

INK SLINGS.

The fight is over and we're all friends, we hope. We have apologies to make to no one, for we treated our opponents with far more charity than we know some of them would have treated us.

Of course Judge-elect Fleming will very probably repay the people of his home community for the splendid compliment they paid him on Tuesday. Applicants on this side for the various appointive positions the Judge will have to make should bear this in mind. We should think that Judge-elect Fleming would be very ungrateful if he were to deny applicants from Philadelphia and the Rushes the desire to serve the county in any position his prerogatives permit him to fill.

We know that there is nothing so boreome as post mortems, but we can't resist the urge to say what we think elected Dunlap, Herr and Smith. "Dep" got it because everybody who really knows him likes him and because Centre county has not forgotten 1917. Herr got it because Centre county is opposed to a third term. Smith got it because his opponent had the courage to make the fatal political mistake of declaring himself in a primary fight and because the voters of the county were leery of voting for a candidate whose eligibility might mean a law suit.

Those of you who recall the campaign of 1923 will remember that it was the Prohibition vote that elected Mr. Wilkinson Prothonotary. He was on both the Prohibition and Republican tickets in that contest and while Mr. Herr, who was his opponent then, had him defeated as a Republican there were enough votes for him on the Prohibition ticket to give him his majority of 54. It is not often such things happen, but in the fight last Tuesday the situation was exactly reversed. Herr had the Prohibition endorsement and Wilkinson was running on the Republican ticket only. Herr was defeated as a Democrat, but the votes he got on the Prohibition ticket gave him his majority of 27.

Of course council was volunteering to do the grandiose thing when it offered to send our burgesses to the conference of Mayors of cities on the transcontinental air route, by aeroplane. Can't you see Hard arriving in Chicago on a "Miss Bellefonte" and greeting its Mayor, "Big Bill" Thompson, who called the conference. Gosh, but Hard would set "Bill" right on those English books that Queen Vic slipped in for the public library out there after somebody's cow had kicked over a lamp that started a fire that burned up Chicago, and left no rendezvous for gunmen. Almost we would hike to the windy city to see our burgess fade Lindy, Levine and Ruth Elder off the Cook county map, but he refused. Refused, for the same reason that we would have. "Nobody knows Hard's 'milk route.'" In other words, our burgess feels that even the handsome salary he doesn't get isn't sufficient urge to take a chance on an aeroplane.

Mrs. McCauley's letter of condemnation of the Centre County jail doesn't get us excited at all. Dr. Ellie Potter, who was Governor Pinchot's welfare expert, had much the same ideas about penal institutions. We recall her insistence that the plans of the new western penitentiary were all wrong and that instead of cell blocks it should have had little colony houses for the inmates. Last week an eminent judge in Philadelphia condemned, from the bench, the mawkish sentiment that "coddles" convicts and that sensible utterance took us back to the days when a woman of Bellefonte knitted carpet slippers for a murderer awaiting hanging here for having killed two members of his own family. It is quite possible that the penalties for crime have not improved much, but will Mrs. McCauley tell us that crime has progressed to the point that demands more consideration. It is our belief that a natural criminal never can be permanently reformed and that an accidental criminal is more likely to shun prison if its endurance causes some physical discomfort.

Many have been clambering for the liberation of a few of the Watchman's old roosters. Goodness knows, they have been penned up so long that a little chance to get out and crow would do them good, but if we dragged them out for "Dep" and Claude and Lyman we might affront those splendid Republicans who gave Walker what he deserved from his home town. They were commendably broad minded in the compliment they paid a very honorable and useful citizen, but they might not be so much so as to understand that Watchman roosters have never crowded for anything that its editor did not feel was right.

Among other things we are wondering about is who was who and what was what on Tuesday. The vote on County Commissioner, for instance, looks mysterious to us. We can't see why all four candidates were not elected. The Keystone Gazette publicly announced that Specially would be elected and its editor voluntarily promised Doctor Parrish that he was going to vote for him so we can't understand it would appear that if Mr. Harter and his Gazette wasn't "stringin'" somebody they all ought to have been elected.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Hope for More Perfect Accord with Mexico.

