

INK SLINGS.

—It would be funny if Gifford Pinchot should run for Senator in Congress and Cornelia for Representative at the same time.

—The first pretzels were made in Pennsylvania and the industry seems not to have languished much since the law deprived it of its greatest liquid asset.

—It matters little to us how March comes in or how it goes out. We stopped fussing about the weather long ago because we discovered that the more we crabbed about it the worse it appeared to be.

—Every time we see a picture of Henry Ford or John D. Rockefeller we study it most carefully to see whether there is any expression that might indicate that money brings happiness. As yet we have discovered none. Therefore, we have come to the conclusion that happiness is something that money can't buy. In fact we came to it before we ever saw the phiz of either Hen or John.

—The bogus "Lord" Beaverbrook has been given a title to a cell in Sing Sing for fifteen years because so many American women gave him everything they had for a half interest in his bogus title. Inasmuch as "this lordship" isn't anything to look upon with admiration we think the ladies with so much money and so little brains who fell for him are accessories before the fact and should be placed in confinement too.

—Some years ago the pastor of a local church made his first call on a family that had lately been rescued through the medium of the penitentiary bench. On entering the home he was met by the oldest boy, a husky lad. The minister greeted him by saying: "Well, my young man you're a fine looking fellow! I hope you're working for the Lord." "Nope," replied the hopeful of the family, "I'm drivin' bus for the Brokerhoff house."

—Just what strained the relations between our two former county treasurers is piquing our curiosity. We didn't know that Heverly and Mayes were not political bed-fellows until we heard the story that Jim only announced for the Legislature because he couldn't think of Frank's getting the nomination. That was nice in Jim, wasn't it. If that's all he came out for the logical thing for him to do, now that Frank has taken himself out of the contest, is to do likewise. We don't think, however, that it was Heverly who scared Mayes off.

—The Miami, Florida, Daily News calls to mind a matter many of us are prone to overlook. It suggests that a special acknowledgment of some sort be made to Senator Walsh, of Montana, for the service he has rendered his country in the reclamation of the Teapot Dome and Elk hills oil fields. Hundreds of millions of dollars in property and twelve millions in cash were recaptured almost solely through the persistent and intelligently directed efforts of the Montana Senator. Had he been serving a private client in that case what would a fair fee have been? Certainly it would have been not less than a hundred times his salary as a United States Senator. Walsh is a poor man, as wealth is counted today—giving his giant ability to his country for pure love of it. He would spurn the suggestion of a bonus for this outstanding service. But were one suggested thousands of pygmies on all sides would appear to oppose it for no other reason than that Senator Walsh is a Catholic.

—This paper will support the nomination of the Democratic party for President. It will take no part in the primary contest for that office, but in order that there may be no misunderstanding as to where the writer is personally, we want to tell you that he will vote for Smith delegates to the national convention. As we have often said in this column we have yet to be brought to believe that a country founded on religious tolerance will proscribe a good man because of his creed. We shall vote for Smith delegates because Smith is wet and we hope if he is nominated his opponent will be dry because we want to see that question settled in a national referendum. Neither one of them are political issues and both are a menace to the stability of our government. We're keen for a show-down. It's time our country discovers what manner of men and women comprise its citizenry. The issue we would have raised would, to a degree, answer that question. For all the numbskulls who believe that if Smith were elected President the Pope would move into the White House and all the silly folks who think that a wet President could irrigate a dry land would vote on the one side. On the other side would be the ballots of all Americans loyal enough to support section III of article VII of our constitution which says: "no religious test shall ever be required as qualification to any office or public trust under the United States," as well as those who believe, with us, that prohibition is only a banner under which fanatics and sentimentalists are herded by paid agitators in an attempt to bring about by law what the home, the church and society alone can accomplish. It's temperance, not prohibition that the country needs. And men can be in-temperate in many things besides the use of beverages over one-half of one per cent.

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Denouncing a Pernicious Practice.

The practice of "packing" committees of Congress and commissions of government, which has grown to dangerous proportions in Washington in recent years, got a rather rude jolt the other day when Senator Reed, of Missouri, denounced the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the Lake cargo coal case. The discussion which followed recalled the fact that a few years ago Senator Dave Reed attempted to force the appointment of Cyrus Woods, of Westmoreland county, an attorney for and shareholder in certain bituminous coal companies of western Pennsylvania, into membership of the Interstate Commerce Commission when the Lake cargo case was pending in that body.

It is of record that when the tariff commission expressed an inclination to reduce the tariff on sugar some years ago President Coolidge prevailed on one of the commissioners to resign and put in his place a rampant tariff monger who voted to increase, rather than decrease the tax rate. Later when the recounting of the vote in the Wilson-Vare contest was lodged in the Committee on Privileges and Elections Senator Goff, of West Virginia, who, though a Republican, was known to favor Wilson, was induced by some influence to resign from the committee and Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, a bigoted partisan, was substituted in his place. These substitutions, for selfish purposes, were perversions of justice.

