

INK SLINGS.

The days are lengthening. One notices that at seven in the morning and at five in the evening.

Instead of getting after the busses the railroads might do better if they got there before the busses.

We had a mean sling, rather well slung right in this space, but because we are inclined to be amiable this week it got the delete.

If brooding over the "Hickman atrocity" caused elder Hotelling to commit that horrible crime are not newspapers that exploit such actions accessories before the fact?

Monday was the eighth anniversary of the Eighteenth Amendment. There are doubtless many who wished it "many happy returns of the day." Then, again, it is quite possible there were others.

Well, the President has gotten home from Cuba and just as soon as we get the marines home from Nicaragua, our neighbors to the south will begin to more seriously consider our professions of friendliness.

The local Red Cross war is over, so 'tis said. What started it we have been utterly unable to ascertain. Very likely, however, it is another of those mole hills that are given the appearance of a mountain.

The expenditure of nearly two million dollars in a building program at the Pennsylvania State College, during the next year and a half, ought to have a very satisfactory reflection on the general business in the metropolis of College township.

Going to Texas to hold the next Democratic national convention is nearly as needless from the point of necessity as "hauling coals to Newcastle." It might be the new ones might have wanted to get somewhere where they don't know "The Side-walks of New York," so well.

The report of the government experts to the effect that there is enough recoverable oil in the shales and coal of the country to last for three hundred years is reassuring. If the old "fish wagon" hangs together and we do the same there seems to be no reason why we shouldn't be limping around on at least one cylinder in 2228.

Former Governor Pinchot has let it be known that he will enter the lists against Senator David Reed if his friends demand it. Mr. Pinchot has lost nothing of his militancy, but we are inclined to the belief that he has lost some of the hold he has on Pennsylvania. However that may be, he is still a potential figure in Pennsylvania politics, one who by reason of his money and will to do things is a threat whom the bosses have continually in mind.

The very interesting report to council made by retiring fire marshall Robert Kline was a meretricious compliment to the town's fire department. It was not flattery for Mr. Kline is neither a pussy-footer, nor a soft-soap peddler. He raised a very relevant question when he expressed wonderment that nothing has been done by way of reducing insurance rates in consequence of the high state of efficiency and equipment of the two fire companies.

The passing of Mr. Beck is another link broken in the chain of friendship that has bound us since young manhood to many men much our seniors. So few of them are left that we were startled and felt strangely lonely when we cast about, on Tuesday, to think of some of his contemporaries, who might possibly have liked to drive down to the funeral with us. It seems but yesterday that Bellefonte was full of men who knew John Beck far better than we did. Most of them are gone. We hope to the port that we know his barque was destined for when he put out to sea.

The last of three old men with whom most every graduate of the Pennsylvania State College, in their day, had some kindly tie that will be cherished, is gone. With the passing of Andy Lytle there is ended an unexplained and undeniably wholesome affinity between youth on the campus and old age in the town of State College. It began in the early years of the institution when John Sauers, the village cobbler, seemed to sew the hearts of the boys into his own with each sweep of his wax-ends through the soles of their shoes. No game of any sort started, in those days, until the quaint little old man had taken his accustomed place on the bench with the players. Then came Johnny Corrigan, he of the Union hotel, and the eye for grading that made surveying instruments turn back to learn their staff better. For many years it was do or die for one another between Johnny and the boys at State. Andy Lytle took up the torch and fanned the flickering flame of kindness into an effulgent blaze of devotion. Unusual men these three. Only one of them identified with the College at all and that one in a very humble capacity, yet their names will stand out in tradition and memory at State quite as eminently as those of the great builders of the institution. Strange, isn't it? Yet, not so. For the heart of youth has been and ever will be responsive to the throbbings of kindness in the hearts of their elders.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Mr. Wilson Submits Particulars.

In an amended petition presented to the Senate, on Monday, William B. Wilson expressed in full the grounds upon which he claims a seat in that body as representative of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Wilson declares, upon "information and belief," that thousands of fraudulent votes were cast and counted for his opponent in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and in Chester, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Schuylkill counties, and that if the fraudulent votes are eliminated he will have a considerable majority. That opinion is concurred in by a vast number of the people of the State and was expressed in the "certificate of doubt" submitted by Governor Pinchot following the announcement of the result.

