

INK SLINGS.

—Any way the new State has knocked the idea of "once a Moose always a Moose" into a cocked hat.

—Pinchot is flirting with Pennsylvania again. And for the sake of the interest his candidacy injects into a campaign we hope he enters the race for Senator.

—We presume that the reason so many people fail to properly regulate their own lives is because they devote too much time in the effort to regulate the lives of others.

—The ball clubs are heading south for spring training and that reminds us that unless something happens pretty soon that snow shovel we bought last fall was a needless investment.

—Why get excited over the foreign lady who is now on our shores claiming to be Anastasia, youngest daughter of the late Czar Nicholas of Russia? What difference does it make whether she is or isn't.

—We are in thorough accord with the idea that Lindbergh should stop flying and take no more chances with the fate that will inevitably overtake him should he continue in the air, but can't you see Lindy doing it?

—While we have no thought of aspersing the motives of a very eminent gentleman we miss our guess if New York city has to pay seven-cent trolley fares as long as Al Smith is a potential candidate for President.

—Next Wednesday the Lenten season will begin. What self denial are you going to make? Don't do like a departed friend of ours always did. He abstained from beer and regaled himself with the harder stuff and always—after boastful allusion to his abnegation—said: "I like liquor better anyway."

—Many a fellow who never saw the inside of an arithmetic can figure out how he is going to buy a new car next spring. Strange, what natural born mathematicians the American people are. We can always figure out a way to get what we want even if we do juggle the figures enough to deceive ourselves into thinking we can afford it.

—We dislike to question the sincerity of anyone, but we can't help wondering whether John D. Rockefeller Jr., would have been so eager for the Senate investigation committee to find out the truth if he were not so fabulously wealthy that, as John Francis' pet story reveals, "he can even afford to drive only one horse in his carriage."

—It is proper that the anniversaries of the birth of the country's great men should be observed. Besides perpetuating their memories in the minds of youth it gives the syndicate writers such a chance to manufacture new Washington and Lincoln stories. What do you suppose they will have George and Abe doing a hundred years from now?

—When Secretary Hoover and Senator Willis get through with their war in Ohio the voters of the Buckeye State will probably claim the right of self determination and decide that they prefer to have Democratic government. That's what Ohio usually does after such rumpuses as the contending Republican aspirants for President are starting out there.

—We are discouraged by the public admission on the part of prominent Republicans of the county that there is lack of harmony in their party. When we fight we want our opponent to be a cohesive two fisted organization. Grabbing off a few political offices from a disorganized, mutinous gang would be about as much of a triumph as stealing a wilted cabbage leaf from a blind cow.

—We have been advised that former county treasurer Frank Mayes has given up the idea of being a candidate for the Legislature. If our informant is right Frank must have a very good reason for clipping the wings of the bee that has been buzzing in his bonnet for several years. He is a cagey gentleman and probably isn't going to take a chance on its being ground to death beneath the upper and nether millstones.

—The Junior League magazine, organ of the younger sets in thirty-five American cities, is authority for the announcement that the "flapper" is passe. Instead of the hard-boiled little "neck artist," "booze hound" and "human smokestack" whose make-up was so crude as to be ludicrous, the 1928 girl is to have poise, correct speech and be soberly costumed. Oh yes, they are also to wear underwear. Thank God for that, all you that have stock in textile industries.

—The co-eds of the University of Iowa, in an open forum, decided that "petting" is a necessary evil and that smoking and drinking are only sins when done in an attempt to "be smart." They seem to have justified their modernistic ideas on the double standard of morals by the conclusion that a girl who doesn't do such things is never asked for a date by a boy the second time. The story that comes out of Iowa City doesn't throw any light on the question we are about to ask: Did those foolish virgins stop to consider what manner of boy he must be who could see nothing else in them than their willingness to "pet" and smoke and drink? And did they see any other accomplishments in themselves?

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False Rumor Completely Refuted.

It appears that recent rumor, current in Washington, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and for a day or two conspicuously displayed on newspaper first pages, to the effect that "the friendly relations" between Senator Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, and William S. Vare, of Philadelphia, had been ruthlessly ruptured, is without foundation in fact.

Other rumors, equally unfounded in fact, yielded plausibility to the main misrepresentation. Congressman John M. Morin, of Pittsburgh, who managed the Vare campaign for Senator in the western section of the State, recently paid a friendly visit to Philadelphia, where the Volstead law is not too strictly enforced.

The fact is that Mr. Morin has a "troubles of his own" and whether they are ascribable to his service to Vare two years ago when the Mellons were not in sympathy with the purpose of his activities, or not, is a matter of conjecture. In any event he conceived the idea that under existing political emergencies Mr. Vare might be able to influence the Mellons to suppress the opposition to the re-election of Morin and made his visit to Philadelphia with that object in mind.

