

INK SLINGS.

The Quakers at Jordans, England, are not willing to trust the remains of William Penn to Pittsburgh.

The "Single-Taxers" deserve praise for optimism and perseverance, even if they have no other virtues.

The Philadelphia court clerk dismissed for grafting has been promptly "taken care of" by another assignment.

Colonel Lindberg is still flying higher in the affections of the people and correcting the diplomatic blunders of the administration.

Samuel Insull, of Chicago, has tried to square himself with the Senate but it remains to be seen what Big Tom Cunningham will do.

There are a good many political "new brooms" at work in the State and it is to be hoped they will keep the records clean in the future.

No matter how people feel about Governor Smith's political aspirations everybody hopes his wife will survive the ordeal through which she has just passed.

Colonel Lindberg doesn't seem to care about altitude, long distance or other records. He is content with diffusing good will among men of the world.

Champion Gene Tunney threatens rebellion against the control of Tex Rickard. But it is a safe guess that he will temper his temerity before long.

Would Senator Smith, of Illinois, has had the satisfaction of telling the Senate where to get off as his consolation for having been told to get out.

Anyway, you'll have to give it to Governor Al. Smith, of New York, for having had the back-bone to stand out against the mawkish sentiment that was trying to save Ruth Snyder from the law's penalty for a horrible crime.

If Washington is so keen to fight some one why doesn't it leave Nicaragua alone and come up here and join council or the local Red Cross chapter. In Bellefonte all anybody who wants to get into a scrap needs do is join something.

Mother Nature is being very kind to Bellefonte this winter. She knows we are head over heels in debt and is probably withholding snow for fear we'll get excited and ask council to rescind its rescinding of its resolution to buy a snow-plow.

Mr. Mussolini must certainly be the Captain General in Italy. Recently King Victor Emanuel, in thanking H. Duce for having picked up his handkerchief, is said to have remarked: "This is one of the few things in which I may still stick my nose."

Let us see. Wasn't it back in 1917 or 1918 that the public wasn't sure just what party Herbert Hoover belonged to and, perhaps we have him mixed up with someone else, but wasn't he very non-committal as to whether he was a Democrat or a Republican?

Just to prove that we ought to be a continuity writer for a movie corporation we want to announce that only ninety-two days must elapse ere the trout fishing season will open. You know, we opened, early in December, that we would be emitting such information about the second week in January.

Really, we don't like to refer to it so often but we do wish that camera men making news reels of the President would carry atomizers loaded and spray his surroundings with some good perfume before beginning their close-ups. We would like to see him once when he didn't look as though he were sniffing something malodorous.

If you haven't paid up your subscription yet we want to tip you off to the fact that our mailing list is going to be changed next week and we'd like to see the figures opposite your name looking like 1928. We got enough to put a new ceiling on our composing room in consequence of that December lamentation. We are doubtful, however, as to whether this one will bring enough to provide a new seat for the editorial trousters.

The office to which former Prothonotary Wilkinson has fallen heir is not just plain county detective like Joe Ritenour. It is detective extraordinary and he is to get twenty-five hundred a year and such expenses as may be incurred in the line of duty. We can see a possible cost to the county of five thousand, or more, annually because when it comes to the line of duty Roy can be counted on to step high, wide and handsome. Inasmuch as he is to be accountable only to the Court and the District Attorney all the County Commissioners will have to do is pay the bills.

All last year we steadfastly stuck to our opinion that there are too many laws. In the light of happenings since the dawn of 1928 we have come to the conclusion that we were in error. Now we are almost persuaded to go to the Legislature and have one of our very own making passed. We think that there ought to be a law requiring every politician to make a job for any lieutenant who wants one. The taxpayers would holler their heads off, of course, but that's all they'd do. Most of them would step right up to the ballot box at the next election, hold their noses and vote the same old way.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Did Council Act Wisely?

Since Council has decided that a borough manager has not been profitable to Bellefonte it might be illuminating if some one were to dig into the records and make a comparison of the cost of maintaining the various departments of the borough for the nine years prior to 1919, when the office was created, with the nine years we have operated under it. Of course, we know that everything is more costly now than it was prior to 1919 and the fair person would take that into consideration when viewing such comparative exhibits. But the outstanding thing in the mind of every taxpayer, it seems to us, would be the condition of the two departments with which Mr. Seibert had most to do during his tenure of office. There is no town in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that has better streets than Bellefonte. Think of them as they were in 1919 and look at them today.

Of course the various street committees of council should be given credit for originating the work, but the borough manager executed it.