The opposition to Mr. Wilson assumed the form of a conspiracy, according to the petition, between the election officers and city officials in Philadelphia "whereby dead persons were voted, persons were allowed to vote twice and many cast their ballots who were not of age and not residents of the district in which they voted." He charges that similar conditions existed in Pittsburgh, Chester, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Hazleton, Pittston and Pottsville, and asks the Senate to "examine carefully into ballots, registration books, and other documents used in those cities and in the six counties in the State which he named in his petition. The petition was referred to the committee on elections.

This will impose a difficult task upon the committee on elections but one that is possible of fulfillment. The records of the courts of Philadelphia will help amazingly and a comparison of the registration lists with the voting lists and the lists of taxables in the several districts will yield valuable information. It may be that the ballot boxes in some of the districts have been tampered with during the interval since the original petition was filed, but close scrutiny will reveal the frauds. The committee is not in sympathy with the purpose to expose the facts, but the minority members are keen and capable and the Senate will tolerate no humbuggery in the matter.

Mr. Beck's Congressional Status.

The inquiry as to the qualifications of James M. Beck, of Seabright, New Jersey, and Washington, D. C., to sit in Congress as a Representative of the First district of Pennsylvania is alike important, interesting and amusing. The investigation is being conducted by the Elections Committee No. 2 of the House of Representatives under the direction of Representative Everett Kent, of Northampton county, a keen and capable lawyer. Mr. Beck is a somewhat distinguished lawyer, himself, and during a five-hour session of the committee last week in Washington, the trained minds of these two legal gladiators maintained a duel of wits during which Mr. Vane's men got "the worst of it."

The question at issue is the interpretation of the word "inhabitant" as used in Article 1, Section 2 of the constitution of the United States. The objection to Mr. Beck's service is that at the time of his election he was not an inhabitant of Pennsylvania. It has been shown that in recent years he has lived at intervals in New York, New Jersey and Washington, and that as late as 1926 he was a registered voter in New Jersey, but a resident of Washington. His defense is that his residence in Washington was in pursuance of his employment in the service of the government and under the law he is entitled to vote elsewhere. But he has not been in the employ of the government for several years and whilst he was so employed he voted in New Jersey.

Furthermore Mr. Beck admitted that he registered in Philadelphia in 1927 solely for the purpose of running for Congress under an agreement with Mr. Vane and Mr. Hazlett, and that though he rented an apartment within the First district he seldom visited it and never took a meal or slept in it. When visiting Philadelphia he registered at hotels as a citizen of Washington and apparently had nothing to do with the Spruce street apartment except to pay the rent. He also admitted that he knows very few people in the district he claims to represent in Congress. He was nominated at a meeting of seven men and elected by a large majority of servile voters under orders from Mr. Vane.

If Governor Lowden isn't careful the public will forget that he is a candidate.

Hoover "Forging to the Front."

That Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce in the administration of President Coolidge, will be the Republican candidate for President is so obvious that it can escape the attention of no observer of current events. Only eight years ago he didn't know which party he belonged to and was freely considered as a probable candidate of either party. He had been living abroad for years and in pursuance of his chosen profession attracted little attention to the circle of his activities. He had attracted the attention of Woodrow Wilson, however, and when a man was needed to administer the beneficence of the people of this country to the sufferers in the war zone Mr. Wilson selected him.

This was the beginning of his public life, and in candor and justice it must be added that he performed his work well. Immediately after the close of the war he came back to his native land and in so far as he was able to influence public sentiment supported the policies of Mr. Wilson. But his professional activities had always been in the service of big business and before many months had elapsed his sympathies toward the projects of corporations and capital revealed themselves. In this way he became affiliated with Republican politicians and interests. In the campaign of 1920 he supported Harding for President, and was rewarded by appointment to the Cabinet, the first office he ever held in the United States.

Four years ago his name was frequently mentioned as a probable candidate for the Republican nomination. Coolidge was not popular with the politicians but was entirely satisfactory to big business and big business drove all other candidates out of the running. Mr. Coolidge is not now popular with the politicians, as is shown by the fact that Congress treats most of his recommendations with contempt. But big business could and would nominate him if he would indicate a desire for the favor, and Mr. Hoover is its second choice. The politicians are not pleased with the programme but will acquiesce, and it may be safely predicted that at the psychological moment Andy Mellon will "point the way."

Democratic Convention at Houston.

Nobody knows why the Democratic National committee voted to hold the national convention in Houston, Texas. The guarantee of a contribution of \$200,000 was an alluring bait but hardly the influencing cause for San Francisco offered a considerably larger sum. It was not intended as a medium to hold southern States to their Democratic moorings for the South is as "solid" as ever in its fealty to the party. It was not in the interest of any particular candidate for the favor of the convention, for none of the probable candidates is contiguous to that enterprising city and there is no likelihood of the nomination of a southern man anyway.

