotary—Roy Wilkinson, E. R. Hancock.
 - Treasurer—John T. Harnish, W. E. Hurley, H. E. Holzworth, Charles P. Long.
 - County Commissioners—Newton I. Wilson, H. W. Frantz, John A. Way, Howard E. Miles.

—If it be true that "when rogues fall out honest men come by their own," Philadelphia ought to get something out of the quarrel between Harry Mackey and the municipal administration.

—The National Guard encampment at Mt. Gretna for this year has ended, and though the weather was unfavorable most of the time the result was entirely satisfactory.

—It may be true that "movie" firms have made liberal offers to Mr. Coolidge after his term in office expires, but it is hard to imagine why.

—The "Watchman" is the most readable paper published. Try it.

Regulation of Ocean Flights.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The feasibility of flight by plane from the California coast to the Hawaiian Islands has been demonstrated by five pilots. Three of these landed on the flying field on Oahu, which was their precise objective. One landed on another island of the group, and one on the ocean near enough to one of the islands to make his way to shore.

In the case of the planes which did not make Wheeler Field, but reached the islands or their waters, and in the case of two others, entrants in the Dole competition, which are at this moment missing, the United States Navy, at great expenditure of cash and energy, scoured the seas in the hope of being able to render aid to distressed aviators. Even now scores of its vessels and thousands of its men, besides its aerial resources in Pacific waters, are engaged in searching the ocean wastes for traces of two of the four planes which left Oakland last Tuesday and have not since been seen.

Far be it from the mind of any observer to suggest that our navy is engaged in an improper enterprise, or that there should be any abatement of its zeal, at whatever cost, in its mission of relief. But it does seem as if, when the present labors shall have been completed, the time would have come to call a halt upon long-distance ocean flights which are likely to involve the navy in tasks which have nothing to do with the reasons for its existence, unless it can be satisfactorily demonstrated in advance to a proper regulatory authority that the contemplated flight would serve some very useful purpose.

We know now that flight from California to the Hawaiian Islands is practicable. But we also know that it is extremely hazardous. There can be no further use in making that particular journey until there shall have been such advances in aviation as would make the navigation safe for commercial purposes. Further attempts, until such developments have taken place, would merely saddle upon the navy tasks to which it should not have to devote so much of its attention.

Transatlantic flights are upon a somewhat different basis, inasmuch as it may be plausibly argued that the exploration of routes and the gathering of scientific data as to air currents and other meteorological conditions are important to the success of future navigators. But we hold that even in this case there should be Federal regulation of the attempts, if the Government is to be called upon for relief work. Sooner or later we shall have to come to some such system. Events in Pacific waters indicate that it should be sooner.

A Crucial Trade Pact.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The Franco-German commercial treaty, just concluded after many months' negotiation, is likely to prove a key instrument in the commercial pacification of Europe. The very fact that the two most pronounced political and economical rivals on the Continent have been able to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement is certain to give impetus to a similar movement in other directions. Tariff barriers, recognized as a prime obstacle in European rehabilitation, may at least begin to crumble.

It is well known, for instance, that the continental allies of France have been awaiting the outcome of these negotiations before making similar treaties with Germany. Even outside the French ring, other nations have been watching for a lead from France and Germany.

So far as the United States is concerned, the situation is still uncertain. The French may make the tariff schedules in this treaty the basis for a comprehensive tariff law. In that case, many American exports to France would be placed at a disadvantage. The need of a Franco-American commercial pact may become pressing. But so far as concerned, this "economic Locarno" is likely to have only beneficial results.

Plenty to do.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Thomas A. Edison, old man, keeps on working. He is recruiting college students to help develop native rubber plants.

The smarter the man the more likely he is to continue working when he is old if his health lets him. It ought to give all of us—from Edison all the way down—much satisfaction to find there is always plenty to do.

What a dismal world it would be if there were no jobs.

Vare Overreached Himself.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Newspaper writers in Philadelphia representing papers unfriendly to the Vare organization express the belief that Senator Vare has overreached himself in forcing the present slate on the voters and that while it will be safely elected the effects will be felt at Washington when the Senator's case comes before the Senate next winter.

—The Vare machine penalizes instead of rewarding in public office.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSONE.

—Early days of prohibition were recalled by residents at Milton, on Monday, as the result of a suit filed by Joseph Kibbills, Shamokin, to recover \$500 paid John Baranowski. Kibbills contends he paid the money on the condition he would be able to secure a liquor license.

—While seated on a chair reading in the bedroom at her home, 833 South Beaver street, York, Pa., last Friday Mrs. Amanda Ferree, wife of G. W. Ferree, was stricken with a heart attack and died soon afterward. Mrs. Ferree, following the attack, walked to her bed and fell over dead. She was seventy-one years old.

