

INK SLINGS.

—Would-be Senator Vare seems to have picked the wrong Reed to lean on.

—When Jim Reed gets through with Big Tom Cunningham there will be sorrow on "the rialto."

—Mr. Vare has no concern for his own disappointment but his heart bleeds for the suffering public.

—An optimist is one who, because his party is in power, kids himself into thinking times are good when they are actually bad.

—If there should be no snow Santa Claus might ride down on the tail of that Skjellerup comet which is to be visible at Christmas.

—Only the morons bemoan the rain. They are too nit-witted to understand that it is easier to carry an umbrella than it is to shovel snow.

—It looks like it won't be long until Bellefonte is minus the district highway offices. The removal will mean an appreciable loss in many ways.

—Ambassador Morrow has accomplished a good deal in the way of composing differences between this country and Mexico, but wait until Lindy has finished his job.

—If we were Santa Claus we'd make the girls hang up socks this Christmas. It's unreasonable to ask the good old soul to fill the lengthy stockings the ladies are wearing now.

—That Chester county bride of three weeks who fired four shots at herself and missed every time, in an attempted suicide, is the kind of marksman one wouldn't describe as having unerring aim.

—When the hour hand has swung around the circle ten more times the shortest day of the year will be here. Then as the days lengthen the cold will strengthen and spring will be only three months off.

—In Philadelphia the bandits beat up their victims because they haven't enough money to recompense for the time spent in holding them up. Political blackjacking is conducted on the same system there.

—Senator Dave Reed says it cost three times as much to nominate Governor Fisher as was spent to nominate Vare and the expense of reconciling Mr. Beidleman to the robbery is not included in the reckoning.

—Possibly we are pessimistic, but we believe that banditry won't decrease until parents train their children to work for what they get and punishment for the crime is made so severe that the most hardened will shrink from it.

—Yes, a friend brought us a mess of venison. You are curious to know, we presume, whether there was any sherry in the parcel. We shall not gratify such curiosity for the reason that we might incriminate both the friend and ourselves.

—President Calles, of Mexico, is quoted as having said that "any revolutionary movement in that country which threatens the authority of capital is bound to fall." In the light of recent occurrences in Mexico we are inclined to infer that Calles means that he is capital.

—Inasmuch as William S. Vare stands practically no chance of being given a seat in the United States Senate Governor Fisher might have a chance to appoint a Senator for Pennsylvania. As to whom it might be we shall not hazard a guess. It might be Joe Grundy, but it won't be Gifford Pinchot.

There being no more doubt as to President Coolidge's determination to retire at the expiration of his present term our friends, the Republicans, find themselves with a problem on their hands. A problem so difficult to solve that they will have no time to continue poking their noses into our presidential woodlot.

—The most striking example of rare presence of mind comes to us through a Chicago dispatch. A woman out there undertook to bite a policeman who was attempting to arrest her and the officer promptly grabbed her false teeth out of her mouth. The message didn't say whether she "gummed" him then or not.

—If you've never been impeached and feel that you would like to star in such a proceeding go down to Oklahoma and have yourself elected to some office. Just now the Legislature of that State is trying to get rid of the Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Secretary of Agriculture; all by the impeachment route.

—If Willis Beach and Mrs. Lillendahl killed the latter's husband they must have done it with premeditation. For that reason we can't understand how that New Jersey jury returned a verdict of manslaughter. It must have been a compromise. If such were the case justice was not rendered either the State or the defendants. Justice is not exact when compromise holds the scales.

—Lots of hunters who will rail at seventy-five cents a pound for a Christmas turkey came home from the woods elated with a few pounds of venison that had cost them two or three dollars a pound. Of course they had the sport of the chase, but it is comparable with that of a happy family, in a cheerful home, gathered about a table on which reposes a great browned bird stuffed with chestnuts?

Democratic Watchman

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Electrical Monopolists Active.

The most important problem in the industrial life of the country is the development and control of electrical power. It is a question that can be properly settled only by Congressional legislation.

There is now, and has been for some time, in process of formation a vast electrical trust which will, unless restrained by suitable legislation, monopolize the production and distribution of electrical power and put the whole country under tribute.

The determined fight to place William S. Vare in the Senate may be for the same reason. Mr. Vare may have no personal interest in the matter and little understanding of the subject.

—Another reason in favor of early Christmas shopping is that you have a better chance of getting what you want if you get there first.

Not a Partisan Question.

During the debate on the question of admitting Mr. Vare to a seat in the Senate, which Governor Pinchot declared was "partly bought and partly stolen," Senator Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, inferentially charged that the Democratic Senators were influenced by a desire to seize control of the Senate.

Even if that were the purpose of the Democratic Senators it would not lie in the mouth of Senator Reed or any other Republican Senator to complain. At the opening of the Sixty-sixth Congress a similar condition existed, except that the Democrats had the meager majority and the question of control rested upon the admission of Truman H. Newberry, of Michigan, who stood convicted of corruption in his campaign for the nomination.

In the Vare case the Governor of the State had cast a doubt on the validity of the nomination and election of Vare by refusing to certify that he had been "duly" elected. The resolution to deny him the seat had been offered by a Republican, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and was being supported by a considerable number of Republican Senators.

