

INK SLINGS.

-If Vare doesn't throw the support of the Philadelphia machine to Dave Reed in the coming contest he will be ungrateful. Reed had a fair reputation before he stultified himself by supporting Vare.

-There's one night in the week that a radio isn't an alibi for our "staying up so late." It's the night we right this stuff. What's that you say? You can't see why anyone should have to spend much time writing a column no better than this one is. Our alibi on that is that we started to do it late.

-That was rather an anti-climax that the young Maharajah of Cooch Behar pulled when he fell off his horse during the hunt of the Quorum hounds at Meton Mowbray, England, Monday. It seems to us that the fall would have had much more finesse had he held it until the Prince had pulled his usual stunt.

-The former Secretary of State of New York, Mrs. Knapp, seems to be in a rather embarrassing situation. While we are not ready to believe that she willfully padded the payrolls it does look as though her relatives got a powerful lot of money for doing nothing. In any event her present predicament isn't one that women in politics will point to with pride.

-There are symptoms of a revival of civic righteousness in Pennsylvania. In the eastern part of the State several towns have instituted impeachment proceedings against councilmen and trustees of public institutions who sell their own wares to the bodies they serve. This is just a bit of scrap, yet there might be some in Centre county who should put it in their pipes and smoke it.

-The imperial wizard of the K. K. K. has directed that members of the order shall drop their masks on February 22. Why didn't they select ground hog day? It would have been, traditionally, a far more appropriate one. For then, had they gotten frightened at the sunshine of publicity, they could have ducked back into their hoods and given a well established precedent in explanation of their timidity.

-Since the announcement that Justice John W. Kephart, of the State Supreme court, might become a candidate for United States Senator in opposition to Senator Reed's ambition to be returned, we have been wondering whether his having come here to administer the oath of office to Judge Fleming might hook up with anything. With the turmoil in the Republican party over the Mellon leadership and with the situation in Centre county as it is Justice Kephart's recent visit here might have been more significant than we thought it at the time.

-A news item in this edition pre-figures a lot more political fun in the offing. If it is to be believed there are ten prospective candidates for the Legislature already within view of the dopesters. We note with hope that several of them are said to have founded their ambition to represent us in Harrisburg on a desire to get appropriations for something or other. That's the spirit. What's the use of wasting brains on the problems of government in Pennsylvania? Bill Vare and Max Leslie will hire someone to do that, so there's nothing left for the country member to do but get something. And if our next Member runs short of objects to get something for we wish to here and now remind him that most any kind of an appropriation would be very acceptable to yours truly. Since the modern idea of politics has come to the point of thinking that all any one is in it for is what they can get out of it we are almost persuaded to support the candidate who will promise to get an appropriation for us.

-The death of Major General Geo. W. Goethals marks the passing of one of the greatest engineers of his time. His name might not have gone down in history as such, however, had it not been for the country newspapers of the United States. In 1909 his assignment to the Panama canal work had expired and there was a movement to assign him to another station, as is the custom in the army. The canal was about completed, except for the Gatun dam, but the world knew little of what Goethals had done. Had he been recalled and another sent to put the finishing touches on the work, would Goethals or his successor have been acclaimed for completion of the project? That was a question that the National Editorial Association considered, not as an organization but as individuals determined to see that credit goes where credit belongs, when they visited the canal early in 1910. They came home from the Isthmus, took up their pens in insistence that the Colonel—for that was his rank then—should be left to complete the work he had carried on so well and the clamor for his reassignment ended. And giving credit where the credit belongs we note that most of the comment on Gen. Goethals' work stresses his having made the Canal Zone a safe place to live. If he were alive he would rebuke those who would give him credit for that, for we heard him say, on the porch of the Tivoli, at Ancon, "We could never have done this work had Gorgas and Selbert not so effectively sanitized the Zone that the death rate here today is less than it is in the States."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Smith Case Properly Disposed Of.

The case of Frank L. Smith, of Illinois, one of the "slush fund twins," was properly disposed of by the Senate, on Thursday last week, by the adoption of a resolution, by a vote of sixty-one to twenty-three, declaring that "the acceptance and expenditure of the various sums of money aforesaid in behalf of the candidacy of the said Frank L. Smith is contrary to sound public policy, harmful to the dignity and honor of the Senate, dangerous to the perpetuity of free government and tainted with fraud and corruption the credentials of a seat in the Senate presented by the said Frank L. Smith," and that "the said Frank L. Smith is not entitled to membership in the Senate of the United States and that a vacancy exists in the representation of the State of Illinois."