But there must be a reason. It has been suggested that the eloquent tongue of Dan Moody, the young and vigorous Governor of Texas, may be it. The plea of "comparatively central location" will hardly deceive even credulous observers, for no part of that State is comparatively central whatever point the measurement is made from and San Francisco lies on the fringe. The gossip goes that Governor Moody has aspirations to occupy "the tail" of the coming ticket and considering what he has accomplished in Texas, first as Attorney General and subsequently as Governor, it wouldn't be a bad choice for the convention to make. There has been a "weeding out" of rubbish down there.

It may have been a wise choice nevertheless. Houston is a fine, progressive and rapidly growing city. Its estimated population is 300,000, its hotel facilities capable of entertaining 15,000 guests and its largest auditorium has a capacity of six or seven thousand. It is surrounded by wide, open spaces of large dimensions and its climate is always salubrious. Besides holding the convention there will enable a great number of the people of the North to get acquainted with the habits and methods of the South and good is likely to come from such a contact. If the candidates are wisely chosen there will be no cause to regret that the convention was held at Houston.

Somebody, sooner or later, will have to show Will Rogers that there is a wide chasm between a humorist and a clown.

The Pan-American Congress.

The Pan-American Congress, now in session at Havana, opened auspiciously so far as the expectations of the authorities at Washington are concerned. The generous reception tendered to the President of the United States and the distinguished gentlemen who are representing this country in the Congress, indicates the fulfillment of their hopes with respect to the purpose of the meeting. The spirit of good will permeated the air and the expressions of cordiality revealed, not only by the high officials of Cuba but of the whole people of that Republic, inspires confidence that out of the Congress will come a better understanding of the relations between the peoples on this hemisphere.

The real purpose of the Congress has not been clearly defined but may be presumed to be to establish more friendly relations between the inhabitants of North America and Central and South America. Of late years the authorities at Washington have been assuming that the preservation of the Monroe Doctrine requires us to exercise police power over all the Latin-American States and in pursuance of this policy the friendship and confidence which previously existed has been alienated. If the Panama Congress is able to remove this mischief-making impression it will achieve a splendid result. But such achievement will tax the mental resources of our representatives to the limit.

The recent meddling in Nicaragua and Mexico will not only have to be explained but abandoned to accomplish the desired result. Since the induction of Mr. Morrow, into the office of Ambassador in Mexico, and the good visit of Colonel Lindbergh vast improvement has been noted. But the bungling of Secretary Kellogg in Nicaragua, is still a festering sore that must be salved in one way or another before complete confidence in the integrity of our purposes can be established. To this we must prove that our interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine is that it invests us with authority to protect the weaker nations from European intervention rather than create a Pan-American police department.

Two Nice Bucks Brought to Bellefonte on Wednesday.

While the deer hunting season is long past due two nice bucks were brought into Bellefonte on Wednesday afternoon, but they were not killed by illegal hunters. Just at noontime, Wednesday, a flock of six deer were pasturing on the farms in Brush valley and wandered close to the school house, about two miles west of Madisonburg. The school children made chase after the deer just to see them run and the deer turned tail in good shape.

Up near the mountain there was a patch of tall underbrush and the leader of the flock made for this to get under cover. Unfortunately, however, it was merely a fringe of underbrush at the top of a forty-foot cliff and a three-foot barbed wire fence was strung at the top of the cliff to keep farm stock from going over. Four of the deer ran over the cliff, three of them being killed outright, and peculiar as it may seem, the three killed were all bucks. The man who owned the farm gathered up the carcasses and dressed the deer, notifying game protector Thomas Mosier. That gentleman went down to Brush valley, gave the farmer one of the deer for his trouble and brought the other two to Bellefonte and turned them over to the hospital.

One of the deer had already lost its horns, while the largest of the three was an eight-point and the other a four-point.

The best wishes of the entire Democratic party of Pennsylvania and a good many others, will follow Miss Agnes H. Wilson, of Blossburg, into her campaign for Congress in the Sixteenth district.

Mr. DeValera is the champion optimist. He imagines Irishmen in the United States will give a couple of million dollars to establish a newspaper in Dublin to make trouble for Irishmen in Ireland.

The appointment of Samuel H. Wigton, as postmaster at Philipsburg, was confirmed by the Senate, last Friday, and now Sam will be "sitting pretty" for the next four years.