—If Mr. Coolidge would indicate in even cryptic manner who he favors as his successor he would relieve a great many anxious minds.

—Tobacco users paid \$376,000,000 revenue tax last year, which accounts for the smaller income tax of some of them.

Distinction Without a Difference.

It is difficult to reconcile the reasoning of those who professed to draw a line of distinction between the claims of Mr. Smith, of Illinois, and Mr. Vare, of Pennsylvania, for a seat in the Senate and the facts in the case.

The contribution of funds to candidates or political committees by corporations is forbidden by law. The contribution of funds to candidates or political committees by officials or employees of State or municipal governments is forbidden by an act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

It is true that this suspicion and belief was not supported by competent evidence. But the failure was not the fault of the Slush Fund committee or the public outraged by the crimes.

—Lowdon and Dawes are rendering the "After You, Alphonso" act very gracefully, if not exactly successfully.

Vare's Absurd Hope Vanished.

It is to be hoped that the vote in the Senate, on Monday, renewing the life of the Slush Fund committee, will mark the beginning of the end of William S. Vare's attempt to break into the Senate.

Mr. Vare may not be altogether to blame for the moral degeneracy which inspired his ambition. Men of great wealth, who for selfish purposes contribute large sums of money to create and maintain corrupt partisan organizations, are the real causes of existing political evils.

Besides Mr. Vare had the encouragement of past experience to feed his expectation of making the hurdle. Newberry was admitted to membership of the Senate, even after he had been convicted of fraud, and it has become a custom to buy or steal Republican nominations.

—Major Eugene H. Lederer, of State College, has been appointed appraiser of estates for Centre county by Auditor-General Edward Martin.

Kansas City Gets the Convention.

After an intensely bitter contest Kansas City, Missouri, has been chosen as the seat of the Republican National convention, which will assemble on the 12th day of June, 1928.

Of course considerable party advantage is expected to come from holding the convention in the Missouri city which is the market center of the corn belt and the most important city of the middle west.

Kansas City, in June, is probably the hottest spot between Maine and California and the delegates and others who attend the convention may look forward to a period of discomfort which is appalling to contemplate.

Centre County Man Attacked by Rioting Students in Rumania.

News dispatches on Tuesday included a cable message from Rumania about an unwarranted attack on William M. Keller, a son of Mrs. Tamme Keller, of Linden Hall, Centre county, who is now in business in Oradea Mare, Rumania.

An eye witness to the assault said that Keller was walking through a public square on the way to his home, ten blocks away, when he noticed that he was being followed by a group of students with a menacing attitude.

They took him by force back to the public square, passing a Rumanian officer who knew him and who was aware that he was an American.

Keller is in the automobile business there and has been since January, 1923. He served in the American army in France.

Lindy Does It Again.

Col. Charles A. Lindbergh has once again manifested his superiority as a flier. Leaving Washington in his famous ship, "The Spirit of St. Louis," shortly after noon on Tuesday, he made a non-stop flight to Mexico City, a distance of two thousand miles, in twenty-seven hours, landing in the Mexican capital at 3:34 on Wednesday afternoon.

Now if "Lindy" can be induced to attend that big military ball, at State College in January, Centre countians will also have an opportunity to line up with the hero worshippers.

The Chinese Puzzle.

From the Philadelphia Record. For a few years after China became a republic the internal political situation was so involved that even observers on the ground gave up trying to untangle the threads of rival movements.

Almost a year has passed since China suddenly became a first-page news story once more in the press of the world. The civil war had been going on for a long time, but the world was not aware of it until the startling events of Hankow and Shanghai seemed to call for foreign intervention.

A civil war between two parties, with clearly defined opposing principles, is not a puzzle. The reason we have a Chinese puzzle—and have had one that appears insoluble to observers—ever since the beginning of these internal troubles is precisely because there have been two parties with opposing principles.

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There is less actual fighting and danger to foreigners in China now than there was six months ago, foreigners living there, with a stake in the country, are more pessimistic than they were last spring. They seem to realize that their ability to remain in China is due solely to the 54 foreign patrol boats on the Yangtze and the soldiers, marines and fleets at and near the larger seaports.

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State Shows Up Well.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. Pennsylvania State College entries won two class championships, seven first prizes, one second place, two third, one fourth, one fifth and one eighth prize in the international live stock exposition in Chicago this week.

This is only an example of the splendid work State is constantly doing for the agriculture and the industry of Pennsylvania. Only such outstanding triumphs can be noted among a host of everyday activities that mark the institution as one of the most useful among the colleges of the East.

All the more remarkable is this because most of the work done at State is under discouraging conditions and difficulties. Until Governor Fisher generously and wisely recognized the needs of the school with the first real appropriation in years, State College was treated in most niggardly fashion by the Legislature.

—The new Senate committee on Privileges and Elections, which will count the Wilson-Vare vote, will be made up of six Republicans, all hard-boiled, and five Democrats. But the five will be alert.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Unless the State raises an additional \$200,000 by January 1, Cook forest, near Brookville, will be offered at public sale, according to announcement of the Cook heirs, who are eager for division of the estate, and decline to wait longer for sale of the tract.

