

INK SLINGS.

Hindenburg now realizes that "peace hath her victories not less renowned than war."

Centre county gave one soldier-sheriff a majority of 3531 in 1923. Let us give "Dep" Dunlap a bigger one next month.

"Vote the straight ticket" is the advice already being mailed to the Republicans of the county. Lots of them, however, would like to know just how straight the ticket is.

We'll all admit that Roy Wilkinson has been a nice, courteous official in the Prothonotary's office, but we all know that "there's just as good fish in the sea as have ever been caught."

The "hooded reign of terror" in Alabama is to be investigated. Now if the "hooded reign of politics in Indiana" should be thoroughly probed a vast improvement might follow.

Give Senator Scott a Judge, a Prothonotary and a Treasurer of Centre county and he'll do the rest. As our Senator he's all right, but it would spoil him if he were made our boss.

We have a kind of hazy idea that the court house and jail are public property and we don't quite understand where Wilkinson and Dukeman get the notion that they were built for their exclusive occupancy.

Sinie H. Hoy came so near getting into the Recorder's office four years ago that just the least little bit of a boost would have shoved him in. Let us give him a big boost this time. The office needs a man like Sinie.

We want to serve notice right here to those who will know only too well what we refer to that if we hear of any whispering around about the "wet" and "dry" question, as it might apply in the present campaign, we're going to unspike some guns that might cause consternation in many camps.

Incidentally, Mr. Fleming hasn't been treated at all shabbily by the Republican party. He has been a member of the county board of road and bridge surveyors ever since he was admitted to the bar and district referee in bankruptcy for at least ten years, and the latter position is one of the best political "snits" we know of.

Having refused to be steam rolled out of a chance to run for the office of county treasurer by the Scott-Fleming-Holtzworth-Wilkinson combination Charles P. Long is going to run independently. Mr. Long may not get far, but he will, at least, give members of his party who resent Vore methods in Centre county an opportunity to go on record with their votes.

Among the others who evidently think they have a divine right to be permanently attached to the public pay-roll is our chief of police. Mr. Dukeman has been filling public positions for many, many years and now he thinks he ought to repeat in the sheriff's office. Don't you think "Dep" Dunlap ought to have a dish of the "pap" before "Dukie" gets a second helping?

The longer a man lingers in a soft place the longer he wants to linger there. He just naturally gets the habit. Mr. Wilkinson has had eight years in the Prothonotary's office and taken down approximately fifty-six thousand dollars in emoluments. Give him four years more and put the machine, in which he is a cog, in power in Centre county and he will stay there as long as he wants. We have no objection to anybody's getting all they can get, but we have a heart for other Republicans who might have ambition and ability enough to be Prothonotary of Centre county some day.

It is not often that clippings from other papers break into this column, but really a gem in last week's Republican deserves wider publicity than Mr. Secretary Dorworth's organ has circulation to give it. We thank the friend who called our attention to it. Otherwise we might have gone on our way oblivious of the rare gift the Secretary of Forests and Waters has of revealing his own character in the pen pictures he paints of others. The only sting we could possibly get out of it is that since its spirit is such a perfect likeness of him we should not be flattered if some should think it a likeness of us as well.

A PREFERENCE OF HANDICAPS. It is no doubt true, as the Editor of the "Democratic Watchman" says, that the Editor of "The Republican" has some enemies who didn't vote for Judge Furst.

Even so, the Editor of this particular newspaper never helped wreck a bank, and thereby contributed toward robbing innocent depositors of life-time savings, driving aged, helpless men and women to their graves, sending others to insane asylums, causing still others extreme poverty and distress, and then sneaked through the back door into court to prevent depositors recovering what rightfully belongs to them.

Far better to have a few friends and some enemies—yes, even a host of enemies—than to have to face one's conscience at night—every night—and realize that one is justly despised by most persons and has deservedly lost the respect of all.

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Corrupt and Proud of It.

Some years ago a somewhat prominent sociologist described Philadelphia as "corrupt and contented." His survey of the community revealed a condition that justified such an aspersions. A corrupt political machine, created and supported by a meager minority, was robbing the public, despoiling the city and exploiting the resources of the people. It was clear to his mind that this sinister influence might easily be overthrown if the better element of the population would move to that purpose. But the better element was indifferent. The men and women who were honest and fair in their relations with other affairs would not take the trouble to make even protest against the political iniquities about them.