In 1919 the water duplicate in Bellefonte was \$11,000.00. Today it is nearing \$21,000.00, and the rate hasn't been increased one cent. Extensions of service account for some of this, not so much, however, as you might think. The major portion of the increase has been due to the conscientious and intelligent co-operation of the Water committee of Council and the borough manager in checking up so that every property pays strictly in accordance with the possibilities it has of drawing water. Another contributory cause to this gratifying showing has been the fact that the borough manager has been given the work of collecting the water rents and gets them.

Few people understand that water isn't a tax in Bellefonte. It is a rent. If it were a tax no more could be charged for it than would be necessary to keep up the water department alone. As a matter of fact it is the only money making department we have and its earnings make up the deficits in the other departments, for none of them actually get through on the levy that is made to maintain them.

Without regard to our conviction that Mr. Seibert has been a most conscientious public official and our belief that he saved for the borough every year far more than the meagre salary he received, we feel that Council has made a very serious mistake in abandoning the office.

A councilman is supposed to be chosen only because of the superior judgment he is believed to be able to give in the conduct of a borough's business. He is supposed to have no axes to grind. He should not be expected to give his time to running hither and yon on the call of a grouchy public that fails to realize that he gets nothing for serving it. The office of borough manager furnished the ideal buffer. It was a decidedly disagreeable one for its occupant, but a wonderful comfort to members of Council.

Knowing this to be the fact we should think that Council, if it thought the office wasn't paying the borough would have considered the matter of getting a new borough manager before it went to the extreme of rescinding its ordinance creating the office. No business corporation would approach a problem in that way.

The whole affair has a very "fishy" look, to say the least.

The gentleman who answers questions in "Everybody's Column" in the Philadelphia Inquirer should brush up on his geography a bit. In telling a reader where State College is located he said, "It is 34 miles northwest of Altoona." What if the reader doesn't know where Altoona is? He should have said 12 miles southwest of Bellefonte because everybody knows where Bellefonte is.

Up to yesterday morning county agent R. C. Blaney had furnished orders for reduced transportation to eighteen farmers of the county who expect to attend the State farm show, in Harrisburg, next week. It is believed, however, that this number will be considerably augmented by the beginning of the week. The boys' lamb club of the county will be represented by seven pens of lambs.

Judge Fleming, on Monday, appointed as a board of road and bridge viewers Edward J. Thompson and Philip E. Womelsdorf, of Philipsburg; Thompson Henry, of Martha; John W. Eby, of Zion, and Irvin Yarnell, of Hecla. The Messrs. Thompson and Womelsdorf are new appointments, while the others are re-appointments.

Subscribe for the Watchman.

Governor Fisher Violates His Pledge.

Isn't it about time for focusing the new science of psychiatry on Governor Fisher? A few weeks ago, addressing the Election Law Commission, he expressed much anxiety for honest elections and declared his purpose to exhaust all the resources of his office to secure legislation which would guarantee to every citizen of the Commonwealth that his vote would be honestly counted and correctly returned. Last week the newspapers contained the information that "Governor Fisher yesterday acceded to the wishes of Senator Vare and Mayor Harry A. Mackey, of Philadelphia, by appointing Louis Hamberg, a Vare leader in the Twelfth ward of Philadelphia, as police magistrate, succeeding John F. Dugan."

A judicial investigation recently begun disclosed the fact that nearly, if not all, the police magistrates in Philadelphia have been systematically grafting for many years and violating the laws in various ways. Most of these magistrates have been chosen by Mr. Vare and they have become an important, if not an essential, part of his machine. At the last election he selected the nominees of both parties for the office of magistrate thus strengthening his strangle hold on this branch of the judicial system in the city and making it practically impossible to begin prosecutions against criminals except when a common pleas judge is willing to sit as committing magistrate, an unusual proceeding.

The control of these minor courts is important to Mr. Vare for the reason that it enables him to protect perpetrators of ballot frauds from punishment and affords a prolific source from which to collect party slush funds out of the graft they extort from their victims. If Governor Fisher sincerely desired honest elections in Philadelphia he would have filled the magisterial vacancy by appointing a man selected by others than Mr. Vare and Mr. Mackey. But his anxiety to serve the interest of the Mellons in their effort to re-elect Senator Reed to the Senate was probably the controlling influence in the case. He is simply "selling" his conscience to Mr. Vare.

Whenever the League of Nations gets a boost the administration at Washington trembles. The selection of the president of the world court to preside over the Pan-American conference has almost caused a panic.

Mayor Mackey's Big Job.

Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, has undertaken a great adventure if his purposes are accurately expressed in an interview published in the Sunday paper political gossip. He purports to reform the political machine of that city by compelling every municipal official to be scrupulously honest. To achieve this desirable result he has called into the service a group of practical politicians educated in the Vare school and proved by long experience. He will first appeal to their conscience in a kindly way and if that amiable method fails he will resort to force. That is to say, he serves notice that any infractions of his rules of conduct will be promptly punished by dismissal from office.

That sounds like an expression of the spirit of a crusader. But Mr. Mackey has not heretofore been a crusader in the cause of civic righteousness. He has never been charged with sharing in the graft, which he freely admits has been common among the public officials. But he has for years been enjoying the advantages that have come out of the graft. As head of the compensation fund of the Commonwealth and subsequently treasurer of the city, he has had what practical politicians call a "soft snap" which has come to him in the form of recompense for eloquent and impressive silence while the grafting operations were in high tide of prosperity and full flower. He revealed no concern.

Possibly the responsibility of power has made a change in Mr. Mackey's consciousness within a brief period of time. Maybe he has become apprehensively honest and militantly righteous. But it will be hard to eradicate from the mind of the Philadelphia machine politician that perquisites are vested rights in public life and that graft is not a legitimate feature in balancing the books between the boss and the servitor. It is barely possible that Mr. Mackey may entice or force his subordinates in office to abandon the graft, and it is even probable that he may compel an economical administration, but he makes no promise of reform in elections and that is quite important.

Irene Castle's heart goes out to the dog, whether under or on top, if he is in distress.

Investigation Must Come.

Recent developments in Nicaragua make a searching investigation by Congress inevitable. No sane man or woman will question the duty of the administration at Washington to protect every citizen of the United States in person and property or to support any legitimate claim he may have in Nicaragua or anywhere else. But the administration has no right to declare war, either by proclamation or invasion of territory by armed forces, and that seems to be what has occurred in Nicaragua. Under the constitution Congress alone has that power. It has been claimed that the marines are in Nicaragua to "preserve the peace and protect the lives of the nationals of other countries."

Even if that were true, which is absurd, the government at Washington has no legal right to exercise police power outside of its own jurisdiction in repressing domestic disturbances or "protecting the lives of nationals of other countries." The Monroe Doctrine involves this country in such obligations it has been alleged by apologists of the President. Its purpose was and is to protect people and governments on this hemisphere from invasions or aggression from European or governments on other hemispheres. Sending an army of several thousand marines to repress riots or control elections in any other country is an act of war and reprehensible in the highest degree. It can be interpreted in no other way.

Suppose there should be a local disturbance in either of the cities of Canada, would the administration at Washington send a force of marines to suppress it or restore order? Certainly not. The government of Great Britain would promptly resent such an interference with its prerogatives. Suppose there should be such a disturbance in any of the colonies of France, would the government of the United States interfere? Certainly not. But Nicaragua is a "weak sister," as governments go, and some capitalists of this country, influenced more by cupidity than justice, have undertaken to exploit it and the administration engages in war with their victims in order to enforce their claims.

Various theories for disposing of used razor blades have been suggested but throwing them away will continue to be the popular method.

Republican Propaganda at Work.

The prosperity propaganda for the Presidential campaign of 1928 has been set in motion with much vigor. President Coolidge has supplemented his statement on the subject made in his annual message to Congress with a new and glowing promise for the immediate future. Mr. Schwab and Mr. Grace, of the Bethlehem Steel company, have contributed their periodic assurances of prosperity and Herbert Hoover, Andrew W. Mellon, J. Pierpont Morgan, W. W. Atterbury, Agnew T. Dice and a number of other earners of six figure incomes have expressed in writing or otherwise their sublime faith in the industrial and commercial prosperity of the country.

Usually the guarantee of prosperity by a group of captains of industry and napoleons of finance is sufficient to fool the public "until after the election." Of course, the name of Judge Gary, who invariably headed the list on previous occasions, had vast power of persuasion, but he is no longer available and other influences had to be invoked. President Coolidge, who probably never earned a dollar except in the form of salary for official service, was drafted into the service but failed to inspire confidence. A group of professional propagandists was finally organized to prepare statistics and draw inferences and their figures sent to all newspapers which would publish them.

It costs money to employ professional propagandists but the Republican National Committee has sufficient to meet any expense and for at least a week the papers have been filled with optimistic predictions diagrammed and otherwise elucidated to prove that the land "is flowing with milk and honey," and that nothing is needed to make this condition perpetual except the renewal of the lease of the Republican party to control the government for "four years more." Those of us who are less favored in earning capacity may not be able to see the prosperity. But it must be here because records show that more diamonds have been bought in this country than anywhere else during the last year.

Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, is profuse in promises and even profigate in verbiage in stating them.