Incidents attending the ceremony of presenting the credentials of the new Ambassador to Mexico may well inspire hope for friendlier relations between that country and this. In presenting his credentials Ambassador Morrow said: "I welcome the opportunity of co-operating with your Excellency in finding a mutually satisfactory solution of the problem with which our countries are now faced. It is my earnest hope that, animated by a common desire to promote the welfare of the United Mexican States and the United States of America, we shall not fail to adjust outstanding questions with that dignity and mutual respect which should mark the international relationship of two sovereign and independent States."

To this gracious and manifestly sincere declaration President Calles replied: "As your Excellency hopes, I am disposed that the government of Mexico co-operate with that of the United States of America in finding a mutually satisfactory solution of the matters pending between both nations, and I join with your hopes that upon those bases of indeclinable dignity and respect between independent and sovereign nations there will be established cordial relations which will do away with all misunderstandings, once and for all, and fix solid principles for constant co-operation, harmony and real friendship, which should govern the relations between two peoples of so many correlated interests and of such intimate proximity."

In this mutually expressed recognition of independence and sovereignty of each by the duly accredited representatives of both lies the hope, if not actually the guarantee, of friendly relations for the future. The blame for the recent past disagreements may be ascribed in part to the attitude of public sentiment in Mexico. But it must be admitted that in much larger part it is due to the truculence of the Washington administration in trying to enforce the mandates of speculative capitalists operating in Mexico. If the government of the United States will recognize the right of the people of Mexico to enact and enforce laws for the government of Mexico there will be less cause of complaint there and less reason for quarrel here.

Mr. Forker, designer of airplanes says "the time is coming when the sky will be darkened with airplanes." And possibly "the wish is father to the thought."

Young Roosevelt's Absurd Claims.

A correspondent of the New York World says "few public men attempting to talk economics on a political platform have ever made so naive an exhibition of economic ignorance as did Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in his speech before the Republican convention at Rochester." To those who have listened, year after year, to the absurd statements in support of tariff taxation, this seems strong language. But listen to what Mr. Roosevelt said on that occasion: "We pride ourselves on the fact that in the United States the wealth of the average citizen is greater than in any other country in the world," and he added, "the tariff has created and maintained this average wealth and wages."

The World's correspondent interprets this literally. "That is to say," he writes, "in a country where the bounty of nature is unparalleled and inexhaustible the material advantage enjoyed by the inhabitants, the great majority of whom are not engaged in tariff-protected industries, are to be ascribed, not to the beneficence of nature but to a 'Republican tariff.'" It is small wonder that he accuses the Colonel with "economic ignorance."

But that hokum is the sum and substance of the advocates of tariff taxation. Under the existing law the consumers pay upward of \$4,000,000 a year for a revenue of half a million and the balance goes into the pockets of the tariff beneficiaries. Within the last third of a century inventive genius and scientific and industrial development have not only produced ninety per cent. of the increased wealth of the country but created and maintained the high rate of wages. The electric light and power, the telephone and the automobile industry have contributed more to the prosperity of the people in one year than the tariff has provided in a century. Improved machinery has had a considerable share and better industrial and agricultural methods have exercised a vast influence for good in the direction. Yet there are in every section of the country ignorant mount-banks insulting the intelligence of the people by such preposterous claims as that of Roosevelt.

Attempt to Defeat Justice.

The trial of former Secretary of the Interior Fall and Harry Sinclair for conspiracy to defraud the government in the lease of the Teapot Dome oil reserve was brought to an abrupt end on Wednesday last week. One of the Washington newspapers had made a charge, based on affidavits of four persons, that Mr. Sinclair had established, through the Burns detective agency of New York, a comprehensive espionage of the jurors engaged in the trial, and that one of the number had expressed expectations of gaining large financial reward for voting for the acquittal of the defendants. In consequence of this revelation counsel for both sides asked for a mistrial, which was allowed by the Court.