Because of the corrupt government and the indifference of the people the city of Philadelphia was anathematized as "corrupt and contented." That was bad enough, but what is to be said of the State of Indiana. Once as justly proud a Commonwealth as any in the sisterhood of States, Indiana could boast of the eminence of her public men. Benjamin Harrison, twenty-third President of the United States; Thomas A. Hendricks and Thomas R. Marshall, Vice Presidents, and Daniel W. Voorhees, "Tall Sycamore of the Wabash," were names to conjure with. But recently one Governor of the State has been released from the penitentiary and his successor, now in office, is under indictment and certain to go there.

Not long ago the Republican party boss, D. C. Stephenson, was convicted of a most atrocious murder and is serving a life sentence in the penitentiary. He is not appealing but demanding pardon and threatening exposure of other crimes and criminals if it is not granted. The other day the Mayor of Indianapolis, J. L. Duval, Republican, was indicted by the grand jury for corruption in politics and the people of the State appear to support and sustain them in their evil courses. They have even the assurance to ask public consideration of the name of Senator Watson, friend and associate of Stephenson, as a candidate for President. Indiana seems to be corrupt and proud of it.

Chairman Mellon is also afraid Pennsylvania will go Democratic next year if machine candidates in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are defeated this year.

New Note in Public Life.

In an address before the Pennsylvania Association of County Commissioners, in session at Harrisburg last week, Auditor General Martin struck an unusual note. He urged economy in the expenditure of public funds, as essential to industrial prosperity. "We have thousands urging expenditures along lines in which they are personally interested," he said, "but we have none who urge economy and lesser expenditures." He might have added that while many are sedulously searching for new subjects of taxation nobody gives time or thought to measures which might or would decrease taxation along lines that would lighten the onerous burdens of the suffering citizen.

Those who persistently and persuasively urge liberal appropriations of public funds for roads, hospitals and schools mean well, and as General Martin said, "it would be splendid if these good ideas could be carried into effect." "But," he added, "I want to urge with all the vigor at my command, the absolute necessity of an organization which will take the other side and courageously consider all governmental expenditures as we consider our individual expenditures." That is a key note in which all voices should be made to harmonize. Government is costing too much. It is impoverishing the people and under our system falls heaviest on those least able to carry the burden.

"Co-operation between the tax-levying authorities." General Martin continues, "will do more for the good of the people than all the efficiency experts in the world. Good government is good common sense and any government without good common sense is doomed to failure." This is literally true. Good common sense counsels necessary expenses for comforts and even luxuries for the individual who can afford them. But to mortgage the muscles in order to provide luxuries not actually needed is folly in the individual and something worse in government. It is to be hoped that the admonition of General Martin will have a deterrent influence on the minds of those to whom it was addressed.

The female screen favorites are among the holders of big insurance policies. Three of them are insured for upward of \$1,000,000 each.

Time for Serious Thought.

The excitement occasioned by the recent primaries in Centre county is gradually subsiding and the voters are beginning to seriously weigh the character and ability of the candidates in the balance of cool and deliberate judgment.

Times were in Centre county when partisanship and party loyalty rallied to the support of a candidate, regardless of how much he might merit the office he sought or what qualifications for it he possessed.

In this day of broader thinking only a few remain who are so blind as not to see that the fundamental principles of either of our great political parties have no application whatever in the functioning of county offices.

There isn't the remotest opportunity for any of the men who will be chosen at the election in Centre county in November to abrogate or exemplify a single fundamental principle of Democracy or Republicanism, other than to reflect credit, by faithful service, on the party that gave them the opportunity.

From the position of President Judge of the Courts down to that of constable of the smallest township there isn't an obligation of service that a Democrat, a Republican, a Prohibitionist or any other party man could not subscribe to, if he is a good citizen.

In local elections there is but one excuse for yielding to the ancient plea of "stand by the party" and that is to support the party organization.

It is our belief that parties would soon die if they had no organizations, but there is very grave danger of organizations becoming stronger than their parties and thereby turning the political convictions of the electorate to the aggrandizement of the selfish interests in control of them.

For years Pennsylvania has been the pawn of political manipulators. Its delegates in national conventions have been thrown to this or that candidate for presidential nomination who promised most to the boss of the delegation, personally, regardless of what the voters of the State might hope for. Our Governors are the get of just such conception and gradually the system is reaching out to subvert the county, town and township elections to the will of the machine that masquerades as party organization. It is not a far look to see Centre and other relatively free counties of the State as completely enmeshed in the bondage of machine politics as are Philadelphia and Allegheny. That calamitous situation will appear the instant the majority of our voters blindly rally to a party banner that is being held up by one whose motives are merely self exploitation.