Previous to the election of 1926, and during his campaign for nomination and election to the office of Senator in Congress, Frank L. Smith was chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission and in practical control of the operations of utility and public service corporations in that State. An investigation of his activities in the campaigns revealed the fact that \$358,782 had been collected and expended in his behalf, and that of this sum \$203,000 had been contributed by public service corporations or officers of such corporations in violation of the laws of that State. In the face of the declaration of the Senate in the Newberry case no other course was possible. Newberry was allowed to sit because he was the first offender. But he made a precedent.

The next step will be to similarly dispose of the case of William S. Vare, of Philadelphia, in so far as it is analogous. The only material difference is that in the Smith case there was no other claimant for the seat whereas in the Vare case there is pending a substantial contest. It has already been shown that large contributions to the Vare slush fund were made in violation of law, and a disclosure of the source of much of it would be scandalous. It is generally believed that the bootleggers, gamblers and other underworld habits bought immunity from punishment by contributing to the fund. But details are unimportant in the matter. The point is to emphasize the fact that seats in the United States Senate are not disposed of by bargain and sale.

-The Senate seems to be in a fighting mood this year though there isn't much danger of bloodshed.

Vare's Castle in the Air.

Mr. Vare is diverting his mind these days by building political "castles in the air." He imagines that the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections will, in the near future, decide against recounting the vote of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and that that will eliminate the contest, which will enable him to resign his claim to the seat and hook up with Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, in a contest for election this year. The scheme is to have Francis Shunk Brown raise the point before the committee that no specific case of fraud has been alleged in the Wilson petition and the sympathetic committee will promptly report that there is no legal cause for the contest.

This is certainly an appealing proposition. If there is no basis for a contest there will be no reason for recounting the votes and the frauds will be ratified by authority of the Senate committee. But it will stultify Mr. Vare, who rather ostentatiously declared, some time ago, that he was not only willing but anxious to have not only the votes of Philadelphia, but those of every election district in the State recounted. He then expressed full faith in the integrity of the vote in the zero districts and all other districts in Philadelphia and the "strip" districts in Pittsburgh. But he has changed his mind and prefers to keep the records in concealment.

But his fond hopes in this respect will be disappointed. His servile attorney may raise the point referred to and the partisan committee of the Senate may make the report he desires. But that will be the end of his enterprise. The minority members of the committee will make a report affirming the competency of the Wilson petition, and the recent vote of the Senate in the Smith case plainly indicates what the result will be. The minority report will be adopted by a substantial majority, the report will proceed and the frauds exposed. The vicious practice of buying seats in the United States Senate has become a vice of the past.

-If one would hit Senator Heflin with an axe he would think it a "love tap."

Senator Heflin Rebuked.

If any other man in public life had been concerned the rebuke administered to Senator Heflin, of Alabama, by Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, would have been significant. But Senator Heflin is such an unconscionable blatherskite that rebuke, however richly deserved, passes over him like "water from a duck's back." Completely immersed in bigotry and absorbed with an absurd notion of his own importance he chatters upon every conceivable subject to the annoyance and distress of his colleagues in the Senate and to the delay and prejudice of public business. His latest outbreak of prejudice is directed toward the Catholic church and all and singular devotees of that faith.

The other day he interrupted important business in the Senate with a tirade of this type in which he accused the Pope and all other dignitaries of that church with personal animosity toward him. The recently published charges that the Mexican government paid a considerable sum of money to four United States Senators, his name being included in the list, for some indefinite purpose, was the basis of his outburst, and the failure of the Senate committee to direct an investigation, as he thought it ought to be directed, the theme. Nobody believed the story and the accused Senators were exculpated. But Mr. Heflin imagined that the committee ought to have condemned the Pope.

Nobody in or out of Washington is much concerned about Senator Heflin's prejudices. But when he undertook to commit all the Democratic Senators and all other Democrats of the country to them he was going too far and Senator Robinson called him. "He does his country no service," the Arkansas Senator remarked, "who lights the torch or sounds the cry of religious intolerance and persecution." "He, and other members of the committee," he added, "had no suspicion that the Roman Catholic church had anything to do with the Hearst documents." They were forged for sale and published for some ulterior purpose known only to Mr. Hearst. The Democratic Senators subsequently endorsed Mr. Robinson.

-Clarence Chamberlain is toying with death in his proposed thirty thousand mile tour in an old patched-up airship, and he is too valuable a man to be sacrificed to a foolish whim.

Mr. Borah's Futile Gesture.