This was the most startling incident of the long-drawn-out effort of these defendants to escape the just penalty for their great crime against the government and people of the United States. It reveals in complete and odious form the turpitude of the politicians in control of the government at Washington at the time the crime was committed and since. They didn't hesitate to approach the administration through the medium of the Cabinet to promote their corrupt enterprises and they have the temerity now to pollute the fountains of justice in order to escape proper punishment. It was the most dastardly and dangerous attempt to pervert the agencies of justice recently perpetrated.

Of course the real culprits in this criminal enterprise are not fully identified. But conjecture has a fallow field in which to speculate concerning the subject. The defendants in the case in court were the only persons on earth who could be benefited by a "hung" jury or mistrial. The espionage of the jury was probably for the purpose of discovering a weakness that could be employed to coerce a juror into sinister service. A "hung" jury would be almost as effective as an acquittal, because it would delay the penalty indefinitely and thus afford opportunity to "spirit" the witnesses away. The mistrial serves this purpose in a lesser degree but in view of the facts was unavoidable.

More and more, as we study election results in Centre county, are we becoming convinced that the Prohibition party is a "tail that is wagging" not only "the dog" but two dogs. On numerous occasions its vote has been the deciding factor in contests between Democrats and the Republicans. In the recent fray Fleming owes his election to votes he received on the Prohibition ticket and Herr is indebted to the same source for his election.

Faults in Criminal Prosecution.

Addressing the National Crime Commission, in session in Washington the other day, Chief Justice Taft pointed out some of the weaknesses of "our system of criminal prosecution." This subject has been discussed at irregular intervals, during the past several years, by association and judicial conferences, but no progress has been made in the direction of correcting the faults. One of them, according to the opinion of the Chief Justice, is that "we have not throughout the States an adequate police force who can apprehend criminals and bring them to justice." This may be a solution of the problem in part but it is hardly a complete answer. There are other weaknesses.

To the average mind a good deal of the fault lies with the lawyers who invoke technicalities of the law to delay judgment. Take the Vanetti case in Massachusetts which recently provoked protests in nearly all parts of the world, and the case of contempt of the Senate which has kept Harry Sinclair, the oil millionaire, out of jail for several months. If legislation covering those cases had not provided means for delay, there would have been little or no scandal associated with them. But the laws were made mainly by lawyers and with intent to create the conditions complained of. The restraints upon the action of the bench is another factor.

The scandals as well as the delays in criminal prosecutions in this country are of comparatively recent origin. If a thorough analysis of the subject were made it might be discovered that the political systems that prevail in large centres of population are the real causes of the faults. The political boss pays for sinister party service by the promise of immunity from punishment for crimes and the underworld is thus encouraged to violate the laws. If the judges and district attorneys were freed from the domination of party bosses and left to the exercise of their own impulses there would be less crime for the reason that punishment would be more swift and certain.

Opposition to Mellon's Tax Bill.

The public hearings on the proposed revenue bill which just started have already revealed a considerable opposition to Secretary Mellon's schedules. The most formidable opposition is to the three per cent. tax on sales of automobiles. It is said that this tax has already yielded to the treasury the sum of \$1,068,000 and that it is both discriminatory and unjust. Thomas P. Henry, president of the American Automobile association, says that while levies on sporting goods, chewing gum, furs, yachts, motor boats, art works, silk socks, jewelry, perfumes and cosmetics have been wiped out, those on automobiles have been retained. Those articles exempted are quite as clearly luxuries as automobiles.

Secretary Mellon seems to be obsessed with the idea, common among the Republican leaders in Pennsylvania, that automobile owners are "easy marks" for the tax collectors. In this State whenever a treasury deficit looms into view the first thought turns toward the automobile, on the theory probably, that it is a luxury of plutocrats who can afford and therefore should be willing to pay against its operation. In the early development of the industry there may have been some reason in this reckoning. But the automobile has become an important unit in the system of transportation and all other transportation taxes have been repealed.