—Mr. Hoover has become greatly attached to the Republican party in a brief period of time. Eight years ago he didn't know which party he belonged to.

Pinchot Might Run for Senator.

The fact that petitions are in circulation to put the name of Gifford Pinchot on the Republican primary ballot for the office of United States Senator is a new source of trouble for the Mellon machine and a cause of worry for Dave Reed.

There are many reasons why Mr. Pinchot might enter the Senatorial race this year. He has plenty of money and hosts of devoted friends, willing and even anxious to join him in a crusade against the iniquities of the Republican organization.

For many years the Steel trust has had one of the Pennsylvania Senators and the Pennsylvania railroad the other. This arrangement, satisfactory to the corporate interests, has left the people of the State unrepresented.

—If Mr. Hughes cannot persuade the Pan-American delegates with his logic he ought to impress them with his whiskers.

From My Old Home, A Letter.

The postman goes his usual round, Heavy footed and weary, The sky is o'ercast with clouds The day is gray and dreary.

And then I read how Johnny Smith Is getting in his clover, And how the farmers all rejoice Because the rains are over.

I read the editorials, The wisdom of the sages, And how the Blue-rock quarrymen Are asking higher wages.

And then I come unto the deaths: Ah me! How time is flowing For one by one my dear old friends Across the line are going.

NOTE—Since "one by one" his "dear old friends across the line are going" a word as to the author of the above son expression in verse might interest the younger readers of the Watchman.

Fine Sport of Millionaires.

Expressing contempt for the United States Senate is becoming a popular sport of the "malefactors of great wealth." Colonel Frank Smith, of Illinois, for whom Samuel Insull bought a seat in the body a couple of years ago, has given a second manifestation in this direction and it remains to be seen what will become of it.

Harry F. Sinclair, whose lease of the Teapot Dome oil reserve has been declared by the Supreme court as corrupt and therefore invalid, was declared in contempt of the Senate more than two years ago and except paying the expenses of litigation has suffered no punishment.

But Colonel Smith is not likely to find the matter so easy. As chairman of the Public Service Board of Illinois he had been serviceable to Mr. Insull, who controls most of the utility corporations of that State.

—Dr. Mayo, famous physician of Rochester, Minnesota, complains that scientists searching for cures for cancer are too secretive. There may be reason for this complaint.

—The attorneys for Hickman, having lost, are now laying plans to gain notoriety for themselves.

The LaFollette Resolution.

The value of the resolution declaring "it is the sense of the Senate that the precedent established by Washington and other Presidents of the United States, in retiring from the Presidential office after their second term, has become, by universal concurrence, a part of our republican system of government," is variously appraised in Washington and elsewhere.

The vote of the resolution, 56 to 26, indicates a decided opposition among the Senators upon the question of a third term for the Presidency and probably accurately measures the sentiments of the people of the country on that subject.

The LaFollette resolution was introduced in the Senate, and supported by nearly two-thirds of the entire membership, as an admonition against such a contingency. It is universally conceded that Mr. Coolidge could, and would, have been nominated by his party if he had asked the favor, not because of his popularity with the people but for the reason that big business wants him continued in the office.

—There were 528 deaths as the result of automobiles during January in the United States. The railroads of the country were less destructive.

—The farmers of the middle west are not likely to draw much hope from Hoover's statement that he desires to continue the policies of Mr. Coolidge.

Big Business at Last Condemns a Wrong.

The appearance today of John D. Rockefeller Jr., as a voluntary witness in the oil scandal inquiry is one of the few reassuring incidents in a shocking record. One of the most powerful of the representatives of finance and industry, he will aid in undoing and punishing a great public wrong.

During the "trust-busting" period of 25 years ago the name big business was a term of reproach; it suggested to the public mind antisocial policies, methods of exploitation, monopolistic conspiracies.

If this favorable attitude should appear, if business should once more be subjected to harassing investigations and hampering enactments, that unfortunate result will be due to the stubborn folly of some of its own leaders.

Two of them fled to Europe and have remained in exile for four years rather than aid the prosecution of corruptionists. One, in the fear of death, disgorged his gains of \$800,000, but his former associates, instead of denouncing the wrong to the stockholders which the restitution proved, continued to protect him.

While it is unlikely that Mr. Rockefeller can reveal anything new, his attitude is significant and helpful. Even he accepted too readily excuses for indefensible acts; but though his condemnation of them is belated it is genuine and forceful, and therefore will help in some measure to restore the repute of big business, which has been impaired by a policy of condoning public wrong and protecting the offenders.