There is little cause for alarm in the published statement that Senator Borah, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, proposes to butt into the arena of politics. Mr. Borah "thunders in the index" but is as meek as a lamb in the text. Some months ago he threatened to make some disturbance with the administration on account of operations in Mexico and Nicaragua. But he had a conference with the President and his indignation, if that is the right name for what ailed him, vanished. It is true that the policy of the administration with respect to Mexico was modified in some measure but there has been no perceptible change in Nicaragua.

From the beginning of the government the regulation of foreign affairs has been a prerogative of the executive department. The Senate has exercised a sort of veto power in its function of ratifying treaties and confirming diplomatic appointments. When the unconscionable Henry Cabot Lodge organized his famous fight against Woodrow Wilson he undertook to usurp the functions of the executive and was supported in the effort by Mr. Borah. It resulted in keeping this country out of the League of Nations, in relinquishing the leadership among nations which President Wilson had acquired and delayed the readjustment of affairs of the world for many years.

After the election of a Republican President, in 1920, the pretense that the Senate, through the chairman of its Committee on Foreign Affairs, had a voice in framing the foreign policies of the government was abandoned. If ever there was a reason for the Senate or some other agency exercising a restraining or directing authority over the executive department of the government, it is now. With a groan in the office of Secretary of State and a not quite competent in the office of President, our foreign affairs were drifting into a sorry condition until a young man without experience in public affairs, but high achievement in another direction, had to be called in to rescue us from confusion.

-It seems to Heywood Brown that Senator Heflin has wasted a chance to protest against an American base ball team being called the Cardinals.

Clouds Over the Mellon House.

There are ominous clouds lowering on the House of Mellon. The other day former Lieutenant Governor E. E. Beidleman, of Harrisburg, announced his candidacy for delegate to the Republican National convention with a frank declaration that he is not committed to any candidate for President. A short time ago Mr. Beidleman met State chairman Mellon, by appointment, in Philadelphia, with the view of adjusting any differences that may have existed between them, and subsequently Mr. Mellon announced that no selection would be made for the Dauphin district until after another conference in Harrisburg. The Beidleman announcement, therefore, indicates that the negotiations have been broken off.

There is a deep rooted impression in the minds of the friends of Mr. Beidleman, at Harrisburg and elsewhere, that he was cheated out of the nomination for Governor two years ago and that the fraud was perpetrated in Pittsburgh with the assent, if not the actual assistance, of Mr. Mellon. Mr. Beidleman was persuaded to abandon a contest which he had begun in the interest of harmony and probably in consideration of a promise that his friends in office would be taken care of. But if there were such promises they have not been fulfilled and the ex-Lieutenant Governor was obliged to make the fight of his life last fall to retain control of the organization in his home county.

Now that the Mellons are anxious to go to the Kansas City convention with a solid delegation entirely under their control, an attempt to conciliate Mr. Beidleman was made and apparently had proved futile. It is well known among the politicians interested that Beidleman will be elected delegate if he remains a candidate in spite of all the Mellons and the State administration may do against him. But there are suspicions that his candidacy may be in the interest of Mellon. His oldest and most militant political enemy was removed from office, to which he had been appointed by Governor Pinchot, the other day, and possibly this was the price of his conversion to the Mellon leadership.

-The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections will save itself from a rebuke by considering the Wilson-Vare contest on principles of justice rather than political expediency.

Many Men Aspirants for Legislative Honors.

Wednesday was the first day for taking out nomination papers for national and State offices, and while Centre county will forego presenting a candidate for the Presidency there are quite a number of men, if all reports are correct, who would like to go to the Legislature. First among the number is the Hon. J. Laird Holmes, of State College, who would like to be returned for a third term, not so much because he wants the job but because he believes he will be needed there to push through that \$8,000,000 bond issue for the College.

Then up in the same section of the county are L. Frank Mays, at Lemont, and Frederick Clemson, at State College, who believe they could do more for the College than any former Legislator. In Bellefonte, W. H. Brown has aspirations toward sitting in the legislative halls, probably with an eye single to a bigger appropriation for the Centre County hospital. And it is also rumored that ex-county treasurer J. O. Heverly has been figuring on his chances.

-Since they got a judge over in Philipsburg, the people of that town are looking up a little and "Little Phil" Womelsdorf has a feeling that he would like to go back and have another try at law making. Josiah Pritchard is another Republican over there who believes he would make a good Assemblyman, so that there is a field of seven starters already lined up in the Republican camp.

So far the Democrats have not come out in force but three men have been mentioned as possible candidates, ex-sheriff E. R. Taylor, of Bellefonte; A. C. Thompson and John M. Beals, of Philipsburg. But there is still lots of time for others.