The campaign in Centre county, that is now on, means more than the casual voter realizes. You have witnessed the fight of two would-be bosses to put their personally selected candidates for Judge of your Courts over. Money and the promise of public offices were openly used to corrupt the electorate. Why? Certainly not to advance a single tenet of Republicanism. It was all done to determine whether Senator Scott or Secretary Dorworth would deliver Centre county into the camps of the rival factions that are contending to control Pennsylvania.

The office of Judge, is the one most desired and useful to an aspiring political dictator, especially if he knows that its incumbent owes his seat on the bench to his aspiration.

The next Judge of the Courts of Centre county will either be one who fits into Senator Scott's ambition to become our Vore or Leslie, or W. Harrison Walker, whose candidacy means nothing else than a desire to serve you.

Aside from the fact that a Judge has no legislative function that might vitiate a political principle Pennsylvania is so overwhelmingly Republican that the selection of a Judge for Centre county couldn't have any effect whatever on who will be the next President.

Surprising Request of Senator Watson.

Senator Watson, of Indiana, whose "guide, philosopher and friend," Stephenson, is serving a life sentence in the penitentiary, is reported as making "a friendly attempt to secure possession of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh Vore-Wilson ballots now in custody of the Reed Slush Fund committee at Washington." The purpose of this gesture is not hard to surmise. The administration Republican Senators imagine that a partisan manipulator at its head, might be able to recount the ballots without exposing any of the frauds which they know were perpetrated in the Senatorial election in this State last year and are fearful that the Slush Fund committee will reveal them.

The importance of the result of this investigation may be accepted as the reason for the desire of the administration managers in the Senate to shift the service from the non-partisan Slush Fund committee to the packed partisan committee on Privileges and Elections. If Vore is not admitted to the seat, pending the inquiry, the political complexion of the chamber will be "a tie," and a majority adverse vote will keep him out altogether. If he is accorded the seat, pending the inquiry, the Republicans will have a majority of one and it will require a two-thirds vote to expel him. It is not likely that anybody cares much for Vore but there is great concern on the part of the administration to preserve the majority of the Senate.

Senator Watson admits that unless Senator Reed consents to the shifting of the custody of the ballots now in possession of the Slush Fund committee it will be impossible to secure the partisan advantage he desires. In view of that fact it may be set down as certain that he will be disappointed. Senator Reed, of Missouri, has gone to great pains and expended a vast amount of labor in exposing the iniquities of the Republican machines in Pennsylvania and Illinois in the strife to retain control of the Senate and he is not likely to relinquish the advantage he has acquired by compliance with the surprising request of Senator Watson. He will fulfill his duty by finishing his job.

Harry Mackey, Vore candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia, seems to be striving for the title of "champion hokum spreader."

Flimsy Excuse for Crime.

The complacency with which the Philadelphia computing court judges excuse delinquent election officers for making fraudulent returns may not be the principal source of ballot corruption in that city but it is unquestionably the whole reason why Mr. Vore insisted, while ballot reform legislation was pending in the recent session of the General Assembly, that "criminal intent" must be proved in order to convict election officers of fraud. In every case in which fraudulent returns were revealed by members of the election boards promptly protested that they had no intention to commit crime and the judges as promptly exonerated them from blame.

In the Sixth division of the Forty-first ward, for example, the recount showed a discrepancy of seventy-seven votes. Mr. Mackey, the Vore candidate for Mayor, was credited with forty votes more than he received and Mr. Moore, the independent candidate, was cut thirty-seven from the actual poll. The election officers having been summoned to explain this return declared that they were too tired to make a correct count. One of the judges replied that he couldn't see "how it could have been possible to make such a return" but imposed no greater penalty than to require the officers to recount the ballots of the division for all the candidates voted for. Maybe that made them tired again.

In several other divisions of the Vore wards similar discrepancies were shown and the same excuses were offered and accepted as grounds for complete exculpation from blame. "No criminal intent has been shown," the court declared, and the culprits were not only excused this time but encouraged to do the same thing whenever opportunity is given them in the future. No doubt the election officers were tired, for they had to count the votes instead of estimating them, as has been the custom in recent years. But weariness is no excuse for crime and it is surprising that judges should take such a view of the question, and still more so that representatives of the Committee of Seventy should concur.

An esteemed contemporary asks us to "be proud of our State." How can we with the election scandals of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh fresh in mind?

More Political Hokum.

From the Philadelphia Record.

"The campaign to be made against me will be a campaign to belittle Philadelphia," said Harry A. Mackey to the South Philadelphia Business Men's Association the other night.