As a matter of fact the automobile is no longer a luxury. It has become an important element in the commercial and industrial life of the country. When it was subject to a moderate tax for the purpose of constructing and maintaining public highways it was not only just but appropriate. But such a tax could only be legally levied by the States responsible for the maintenance of highways. As a tax during a period of actual hostilities the Federal taxing power may have been justified in exacting tribute from the makers, dealers in and users of automobiles. But "war emergency taxes" are out of order in times of peace, and automobile owners, dealers and users have a right to complain now of discrimination.

If you want to read something that is true a Holy Writ look in column five on this page and read Richard Child's idea of a reformer. It describes a type so perfectly that we think it worth a place in anybody's scrap book.

Republican Leaders in Confusion.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, has recently thrown the leaders of his party into a state of confusion by declaring that the next Republican convention must take a definite stand on the subject of prohibition enforcement. In this attitude he is supported by Senators Fess and Willis, of Ohio, and a good many of the leading prohibitionists of the country. According to these men the negative position the party has maintained in the past will no longer serve to satisfy the vast army of prohibition voters. Whilst the late Mr. Wheeler was in absolute control of prohibition propaganda it was easy enough for Republican leaders to make terms to fool the voters. But there is no longer a prohibition despot.

On the other hand Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, equally conspicuous in the councils of the party, with quite as much emphasis, demands a plank in the platform directly repudiating the Volstead law, and he is supported by Senator Edge, of New Jersey, and others who are in sympathy with the wet element but are not willing to commit the party in a formal declaration on the subject. A meaningless expression in favor of "law enforcement" has served their purpose in the past and they hope will accomplish the result in the future. If Mr. Wheeler were still alive and in control of the Anti-Saloon League that might be true.

In any event the question is practically certain to breed a good deal of trouble in the next Republican convention. It is believed that a wet platform would produce a generous campaign fund and that is a potent force in a Presidential contest. But if the prohibition voters should carry their resentment of such an attitude to the polls even the millions of money thus made available might be inadequate to buy a majority. Murray Butler and those with him who favor that sort of a platform are relied on to be regular in any event, but the party managers are not quite sure of Borah. He usually capitulates in an emergency but he might "carry on" with disastrous results.

Vote for Dunlap for Sheriff.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Disregarding his broken neck which he received in a football game, on Saturday, at Wildwood, Angelo Destano, 20, of Philadelphia, walked out of the Wildwood hospital and took a train home. He is in a critical condition.

While police were investigating the smashing of plate glass windows in one store, in New Castle, robbers on Monday took a safe containing \$500 in cash and \$75 in checks from the Lawrence Confectionery Store, two blocks away.

Postal officials at Pottsville have announced the removal of postmaster Alfred Bowe at Port Carbon, who is accused of the shortage of a large amount of money. Since Bowe is a disabled war veteran, the case may not be pushed against him.

Through a snuff box found in the mountain cabin of Solomon Gummerson, near Uniontown, brutally slain last week, the authorities expect to trace the slayer of the lumberman, who is alleged to have been robbed of \$600 and his gold watch.

William Johnson, driver for the Lock Haven Baking company, coasted down a hill near Lock Haven, Saturday, and stalled the car on the railroad just as a westbound passenger train came through, demolishing the truck. Johnson escaped injury.

After swallowing a quantity of disinfectant in a suicidal attempt, Mrs. Eva Aprubis, 35, of Wilkes-Barre, died in a hospital. The woman and her husband are said to have agreed to separate, and it was while the drayman was removing the furniture that she committed the act.

Ellen Fahringer is in a hospital at Elysburg, her face horribly disfigured as the result of an attack of a huge dog. The animal leaped at the young woman as she was about to enter the post office and slashed her face to ribbons before it was beaten off by witnesses. It was later killed.