There are 228 men in the United States enjoying incomes of more than a million dollars.

The Railroads and Their Motor Bus Competition.

Both the Pennsylvania and Reading railroad companies are about to apply for exclusive franchises to operate motor coaches on highways paralleling their routes between Camden and Atlantic City. The action will bring to decision a controversy which profoundly affects corporate rights and the public interest; for this territory furnishes perhaps the most conspicuous example in the country of rivalry between the two forms of transportation.

The railroads' case has been forcefully stated this week by Charles H. Ewing, vice president of the Reading, and Louis K. Marr, superintendent of the Pennsylvania's West Jersey and Seashore divisions. During the last five years, by reason of motor bus competition, railroad passenger traffic has decreased in the East 22 per cent., in the South 42 per cent., and in the West 48 per cent. Bus lines in the United States now have an aggregate mileage substantially equal to that of the railroads. But they operate under extraordinary advantages, because the most costly parts of their facilities—the highways—are furnished to them at public expense, whereas the railroads must provide their own.

In the last 10 years, for example, the Reading has spent \$10,000,000 in improving its seashore lines. In consequence its New Jersey taxes have increased from \$147,000 to \$469,000 a year; and this money has helped to pay for expensive highways, which are used by motor busses, without cost except for ordinary license fees, in taking business away from the railroads. "If that isn't unfair competition," it is asked, "what is?"

The conditions here set forth, which prevail in varying degrees in all thickly populated sections of the country, have been repeatedly discussed in "The Record." That automobile transportation has brought vast public benefits is beyond question; not since the discovery of steam has there been so far-reaching an improvement in communications. The motor truck and the motor bus have become indispensable. They give service to scattered communities, improve living conditions by developing suburban and rural residential areas, and provide multiplied travel facilities. In these respects their operations are essential, and should be encouraged. It is manifest, however, that their competition with the railroads should be put upon an equitable basis. It is not only unjust, it is economically unsound, to pay them an indirect subsidy by furnishing free to them facilities which the steam systems have to provide at their own cost.

Railroads and trolley companies may be soulless corporations, but they have certain rights and equities which demand recognition. Not only have they invested vast sums in the creation and maintenance of their properties—rights-of-way, trackage, rolling stock, power plants and so on—but they are required to render adequate service, whether profitable or not, and their charges are regulated and their earnings limited by public authority.

Yet in many parts of the country, notably in New Jersey, they find their routes paralleled by bus lines which operate over roadbeds paid for by the public—in part, indeed, by the railroads themselves. The latter contend that this is unfair and confiscatory competition. They neither expect nor demand suppression of motor traffic; but they urge that in specific instances they should be allowed to develop the new system as a subsidiary to their established lines.

There are involved, of course, the rights of the public, not only to adequate service, but to protection against monopoly; but this issue is covered by the strict regulation under which the railroads operate. Furthermore, experience has shown that unrestricted motor competition often works public injury, for full railroad service cannot be maintained where a substantial part of the traffic is diverted to rival systems enjoying advantageous terms. It is a fact that thousands of miles of branch rail lines have been abandoned for this reason, so that actually added facilities have led to impaired service.

For these reasons the public interest, which is the paramount consideration, gives merit to the railroads' demand for motor bus rights complying with the principles of regulation.

Congress On its Hind Legs.

Congress is on its hind legs again with President Coolidge the target. His Nicaraguan policy has aroused the patriots and statesmen who think they know more about what should be done than the higher-up officials who have such matters in hand. Anyway, a number of marines who should never have been sent to Central America, have been killed and many more injured. The cost to the people will run up in the millions, and millions spent sending warships and marines to the rescue. And all the while we hear, read and see so much about "Coolidge economy" and kindred tommyrot.

United States marines are still making peace in Nicaragua with machine guns.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

While working at a receiving tank of the Pennsylvania Glass Sand works at Mapleton, last Thursday, Robert Brumbaugh, 50, of Mapleton, fell into the sand current and was suffocated before rescuers could reach him.

An explosion and fire at the home of William Young, of Ashbury, Columbia county, resulted in the death of his wife and two children, June and Zane, aged 2 and 3 years, respectively. The blast occurred, it was said, when Mrs. Young attempted to hasten a fire by pouring on a mixture of gasoline and kerosene. Young was working in the barn, and did not hear the blast.

Frank J. Hope, 34, a hot-air furnace salesman, was sentenced to two years in jail, at Pittsburgh, on Saturday after being found guilty on charges of false pretense and fraudulent conversion involving \$5,900 and a \$2,000 diamond ring which Mrs. Minnie Reese, 45, said he obtained from her. Mrs. Reese also charged Hope wrongfully posed as a single man, proposed marriage and was accepted.