That is another bit of political hokum, well worthy to rank with the argument that opposition to Mackey in 1927 will endanger the chances of a Republican Presidential candidate in 1928.

Those who oppose the election of Mr. Mackey to the Mayoralty sincerely believe that they are waging a campaign to enhance the greatness of Philadelphia. They do not identify the personal fortunes of Mr. Mackey with the welfare of the city. They feel that the re-establishment of self-government here, the repudiation of an arrogant boss who has presumed to dictate the names of all men to be elected to office, will be a forward step.

It is quite possible that when former Magistrate Rowland was sent to jail for extorting money from violators of the law he considered himself a victim of a campaign to belittle Philadelphia.

Election officers caught in the act of manipulating returns in favor of Mr. Vore's organization doubtless felt that Philadelphia is being belittled when they are exposed and prosecuted.

Citizens who fear that municipal extravagance and waste will further increase their taxes, and who protest against neglect of the city's streets, are evidently, in Mr. Mackey's opinion, belittling Philadelphia.

Seriously, is there any truth at all in the representation that the citizen who refuses to recognize the will of a political boss as having the force of law, who wants a voice in the selection of his own public servants, who wishes to effect improvements in the conduct of municipal business is a traitor to his city? Or are the real traitors, the actual belittlers of Philadelphia, those who are responsible for the evils the existence of which are acknowledged by Mackey himself?

Pinchot and Bell.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

In opposing a pardon for John A. Bell, of Pittsburgh, convicted embezzler, whose illness has prevented the beginning of his term of imprisonment, former Governor Gifford Pinchot says he will lay before the Board of Pardons the man's complete criminal history. Since there is no question about the gravity and extent of Bell's offenses, which have brought ruin to a host of persons in the Pittsburgh district, Mr. Pinchot can contribute no essential facts not contained in the court records. Bell's pecuniations extended even to the savings of the poor and the school children's pennies. Except by his personal counsel, there has been no attempt to extenuate his offenses.

Bell's physical condition is the only ground for mercy. Physicians appointed by the court say he is afflicted with paralysis, is wholly helpless and in the constant care he has been receiving in a hospital during the last several months. It is true that some suspiciously rapid recoveries have been made by criminals after being pronounced permanently invalidism must be examined with special caution. The question for the Board of Pardons is whether the public interest will best be served by putting Bell in prison or accepting the statements as to his physical condition.

A salutary moral effect was produced by his conviction, despite powerful political influences. Unfortunately, Mr. Pinchot's intervention will be widely construed as not entirely free from political considerations connected with ancient personal animosities which should have no place in the present proceeding.

Homeward Bound.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

The tumult and the shooting have died, the captains and the kings have departed, and the Second A. E. F. is packing its kit bags and preparing to embark for home after an inspiring gathering as has been witnessed by Paris in many years.

Notwithstanding the warnings and the wails of those who believed the American Legion's convention in the French capital would cause bad feeling if not rioting, the Legionnaires decided to carry on and carry on they did, with a vengeance. And the stories coming back from the pens of many war-time writers indicate as clearly as anyone might wish that our citizen-soldiers have done a splendid piece of work in the diplomatic field.

From the opening day of the convention at the Trocadero, when Foch and Pershing sat side by side on the platform, through that soul-stirring parade whose passing brought tears to many eyes as they thought of the silent and invisible ranks marching phantomlike along the Champs Elysees, to the final "beaugeste" of the Legion in calling upon Clemenceau, our ambassadors without portfolio have done their task well. The Legion's gathering of 1927 will not be forgotten for many, many years.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYTSONE.

Robert Levy, of Punxsutawney, Pa., has filed suit in Erie court for \$200,000 damages against Cletis Tranbly, of Erie, as a result of an automobile accident near Ridgway township June 5, 1927. Levy alleged he was permanently injured.

Two children were burned to death in a fire which destroyed the home of Robert Kibe at Harrisville, Mercer county, Monday night. Five other children and the mother escaped unhurt but Mrs. Kibe suffered a nervous breakdown after the tragedy.

The death of Andrew Popovich, 43, a Hannastown miner, was foretold in a dream of his wife, it was brought out at a corner's inquest at Greensburg. Mrs. Popovich testified she had dreamed her husband was killed at work, and the following day, September 21, had begged him to remain at home. He failed to heed her pleas and was killed in a fall of slate.

Policeman Thomas Mencer, of Tyrone, halted an automobile when he shot through the gas tank and also shot a tire, but he found the auto driver to be a party whom he didn't want. Seeking a defendant on a botlegging charge he got the wrong car. Paul Hewel, Tyrone, brought a charge against the officer, alleging felonious shooting with intent to kill. Ball was furnished.