The spirit of "self-determination" properly expressed, might help some in solving the problems of the Pan-American Congress.

Governor Smith's Jackson Day Letter to Democrats.

From the Philadelphia Record. Notwithstanding the presence at the Jackson day dinner in Washington of Democratic leaders and spokesmen from all parts of the country, some of whom had significant messages to deliver, that notable gathering was easily dominated by the shadow of an absentee, Governor Alfred E. Smith, of New York, unable by reason of the pressure of official duties to attend, had arranged to communicate his views by letter. Without derogation to the eloquence of the other national figures who were there to speak in person, it may justly be said that the attention of the banqueters and of those who followed the course of the dinner in print was focussed principally upon the expected utterance from Governor Smith.

The Smith message was brief, sensible and to the point. The advice it communicated was sound and wholesome. First, said the Governor, the Democratic party must realize that it cannot attain success by relying upon the mistakes of its opponents. It must offer a constructive program embodying plans for the material betterment of the Nation. We take it that Governor Smith rates the customary "denouncing" and "deploring" of political platforms below par and puts a premium on concrete proposals. Second, Governor Smith advises the early preparation of a declaration of party principles. The deplorable results of leaving this task to the hurly-burly of the national convention period are known of all men. A few leaders gathered in a committee room, subject to the influence of divergent groups whose aim must be harmonized and antagonizing placated, draft platforms which often falsely purport to be the predominant views of the Democrats of the nation. The Governor would abandon this pernicious custom in favor of preparing and promulgating a tentative platform long enough in advance of the convention to permit the rank and file to be heard from.

Third, Governor Smith vigorously opposes compromises on fundamental principles. He is right in pointing out that his party cannot carry water on both shoulders. He says it "must talk out to the American people in no uncertain terms."

Fourth, he advocates the application of Jeffersonian principles "to each specific problem of the day," and attributes the success of the Democratic party in New York to pursuance of the policy of making definite pledges based on these principles and faithfully redeeming them. These suggestions would be entitled to respectful consideration what ever their source. But there is no necessity for disguising the fact that Governor Smith's rating as a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination vastly enhances their interest and importance. His principal opponents within the party will hardly quarrel with his advice; but each of them will have his own views as to what shall be the uncompromising attitude on various party questions—which is the best of all reasons for drafting a platform in the rough and doing the fighting attendant upon that process outside of the convention hall.

Wars of Aggression.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Widespread interest is felt all over Europe in the negotiations between Washington and Paris regarding the treaty to outlaw war or, more strictly speaking, to arbitrate all disputes. M. Briand has somewhat unexpectedly accepted the American suggestion that the agreement be extended to include the other chief powers. Mr. Kellogg proposed this, knowing that it would be difficult to convert the Senate to anything that looked at all like a left-handed alliance. The French Foreign Minister now escapes the embarrassment of seeming to set up a rivalry to the League of Nations by confirming the pact to aggressive wars, thus escaping an obligation which would proscribe a defensive war which the League might sanction. Evidently he is ready to content himself with an extension of the principle laid down in the Root treaty, which expires next month.

The main thing, after all, is to give new strength to the policy of arbitrating national differences. An important feature of the draft put forth by the State Department is the omission of the traditional phrase excepting points of "national honor" from the agreement. It too often provides a convenient blind for opposition to arbitration, though as a matter of fact there may be no question of honor or involved. How the Senate will regard this omission remains to be seen. M. Briand's prompt acceptance of the idea of a general treaty rather than a special one may well remove Senatorial suspicions. As for the League of Nations, there is nothing in the agreement as now outlined threatening its security or prestige. These negotiations should go through with no undue raising of merely technical issues.

The more or less famous "farm bloc" in Congress has a curious notion of a tariff. It is perfectly willing to let the looting go on if the swag is divided between the farmers and manufacturers.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Edward Wise, 40 years old, of Lancaster, was drowned in two feet of water on Tuesday when a truck he was driving struck the side of a bridge over a mill race near Honeybrook and fell into the stream. He was caught under the machine and it was 10 minutes before it was lifted from his body.

With \$61,356 of the \$60,000 Cook Forest purchase price remaining to be collected and \$28,000 of the sum already pledged, the Cook Forest association has announced that the owners had granted the organization until February 1, in which to raise the balance of the sum to make the woodland a state preserve.

Pennsylvania came to the front in 1926 as a manufacturer of false teeth, when a sufficient quantity was produced to give every man and woman who voted in the primary of that year two complete sets. James F. Woodward, secretary of internal affairs, is authority for the statement that industries engaged in the manufacture of false teeth made 109,383,367 that year.