-The Park hotel in Williamsport, a landmark among hostleries in Central Pennsylvania, has passed out of the control of Col. Charles Duffy and will be operated by the Williamsport Hotels company. The latter owns the Locoming in that city and also operates the Updegraff. If the Park were given voice to tell what happened within its spacious walls during the first forty years of its catering to the traveling public one of the most interesting volumes ever compiled would be at hand.

Grim War Warning from the Red Cross.

From the Philadelphia Record.

At no time since the world war has more earnest attention been given to the prospects of peace and the means of attaining it than is the case today. At Havana 21 Republics are seeking closer accord. Through the League of Nations and the Hague Court the whole world is co-operating in the settlement of disputes and the promotion of friendly intercourse. Governments are in constant negotiation over treaties or arbitration, the reducing of armaments, and even plans for the outlawry of war. These are the chief preoccupations of statesmen and the foremost topics of public discussion. They have created a widespread hope, almost a conviction, that if conflicts arise in the future they will be quickly suppressed, and that never again will civilization be threatened by universal strife.

Yet this comforting belief is challenged by facts so plain and so ominous that the prevailing disregard of them is astounding. The very nations which are ardently striving to establish peace are not only feverishly preparing for war, but are exerting every ingenuity to make it more destructive. The same Governments which gravely discuss the scrapping of battleships, the limiting of submarines and the reducing of armed forces are employing all the resources of science in devising more ferocious weapons, more powerful agencies of death and devastation.

These conditions have just had a startling emphasis. Although dismissed in a few news paragraphs, a conference held this week in Brussels has not less significance than the gathering at Havana or any other like assemblage. Its theme was not to preserve peace, but how to meet the foreshadowed conditions of war. It dealt not only with theories of aspirations, but with existing facts and their inevitable consequences.

The problem discussed for three days was poison gas—specifically the contriving of measures to limit its destructiveness during the next war, in which, it is agreed, noncombatant populations will infallibly be exposed to attacks by this weapon.

The participants in the conference were not statesmen, but chemists, physicians, engineers and industrial experts. They wasted no time in considering whether gas warfare was inhuman or might be renounced. Being aware that it is a reality, a means of offense which all nations are energetically preparing, they concentrated upon the one subject of saving human life when it is employed, as it will be, without discrimination. Moreover, this meeting was in no sense a move of politics or propaganda, but of humanitarianism. It was held under the auspices of the International Red Cross, as a necessary recognition of its salvage responsibilities.

The facts cited and conclusions reached are of arresting gravity. Devices for the prosecution of chemical warfare are being developed to the utmost by every Government, including that of the United States. It is the one form of offense uncontrollable through limitations of armament, because its potentialities lie in peaceful industries. The airplane extends its range far beyond battle zones, and in future conflicts distant noncombatant areas will be drenched with death-dealing fumes. That vast populations will be exterminated in a single raid is a fanciful idea; but it is incontestable that such attacks would create appalling panics and casualty lists.

A Master Builder.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

In the death of General George W. Goethals the Nation has lost one of its most valued and one of its most distinguished citizens. Although his service in the military branch of the Government was long and varied, including that to which he was recalled from civilian life during the World War and which won for him the Distinguished Service Medal, his name will always be inseparably associated with the building of the Panama Canal. Assigned to the cutting of the Panama Isthmus by President Roosevelt, after several civilian engineers had made unsuccessful beginnings, he brought to the task an executive ability and a driving force that carried the gigantic work to a brilliant conclusion. He surmounted the prime obstacle on which his predecessors at the Isthmus stuck, namely, the transformation of the region into a healthful place for the workers. It was his early recognition of the vital nature of the problem of sanitation that made it possible for him to succeed where De Lesseps and others had failed. The name of Goethals is written large and indelibly in the history of our times, and his work stands as an imperishable monument for future ages.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-An automobile tire was responsible for starting a fire in a store at Shamokin. A display of matches was in the window when a wheel broke from a truck, the heavy tire rolled across the sidewalk and through the window, igniting the matches. Employees extinguished the blaze before serious damage had been done.

-Charged with thefts aggregating more than \$500 with Dr. Malcolm Z. Gearhart, prominent surgeon, Dr. Herbert Wanner, of Reading, was placed under arrest after three \$20 gold certificates stolen from Dr. Gearhart at the St. Joseph hospital had been traced to him. Wanner declared he found the money on the floor of the physician's dressing room at the hospital.