—While on duty Thursday night Patrolman Robert Mohr, of Allentown, parked his car in the heart of the city. After transacting his business at police headquarters he made a quick return to report the automobile had been robbed of tools, bulbs, tire gauge, patching kit, chains and flashlight.

—While 12-year-old Edgar Watson, of Chester, stood in the central shopping district, on Saturday, waiting for his mother to accompany him on a Christmas shopping tour, the mother, Mrs. John G. Watson, died at her home from acute indigestion. The boy, tired of waiting, went home and discovered her body.

—Anthony Frak, Oil City grocer, saved the \$19 cash in his cash register but received a bad cut on the head from the end of a revolver when he made an empty threat to shoot it out with the masked and armed intruder of his store Saturday evening. While Frak was edging toward a meat cleaver the robber slugged him over the head and escaped.

—On the ground that Mrs. Mary Cyko, of Kittanning, was not dependent upon her husband at the time of his death within the meaning of the statutes, the Workmen's Compensation Board last week upheld the referee's action in disallowing compensation to the woman. The husband, Andy Cyko, died two days after a piece of rock, weighing several hundred pounds, fell upon him while working in the property of the Allegheny River Mining company, of Kittanning.

—Records in the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, at Harrisburg, disclose the fact that a majority of members of the Legislature and of the Pennsylvania bench have availed themselves of the opportunity to obtain distinctive license plates for 1928. The legislators have plates with the letter "L" preceding the numerals, and on plates for the judiciary the letter "J" follows the numerals.

—Dr. Charles B. Smith, 62, of Newtown, one of Bucks county's most prominent physicians, committed suicide, on Sunday, over the grave of his son in the Newtown cemetery. Grief over his son, Morrell Smith, who was killed in the Argonne drive during the World war, was said by relatives to have caused Dr. Smith to take his life. Placing a blanket over the grave, Dr. Smith fired five shots through his breast near the heart. His body, lying across the grave, was found a few hours later.

—William Deemer, four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Deemer, of Bushman, will not be compelled to travel through life, short a large portion of his chin as was at first thought when he was taken to the Lewistown hospital. The lad ran through the back yard at his home in the darkness and falling sliced a goodly portion of his chin off on a double-bit axe that had one bit sunk deep in the chopping block and the other as a snare for the unwary. Doctors at the hospital say they can graft the pieces on his chin and the boy will not be disfigured.

—A cat owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Oliver, of Berwick, prefers snakes to mice. Eleven snakes have been brought into the Oliver apartment by the cat in the last month, several of them copperheads, and the cat plays with them as with a mouse before killing them. In some unexplained manner she has avoided being bitten by the copperheads. A son, George, aged 12, investigated the source of the snakes and found a huge ball of garter snakes and copperheads, apparently gathered for the winter, on the hill back of the business section. He killed or caught 30 of them.

—The State of Pennsylvania has one unique position. It is that of official clock winder in the State buildings held by Melvin D. Leonard. Once each week Leonard makes a tour of the State offices winding and regulating about 850 clocks. In addition, he cares for 336 electric clocks which are controlled by four master clocks. This work takes about five days. Until a few months ago Leonard also had to do the clock repairing, but now a master clock maker attends that work. The official winder has been on the job for three years and declares he likes the position.

—The Logan flour mill, at Lewistown, one of the oldest in this section of the State, was destroyed by fire on Thursday night with an estimated loss of \$95,000. Flying embers endangered nearby residences and the adjacent business section, and all Lewistown's firemen and those of all the neighboring villages and townships were seriously hampered by the cold. For the past few years the mill has been owned by H. J. Cohen & Son. The building was constructed between 1800 and 1820 over the bed of the old State canal, the boats passing through under it when the canal was in operation. It was three stories high and constructed of brick.

—Apples have been reported scarce this year but a cold storage plant at Waynesboro is filled with 65,000 barrels. The apples in storage there are from the orchards throughout the Cumberland Valley and other sections as far away as the State of Washington. One hundred carloads of apples were shipped there for storage, from Washington State. It is a case of "in again, out again" at their local storage plant. With the filling of the storage rooms, orders for apples begin to arrive from various markets. Already twelve carloads have been shipped out of storage at Waynesboro. Shipments will continue from the plant, up until about May 1, when the storage will be put in readiness for the early apples of the 1928 crop.

—A certified check for \$2,000, posted by J. M. Breman, a former University of Pittsburgh student, with C. J. Schininger, of Altoona, as a wager on the recent Pitt-Penn State football game, was returned on Saturday by Schininger, who is under arrest in Pittsburgh, charged with defrauding Pitt supporters out of approximately \$8,000. The check was returned in Morals Court. Breman testified he wagered that amount with Schininger that Pitt would defeat Penn State, but was unable to find the man to collect his winnings after the game. Schininger, who represented himself at the time as "C. E. Hugus, representative of a New York broker," was ordered held while police sought to locate other Pitt men who were victimized.