Angered because his wife had disclosed his whereabouts to prohibition agents who wanted him as witness, Samuel Zolkowski on Friday, slashed the woman's throat with a razor at their home in Sharpshooter and then attempted suicide. The wife died a few minutes later, her head almost decapitated and the man was reported dying in a hospital.

George D. Killen pleaded no defense in federal court at Pittsburgh, on Saturday, to charges of misapplying funds of the First National bank of Bellefonte, Blair county, and making false entries. He was paroled for three years. Killen, who was cashier of the Bellefonte First National bank, was alleged to have misappropriated more than \$9,000 of the bank's money.

Mrs. Lillian Reed, a prisoner in the Millin county jail since October 24, for the non-payment of her taxes, was discharged from her prison cell last Wednesday, when her husband, Ralph B. Reed, paid the tax, \$5.35. Her imprisonment covered a period of eleven days and the prosecution was brought by A. B. Cathoun, tax collector of Armagh township. Mrs. Reed is a resident of Millroy.

Harry Conklin and Harry Fell, two Norristown policemen, returning from a gunning trip with one rabbit, told their fellow-officers how they had been stoned off a field by a woman and chased by a farmer on horseback armed with a revolver. They finally decided to quit hunting when Conklin accidentally shot and killed a valuable hound belonging to a farmer, who demanded \$50 for the animal and compromised on \$10.

A woman bank employe and her husband were under arrest, on Monday, following discovery by State Banking Department officials of a shortage of \$10,000 in accounts at the Exchange Bank of Franklin. Mrs. Ada Kauffman was charged with embezzlement and her husband with abetting the theft. Banking Department officials said the woman admitted taking the money from "quiet" accounts and giving it to her husband. The bank announced a bonding company made good the loss.

William Naugle, 55, lumberman of Somerset, fatally shot his wife, Bessie Weirner Yost Naugle, 30, Monday afternoon and then fired a bullet through his head, according to the police. The woman died three hours later and the husband's death is expected at Community hospital, Somerset. The Naugles had been living apart for some time, the wife at home and the husband at a Somerset hotel. Mrs. Naugle's first husband, a Mr. Yost, committed suicide some years ago. Some time ago the wife had Naugle in court on a charge of non support.

For the second time within two weeks thieves are being sought for participation in the robbery of a parsonage while the Rev. E. E. McKelevy, of the Diamond Methodist Episcopal church, was conducting services his home was entered by thieves who secured \$10 after ransacking the entire house and even digging into the pockets of trousers that hung in clothes closets. Two weeks ago the parsonage of Trinity Lutheran church was similarly robbed, the thieves getting \$40 in cash. Rev. McKelevy was formerly pastor of the Bellefonte church.

The stadium at Bucknell University, at Lewisburg, will be dedicated tomorrow as a memorial to the alumni who served in the world war. The dedication will precede a football game between Bucknell and Washington and Jefferson Universities. Four bronze tablets at either end of the stadium bearing the names of about 700 alumni who served their country during the war, will be unveiled by Dr. Emory W. Hunt, president of the university. Besides the unveiling, the dedication services will consist of the reading of the names of the 29 alumni who died in the war.

Mrs. Mary Stank, formerly of Wilkes-Barre, but a resident of Poland since 1915, was awarded \$6,817 by Federal Judge Johnson in civil court at Scranton in her action against the Kingston Bank and Trust company, of Kingston, Pa. Mrs. Stank married Michael Stank, in Poland in 1910, and the following year both came to Wilkes-Barre. Five years later the wife returned to Poland, but her husband remained in Luzerne county as a miner.

In 1923 Stank disappeared and has not been heard of since. His wife across the sea went to recover the money that her husband had in a bank and the court sustained her.

FATE

Translation from Goethe by Professor Welland, of Yale University.