-Insanity by reason of being in love was advanced on Monday by Mrs. Lizzie Ferris in a court petition, at Pittsburgh, asking that her son, Elias J. Ferris, 23, former University of Pittsburgh student, be released from Fairview State Hospital. She said she would take her son back to his native Syria in the belief he would be restored to normal if taken away from Pittsburgh.

-The Lancaster Airways, Inc. was organized at Lancaster, last week with a capitalization of \$30,000. Property will be leased along the Manheim pike, directly northwest of the city; a hangar to accommodate 10 airplanes will be erected and commercial planes will be operated. A school of flying will also be instituted. Major W. D. Grant, of Christiana, is president of the corporation.

-Rather than return to an asylum from which he had been discharged six months ago, Myron Sebring, 55, of Mountain Home, Monroe county, committed suicide by shooting himself in the mouth at his home on Saturday. Neighbors had asked for his arrest after he had sat almost continuously at a window of his home with a loaded gun across his knees. Several loaded rifles, pistols and shot-guns were found in the house.

-When his automobile crashed into the side of a Western Maryland freight train at the southern end of Chambersburg Saturday evening, John R. George, 80, a former field agent of the Department of Agriculture, received injuries which resulted in his death four hours later. He was returning from West Virginia where he had been visiting one of his five children. His machine struck the fifteenth car in the train, was dragged fifty feet and then burst into flames. He was badly burned and internally injured when taken to the Chambersburg hospital.

-An investigation into the affairs of the closed Fayette City National bank discloses that \$500,000 is on deposit in the bank to which no claim has been made by depositors. A check-up reveals that the bank's failure is directly responsible for the failure of nineteen business houses in that district. It is also said that other bankruptcies are imminent. The school board is facing the prospect of being unable to meet its payrolls for the remainder of the term. The board's borrowing power is about exhausted and attorneys are looking for a legal remedy for the situation.

-A favorable decision having been granted by the State Water Power Resource Commission, the Panther Valley Water Company will begin construction in the spring of a reservoir and storage dam on the Still Creek in the Quakake Valley, of Schuylkill county, which involves an expenditure of over \$3,000,000 and which will keep in reserve over one billion gallons of water. The water company supplies the towns of Greenwood, Seck, Coaldale and Lanford. Objection was made to the grant by farmers who contended their water rights would be jeopardized by construction of the dam.

-During a pillow fight in their home at Harrisburg, Sunday, fourteen-year-old Chester Fallon got his father's revolver, pointed it at his sister, Anna May, 16 years old, "to scare her." The revolver was discharged and Anna May fell dead. The children were alone at home. The father, E. C. Fallon, a Pennsylvania Railroad conductor, was at work and the mother was out of the city on a visit. Stunned by the fatality the boy ran to the street, stopped an automobile and got help. An ambulance was summoned but doctors found the girl had been killed instantly, the bullet passing through both lungs. The boy is at the House of Detention pending an inquest.

-The grit industry in the vicinity of Charman, Franklin county, four miles east of Waynesboro, is reaching enormous proportions. Two large plants have been operating in that section for some time. The Blue Mountain Stone company and the Advance Industrial Supply company have been meeting the demand for green grit used in the manufacture of shingles. A third quarry has just been opened in the same section which is producing an average of 125 truck loads of stone a day. This same quarry expects to increase its output to 300 truck loads per day. The green stone which is found in that section is considered the best in the country for the manufacture of industrial grit.

-Profits of more than \$28,000 made by the 1927 Bloomsburg fair were reported to the membership at the annual meeting when a proposition to hold a night fair was voted down. The membership now is 1258, an increase of 400 during the last year. More than 900 votes were cast in the annual election of officers, the old officers all being re-elected. A keen fight for offices and an amendment to the by-laws increasing the membership fee from \$20 to \$50 brought out the heavy vote. All bonds of the association now have been paid off and the property, while carried on the books at \$272,000, is said by officers of the association to be worth more than \$500,000. Paid attendance at the fair last year was more than 70,000.

-Guy W. Eckman, of Lancaster county, sentenced to three years' imprisonment on charges of stealing chickens, missed being blown to pieces by dynamite by one hour. It was revealed by Clay Atchinson, his brother-in-law, from whom he stole several chickens. Atchinson told Constable Herbert Steigerwald that his hen roost had been raided so frequently he had rigged up a charge of dynamite in the hen house to catch the intruder. Wires, connected to a dry cell battery, were joined to the dynamite, and when the door of the hen house was opened it served as a switch, setting off the explosion. On the night of the theft Atchinson returned home late and set the trap. Eckman in his confession, said he had been at his brother-in-law's place exactly an hour earlier, and had stolen several chickens. Atchinson did not discover the theft until the following morning.