—Life isn't worth living for Mrs. Catherine Yarema, living near Shamokin, and here are the reasons: Her husband beat her and then threw her on a hot stove. Then she had him arrested and placed in jail. But that didn't seem to help her, so she drank poison in an attempt to kill herself. Now she is in the Shamokin State hospital hovering between life and death. Physicians expect her to live.

—A reward of \$50 will be paid by the Hazleton Motor club, to which practically all motorists in that locality belong, for the capture of any person who is classed as a "hit-and-run" motorist. This has been decided at a meeting of the board, when the directors felt that the club should take a decided stand against heartless individuals who bring lawabiding and decent motorists into undeserved disrepute.

—Arrangements are being made to hold the annual tournament of the Central Pennsylvania Fish and Game Association at the White Hill fish farm, in Dauphin county, early in September. All manner of bait and fly casting contests, together with rifle and pistol shooting will be on the program. Handsome prizes will go to the winners. This meet always attracts many sportsmen from all over Central Pennsylvania.

—Sentence will be passed October 7th on Clifford P. Cowen, Lewistown, Pa., who has plead guilty to presenting a series of false vouchers to the United States Shipping Board Corporation, the office of the United States district attorney has announced. Cowen plead guilty to one of nine counts in the indictment returned against him and eight others were noisily pressed as compensation for his having plead guilty to one.

—Louis Kowalski, of Bradenville, Westmoreland county, has a keen sense of humor. Strutting his gaiter among a band of musicians at the marriage of his cousin, he heard a joke. He threw back his head and laughed so heartily that his jaw slipped out of joint. With his mouth gaping open, the man was hurried by his friends to the office of a doctor, where the jaw was slipped back into place. He then stuffed his ears with cotton and returned to the wedding.

—Mrs. Ira Hess, 27, was burned to death in her home at Brownsburg, about eight miles south of Chambersburg, early Friday morning. She had gotten up about 2:30 o'clock to heat water. After starting the fire she apparently laid down waiting for the water to heat and fell asleep. A little later, her husband and three children were awakened by smoke and jumped to safety from a second story window. When the fire was controlled the body of Mrs. Hess was found burned to a crisp.

—A freight wreck believed to have been caused by a broken axle occurred in front of the Union depot at Huntingdon, at 4:30 a. m. Sunday, piling up the debris of twelve loaded cars over all four tracks and tearing up the two middle tracks for almost 200 yards. A through westbound passenger and mail train was due a few minutes after the wreck, but through the quick action of Chester Swiver, day gangman, a possible collision was averted. Swiver flagged the oncoming passenger train in time.

—Two large coal veins worth probably more than \$1,000,000, have been uncovered by the operators of the St. Clair Coal company at Mt. Hope near Pottsville. The veins were discovered by stripping of the top of the earth from the coal. Officials believed there was coal in the locality discovered, but did not think it was present in such quantities as found. One of the veins will be mined in the full light of the sun, but officials said they would probably work the other by running a drift under it.

—Jumping out of the path of a motorist who tried to run him down, Frank A. Dent, chief of police of Bloomsburg, was struck by another car early on Sunday morning and killed. Dent was directing traffic, amid hundreds of cars that crowded the road due to a fire works display at Berwick, and had signalled a driver to stop. The driver, it was said later, flashed on his headlights and directed his car at the officer with increasing speed. Dent jumped aside and was struck by a car driven by G. D. Savage, of Northumberland. He died soon afterward. The driver of the first car escaped. Dent is survived by his widow and four children. Savage was exonerated by a coroner's jury.

—Dumping of raw liquor into a trout stream by prohibition officers has been protested by Cambria county sportsmen, who have filed a complaint with United States Commissioner Ray Patton Smith, at Johnstown. The sportsmen said two Federal agents attached to prohibition headquarters at Pittsburgh had raided a still near Portage, arresting the alleged proprietor, Julius Savini, and confiscating a hundred barrels of mash and more than 200 gallons of liquor. The contraband was dumped into a trout stream, the sportsmen said, killing the fish in a mile and a half of waters. The sportsmen, in their complaint, said they would appeal to the State if the Federal authorities did not take some action.

—Harry B. Snavely, better known as "Barnum," 75, for a number of years an inmate of the city home in Lock Haven, was found drowned in the Bald Eagle creek on Friday, the body being found at 12:30 near the Castanea bridge by boys.

The city police were notified and investigation showed that Snavely had left the city home Wednesday to fish in Bald Eagle creek, and it is thought that he was seized with a sudden attack of vertigo and fell into the stream as his fishing tackle was found at a point some distance up the stream from the place his body was discovered. He landed in Lock Haven in the 70's with P. T. Barunna's circus, and remained there, boating on the West branch of the Susquehanna with George Howard, in whose employ he was for a number of years.