—Automobile makers predict mile-a-minute machines in the future and promise greater safety. That is levying a high tax on credulity.

—Mr. Edison doesn't like men "when they're too good." There is danger lurking in too much piety.

—It's a great pity that John D. J. hasn't more control of his subordinates.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—P. Kinports Wilson, of Cherry Tree, by his attorney W. Wallace Smith, is suing Clearfield county for \$3,000 damages to his farm near Burnside, occasioned by a change in grade made necessary when the present State road was built down the river.

—Three youthful bandits from Baltimore who staged a series of daring store holdups, at Scranton recently, were sentenced to serve from fifteen to thirty years in the eastern penitentiary when they entered pleas of guilty before President Judge E. C. Newcomb.

—Charles Bonitz, 40, an employee of the Lackawanna Railroad shops, at Scranton, dropped dead on Monday from acute indigestion soon after he reached a street car for which he raced on his way to work.

—The body of Martin Krotovick, 43, was found hanging in the jail, at Mount Carmel, last Friday, by two men who had sought lodging in the institution over night. He had made a noose of his necktie. Krotovick was arrested Friday night after he had attacked his wife during a quarrel.

—Returning from his work, Earl H. Anthony, of Walnutport, near Allentown, found the body of his wife with their four-weeks-old baby clasped in her arms. Mrs. Anthony apparently had been in good health when he left for work. The walling infant and the fact that Mrs. Anthony was not about attracted the husband's attention. He discovered that his wife had apparently been stricken while asleep.

—J. E. Fornwalt, of Altoona, was held up by two bandits on the streets a few nights ago, who fished from his pocket what they supposed were a lot of bills. With the exception of a \$20 bill they were clear store coupons, but the bandits did not notice the bill among the coupons and threw them away.

—Approximately 90,000 persons travel each day between Philadelphia and New Jersey points in motorbuses operating over the Delaware River bridge, according to the latest traffic survey made on that structure. This survey has been carried on for the last three weeks by traffic counters working 24 hours a day in three shifts of eight hours each.

—Emmanuel's Reformed congregation of Hazleton, awarded to Ralph Woodell the contract for a three-story Sunday School building of steel and granite for \$91,577. George Savage, of Philadelphia, is the architect.

The issue arises, of course, from that secret and shabby resale of oil of November, 1921, in which a group of corporation heads divided \$3,000,000 of illegitimate profits. Not only did this fund supply the money with which Fall was corrupted, but it was procured by company executives at the expense of their own stockholders.

It cost two men \$1208.06 for shooting two rabbits in Upper Hanover township, Montgomery county. The men were O. S. Miller, living near Lansdale, and John Jabs, of Bucks county. The sentence was passed Friday morning by Judge Knight, who a few days ago handed down a decree in which he refused an appeal taken by the men from the decision of a Magistrate who adjudged them guilty of violation of the gunning laws.

Chairman W. D. B. Ainey, of the Public Service Commission, estimated that 17,700 new rural customers were added by Pennsylvania electric companies in 1927 under provisions of the commission's order providing for rural electrification. This involved the construction of about 144 miles of transmission lines at a capital cost of approximately \$3,000,000.

Miss Elizabeth Bitzer, daughter of Dr. Newton E. Bitzer, a prominent physician, of Lancaster, directed police in the capture of Robert J. Hess, 39, sought in connection with four robberies at the Bitzer home within a month. Miss Bitzer saw the youth, formerly employed by her father, in the southern section of the city, and immediately informed police, who had suspected him of forcing entrances into the home and also of stealing Miss Bitzer's automobile. He was caught after a short chase. Police said he admitted having entered the Bitzer home four times, always gaining entrance through a cellar window.

An autopsy on the body of "Sam" Shockey, 27, murderer and escaped convict, which was found Saturday in the mountains of Franklin county, revealed three bullet wounds, causing police to believe Shockey was killed by some person and that his death was not due to suicide or accidental shooting, as at first believed, but to the bullets of an avenger. When found the top of the man's head was blown off as if caused by the discharge of the shotgun which was found near the body, which contained an empty shell. The autopsy revealed a bullet wound under the right arm and another in his chest, the latter bullet piercing his heart.

—An inquest will be held by Coroner Shull, when officers hope to clear up the shooting. Christian Shockey, a brother, who found the body, told police he was on his way to meet "Sam" when he came across the body. The brothers had arranged the meeting the day before, and Christian was to cut "Sam's" hair, after which he was going to Waynesboro to 'ste himself up to the police, Christian Shockey told police.