Supplements to the regular time table on the Milroy branch of the Pennsylvania railroad, effective January 20, show the six-mile stretch between Reedsville and Milroy has been abandoned so far as passenger service is concerned. The freight service will continue on account of the heavy traffic originating at the limestone quarries at Naglyne and the steel plants at Burnham.

The Pennsylvania railroad recently established a bureau of new ideas to encourage new ideas and suggestions from employees for improving its service to the public and increasing the efficiency of its operations. In the first six weeks during which the bureau of new ideas was in existence, approximately 650 individual suggestions were submitted by employees from all parts of the railroad, and a number of them have been adopted and are now in effect.

Farmers in Southern Lancaster county believe chicken thieves are using "knockout" drops on fowls so they can carry on their raiding expeditions with a maximum of safety. Many roosts have been cleaned of chickens during several months, and the thefts continue despite vigilant guards. The quiet with which the chickens are carried off leads farmers to express the belief that the thieves administer in some manner "drops" which keep the chickens quiet.

The prompt work of Mount Union firemen saved the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Crosby, Negroes, in North Mount Union, on Monday, when a bed in the room occupied by Ishem Dudley, Negro, took fire and was burned. Dudley is said to have fallen asleep while smoking a cigarette in bed. He was arrested on a drunk and disorderly charge and gave bail for a hearing later in the week. The Crosby's loss is all the bedding, including a new pair of blankets. Dudley had boarded with them for some time.

The formal dedication of the new boys' dormitory at the United Brethren Orphanage at Quincy, two miles north of Waynesboro, which was completed this month at a cost of \$20,000 and which is now occupied by 27 boys, has been set for the annual meeting there June 7. The building has accommodations for 40 boys. The quarters formerly occupied by them were in the original farm house on the grounds, which is soon to be converted into a hospital and an infirmary. The dormitory cornerstone was laid at the annual meeting last June.

Richard Vaughn, aged 38, of Wilkes-Barre, who spent the last 15 years in the Eastern Penitentiary and at Hockley and was paroled from the latter institution last week, pleaded guilty before Judge Fine, in Luzerne county court on Saturday, to a charge of breaking the plate glass window of a store at Miners Mills, with the intention of robbing the place. He was sentenced to serve seven years more in the eastern penitentiary. It was the same store that he tried to rob in 1913 and was sentenced to 15 years by Judge Peter Obert, since deceased.

A committee of five lawyers has been named by Judge Johnson to revise, compile and promulgate the general rules of practice at law and in bankruptcy for the Federal court in the Middle district of Pennsylvania. John P. Kelly, a leading member of the Lackawanna county bar, was named chairman, the other members being Walter L. Hill, Scranton; John T. Olmstead, Harrisburg; A. B. Dunsmore, Wellsboro, and George C. Scheuer, Scranton. The rules were last revised in 1912 and now conflict with Federal and State statutes in other districts and courts.

J. Irving Quigley, president of the Lewistown and Redsville Electric Railway company, has announced that the company will adopt the one man cars just as rapidly as they can be equipped to meet the requirements of the Public Service Commission. The line is seven miles long, between Lewistown passenger station of the Pennsylvania railroad and Redsville and about a score of men will be affected, including work trips. Great inroads on their traffic due to the increased number of automobiles and the necessity of economy is given as the cause of the change.

After writing a note to the effect that "I was crazy," George Kelly, husband and father residing near Shippensburg, committed suicide Saturday afternoon by blowing off the top of his head with a revolver. Kelly went to an upstairs room and called to his wife who was on the first floor. Before she was able to answer her husband pulled the trigger. Their two children, Elizabeth and Anna Mary, were at the moving picture show at the time. The note he had left asked for forgiveness and was addressed to his wife and mother. Kelly was an employee of Bestie's Novelty Factory. No motive for his act other than minor family quarrels could be given.

On receipt of authorization from the Postoffice department, Edward T. Brent, postmaster, put the new Lewistown post office into service, Monday, at 7:30 a. m. Postmaster Brent and his forces moved from their former headquarters in the Headings building to their new home over Sunday. The new public building is of red brick, reinforced concrete, interior finished with Alabama gum, which makes a finish like walnut, maple floors. The equipment is the most modern known to the United States government and the building and equipment cost \$150,000, the appropriations being obtained through the efforts of Edward M. Beers, member of Congress, Eighteenth district.