Who never eats his crust in tears, Who knows not vain silent sorrow, Or has not dreaded the morrow, Him Fate loves not nor lends her years.

Fate leads us into life and strife, Her poor debtors ere life's begun, Paying in pain to set of sun, So guile on earth no more be rife.

Who Got These Millions?

From the Philadelphia Record.

Through civil suits the Government has recovered the navy's oil deposits, corruptly leased by former Secretary Fall to the Doheny and Sinclair interests. In one case criminal prosecution resulted in acquittal; another is to follow.

All these proceedings are of great public importance. But back of them is an issue which has defied all efforts to elicit a complete explanation. At one stage in the alleged Fall-Sinclair conspiracy the insiders divided more than \$2,000,000 in profits. Of this sum about \$200,000, in Liberty bonds, was traced to Fall, the Government asserts. But to this day the distribution of the rest of the huge sum remains a mystery. Moreover, disclosure of the facts has been prevented by a secretiveness so stubborn and by individual sacrifices so remarkable that the protection of powerful names hitherto unsuspected is widely surmised. In the New York Herald Tribune, Mark Sullivan has set forth the astonishing record which has provoked this speculation.

The Government has shown that at the time of the Fall-Sinclair deal a Western producer contracted to sell 400,000 barrels of oil to a group of companies affiliated with the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, the respective heads of the buying concerns being James E. O'Neil, Harry M. Blackmer, Robert Stewart and Harry F. Sinclair. But delivery was not made to these companies. Instead, the men named, together with H. S. Osler, a Toronto attorney, organized on paper a Canadian corporation, which had no refinery, no storage tanks, no equipment except a charter. This dummy company bought the oil at the seller's price, \$1.50 a barrel, and immediately resold it to the O'Neil and Sinclair interests at \$1.75.

The question is, what division was made of the \$2,100,000 profit from a secret transaction which the United States Supreme Court has declared "apparently illegitimate?" As stated, more than \$200,000 in bonds passed from the Canadian company to Fall, but the Government has traced no other part of the fund. Osler avoided testifying by pleading a counsel's right to protect his clients. Sinclair cannot be forced to testify against himself. Stewart went to South America, returning only after the civil suits had been tried. O'Neil and Blackmer went to Europe, and have remained self-exiled for five years rather than obey subpoenas.

The present trial is considered a matter of great public moment. But it is unlikely to solve two mysteries not less sinister in appearance than the revelations thus far made. The unanswered questions are: What persons shared in the \$1,900,000 unaccounted for in the deal mentioned? What is the influence that has been powerful enough to defeat all attempts to identify them?

The Reformer.

Richard I. Childs in the National Municipal Review.

"A reformer is one who sets forth cheerfully toward sure defeat. His serene persistence against stone walls invites derision from those who have never been touched by his religion and do not know what fun it is. He never seems victorious, for if he were visibly winning, he would forthwith cease to be dubbed 'reformer.'" It is his peculiar function to embrace the hopeless cause when it can win no other friends and when its obvious futility repels that thick-necked, practical, timorous type of citizen to whom the outward appearance of success is so dear. Yet, in time, the reformer's little movement becomes respectable and his little minority proves that it can grow and presently the statesman joins it and takes all the credit, cheerfully handed to him by the reformer as bribe for his support. And then comes the politician, rushing grandly to the succor of the victor. And all the crowd! The original reformer is lost in the shuffle then, but he doesn't care. For as the great hand-wagon which he started goes thundering past with trumpets, the crowd in the intoxication of triumph leans over to jeer at him—a forlorn and lonely crank, confidently mustering a pitiful little odd-lot of followers along the roadside and setting them marching, while over their heads he lifts the curious banner of a new crusade!"

Big Bill Thompson has been vindicated. Investigation has revealed that Queen Victoria contributed books to the Chicago library after the great fire.

Mrs. Knapp, Republican, delinquent Secretary of State in New York, declares she was forced to commit crimes by political pressure.