While placing personal effects in a satchel, Noah H. Beck, 69, of York, Pa., accidentally pushed the satchel against a floor gas valve late on Monday. Although he turned the gas off when he detected its presence, he became ill and died a short time later from asphyxiation. The victim was found dead by his son when he returned home. A pulmonator failed to revive him.

Judge Thomas C. Hare, of the Blair county Juvenile court, last Friday handed out unusual sentences to George Newman and Harry Frielan, 14-year-old Phillipsburg, Pa., boys, who ran away from home when they "tired of school." Arrested for stealing foodstuffs at Duncansville, Judge Hare reprimanded the runaways and handed each 50 cents to buy a meal. In the meantime, he communicated with their parents. The boys were returned home.

After a lapse of 44 years, John H. Seitz, of Mounsville, York county, is again in possession of a land turtle he found in 1883 at which time he carved his name and address on the shell and liberated it. Mr. Seitz then lived in Central Manor, two miles distant from his present home. Saturday Jacob Newcomer, who lives on the opposite side of the street from the Seitz home, found the same turtle in his garden and presented it to Mr. Seitz. The name and date are still quite legible.

Lawrence W. Kightlinger, 20, died at the Titusville hospital Monday night from burns sustained in an explosion of gas in the cellar of his home about ten miles north of Titusville, early on Saturday. Young Kightlinger went to the cellar to start the DeLoo Lighting system and the explosion followed, throwing him through the house to the yard with his clothing in flames. Although terribly burned from head to foot, he directed his young wife in operating the automobile in which he was brought to the hospital.

Sixteen years ago, Richard J. Schradler, of Shamokin, lost his footing and fell under a loaded mine car, a wheel of which passed over his body. Since that time, he has gone to the operating table 140 times. Recovering slowly from the initial accident, he was left with an affliction that has steadfastly refused to yield to operations. The 140th operation was performed at the Jefferson hospital, in Philadelphia, which is one of a dozen or more hospitals to which he has been admitted during the years of his suffering.

The voltage of an ordinary household electric light line was sufficient to electrocute Thomas Wertz, a contractor, in the cellar of the warehouse of the Farmers' Exchange, Inc., at New Freedom, Monday. The line, it was said, carried only 110 volts. H. D. Frank, manager of the exchange, who tried to rescue Wertz, was twice knocked to the ground when he attempted to force the line out of Wertz's hands. The victim of the electrocution was a lifelong resident of New Freedom. He was 60 years old and has a wife and daughter at home.

One of the features of the new First National Bank building at Huntingdon, opened to the public on Saturday, is a unique device known as the "night depository" which affords business men an opportunity to place their day's receipts in safe keeping after banking hours. Merchants wishing to use this apparatus are given a numbered canvas bag, with a safety lock, and a key to a cylindrical opening in the outside wall of the building. When this key is inserted, the cylinder is rotated so that an opening appears in which the canvas bag can be placed. The cylinder then is turned back and the money slides into the safe. The next day the merchant can return and make his deposit.

Despite the frantic efforts of her little son to prevent her act, Mrs. Wilfred Long, 45, wife of a section laborer, of Lewistown, threw herself in the path of a passenger train on the Lewistown and Milroy branch of the Pennsylvania railroad and was killed Friday night. The tragedy occurred at the Walnut street crossing in the residential section of Lewistown. Mrs. Long had been melancholy for some time past, members of her family told Coroner W. Arthur Barr, and a few days ago had tried to end her life by taking poison. A close watch had been kept over her to prevent further attempts. Members of the locomotive crew said that the woman waited until the train had almost reached the crossing and then threw herself in front of it. Her body was thrown several feet ahead of the train.

All her clothing burned from her body when the balcony at her home collapsed on Monday and she fell on a torch she was using to destroy coconuts. Mrs. Effie Graftus, 44, widow, of Lewistown, is in a critical condition at the Lewistown hospital. Mrs. Graftus had gone to the second floor balcony of her home in West Fifth street about 7 o'clock Monday morning. Fastening some rags on a pole she saturated them with kerosene to make a torch, lighted it and began to burn coconuts which had been made recently by terrillars. While she was destroying them the balcony collapsed. As it dropped to the ground she was partially dazed and fell on the blazing torch, which ignited her clothing. Regaining consciousness Mrs. Graftus screamed for help, but by the time neighbors reached her the clothing had been burned from her body.