The wages of York's greatest sin has been cut by Mayor Jacob E. Weaver. He has slashed the price of liberty for "plain drunks" 50 per cent, under the prevailing quotations of former Mayor E. S. Hugenburger's court. A five dollar bill will serve to deliver the "ordinary" drunken prisoner from the usual 10-day jail sentence, whereas the former chief executive scorned anything less than a 10-shot.

The State Welfare Department has approved plans for the new eastern penitentiary, which will be erected on an uneven plot in Gratesford, Montgomery county. Specifications and architects' drawings are being placed on blue prints. The first block of buildings to be built will include eight structures, placed seventy-five feet apart and surrounded by a high wall with sentry boxes on the wall at intervals.

With a phonograph record, "I'm Bound for the Promised Land," in his automobile, Edward Karachner, aged 32, of Berwick, met instant death early Saturday morning, when the car rammed into a telephone pole near Bloomsburg. E. Foster McNeal, of Nesquehony, and Paul Strunk, of Reading, were seriously injured and are in a hospital. The automobile was reduced to junk but the record was not broken.

The explosion of a dynamite cap at Hammonds Fork, about 30 miles from Lock Haven, at 2 o'clock Sunday, completely demolished the west wall of the Gospel tabernacle while twenty women and children were attending Sunday school. The explosion occurred when the janitor started to light the fire in the stove, the cap having evidently been placed a distance of 200 feet but no one was injured.

R. Clyde Segner, former clerk in the office of the county controller at Washington, Pa., was pardoned from the county jail, by Governor John S. Fisher on Saturday morning. Segner was serving two and one-half years for theft of \$27,000 in public funds, through manipulation of coupons. He had previously refused a conditional parole, so that he might go home to be with members of his family who were sick. Segner was sent up in January, 1926.

The State treasury is the only office in the Capitol, at Harrisburg, which has clear glass in its doors, giving passersby a view into the offices. In the other departments the doors leading into the corridors all have frosted glass. As a result, scores of persons daily stop to gaze at the huge vault which contains millions of dollars in securities and which is guarded not only by armed men but is fitted with the newest appliances for making it burglar-proof.

Mrs. I. E. Miller, of Phoenixville, had occasion Saturday morning to use two diamond rings valued at \$1250 and went to a closet in her bedroom where she had fastened them to the sleeve of a coat for safe keeping. The coat was missing. Then she remembered that on December 24 she had given the garment to Mrs. George Dobson, of Port Providence, whose home and clothing had been destroyed by fire that morning. She hurried to the Dobson home, explained her mission to Mrs. Dobson, and they went to a bedroom, where the coat was found at the bottom of a pile of clothing which had been donated. The rings were fastened to the coat.

Because of an alleged discrepancy of between \$12,000 and \$13,000 in her accounts, as secretary of the Lawrence township, Clearfield county, school district, a warrant was issued by the board of directors for the arrest of Mrs. Bessie Olson, former secretary of the board. Mrs. Olson was arrested at her home and taken to the office of John E. Dale, justice of the peace, Curwensville, where she was held in \$5,000 bail for her appearance at February term of court. Bail was furnished by the woman's husband. About a month ago, a teller in a local bank discovered what he thought to be a forgery on a teacher's order for wages. Investigation disclosed many similar cases.

Robert Seibert, 55 years old, of Lehighton, committed suicide by placing a stick of dynamite under his body near the Mahoney Valley trail, two miles from Lehighton. Seibert was employed as a fireman in the Packerton shops of the Lehigh Valley railroad. He is said to have asked a friend, William Klinger, a miner, to give him a stick of dynamite. This Klinger refused to do although he did not know the purpose of the request. A brush fire drew several persons to the spot where Seibert killed himself. They found his torn body lying beneath a tree. Near the dead man were his coat and sweater neatly folded with a note which read: "Friend Klinger, cannot wait any longer, had to get dynamite elsewhere. Bob."

John T. Booth, Philipsburg, was arrested at Blairsville, on Monday, charged with having assisted in the robbery of the Blairsville Grocery company wholesale store that morning. Cigarettes valued at more than \$900 were recovered in a Pittsburgh tailor shop immediately after the arrest. Booth is believed to have had an accomplice in the job. After successfully making the haul, Booth loaded the cigarettes in his car and started for Pittsburgh. Near Alexandria he smashed into a car driven by a Blairsville man. The Blairsville resident returned to his home, got another car and took Booth and cigarettes into Pittsburgh. Booth returned to Blairsville to inspect his car, and at the garage was dickering to trade it for a new one, when he was recognized and arrested.