In his statement of the case Senator Reed, of Missouri, alleged that just prior to the decision of the commission in the Lake cargo coal case Senator Dave Reed, of Pennsylvania, approached two members of the body whose terms of office were about to end, and who had previously voted against the decision, and notified them that unless they reversed themselves they would not be re-appointed. Thus threatened they did "about face" and made possible a decision which it is charged, and not denied, gives the bituminous coal operators in the Pittsburgh district an immense advantage over the producers in West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. What the result will be remains to be seen.

—Probably the experience of Harry Sinclair and Tom Cunningham encouraged Colonel Stewart of the Indiana Standard Oil company to show contempt for the Senate.

Tracing a Corruption Fund.

The trail of the Teapot Dome oil lease scandal has finally led up to the Republican National committee. Joseph P. McMahon testified before the Senate committee investigating the scandal that his firm, Potter & Co., New York brokers, "on November 30th, 1923, sold to the Empire Trust Co., of New York, \$75,000 in Liberty bonds of the first 3 1/2 per cent issue and forwarded a check for \$74,718.87 to T. Coleman DuPont, chairman of the board of the Empire Trust, which held a note of the National committee. Sinclair had previously testified that he contributed \$75,000 in Liberty bonds to the committee and the serial numbers showed that they had once been owned by the Continental Trading company, of Canada.

The Continental Trading company, of Canada, was the mushroom concern organized over night to purchase several million barrels of oil at \$1.50 a barrel. It was composed of Sinclair and Standard Oil corporations, and without exchanging a dollar or movement of the oil it was immediately resold to other companies controlled by Sinclair, O'Neil, Stewart and the few others, at \$1.75 a barrel. Out of the profit of several million dollars \$325,000 were paid to Secretary of the Interior Fall for making the lease of the Teapot Dome oil reserve, and the evidence of Mr. McMahon reveals the fact that \$75,000 of it was donated to the Republican slush fund.

A diligent effort has been made to trace the balance of the profits of this sinister transaction but with only partial success. One witness testified that \$800,000 had gone to O'Neil, who at a time he thought he was going to die, transferred it to the company of which he was the head, and had been a victim of the swindle. His spasm of penitence ended when his health was restored and for four years he has been living in Europe in order to dodge a subpoena to testify on the subject. Stewart is in contempt of the Senate because he refused to tell what he knows about it and several others have sworn they know nothing. But justice, though it may "travel with a leaden heel," will overtake them in the end.

—It costs ten years in the penitentiary to pretend to be a lord in New York. In some other cities it is a profitable and pleasant employment.

Keep an Eye On Hughes.

The determination of Herbert Hoover to contest with a "favorite son" for the Ohio delegation in the Republican National convention is not only a surprise to many of his friends but a source of alarm to his enemies. It may be said in this instance that the favorite son is not a strong favorite except in ultra prohibition circles, for Senator Willis is neither intellectually strong nor politically popular, and the Harding administration rather overfed the public on Ohio Presidents. But the entrance of Hoover into open competition with Willis for the delegates is construed as a trespass by the element which favors Willis and is more than likely to create a bitter fight.

The reason given by the friends of Hoover for poaching on the Willis preserve is that it was an actual necessity. The highest estimate that could be obtained of his initial strength in the convention is 350 delegates, whilst 545 are necessary to nominate. With the strength of all opposing candidates actively against him in the early balloting it would be difficult to annex the nearly 200 votes needed. It was reasoned, therefore, that his initial strength must be increased and the Ohio field was appraised as the most promising battle ground. If he is able to carry a majority, or even a considerable number, of the Ohio delegates it will have an important influence on the convention.

In all these calculations it is assumed that Mr. Hoover will have the favor of the Coolidge administration, and that is probably true so far as the President is concerned. But the real dominant figure in the Coolidge administration has not yet spoken. Andy Mellon is, and has been, as "silent as a clam" and it is not certain that he is without preference. Mr. Charles E. Hughes has said that he is too old to run for President but he is not too old to be "the whole cheese" in the Pan-American Congress, just closed, and to absorb all the glory of diplomacy, statesmanship and achievement that has come out of that generously advertised enterprise.

—Roland Morris, of Philadelphia, has been suggested as a suitable man to go to the Democratic convention as a delegate-at-large, and the party might go farther and fare worse.

Norris Asks Pertinent Questions.

During the discussion of the resolution providing for a Congressional investigation of the electric power trust, the other day, Senator Norris, of Nebraska, asked, "why is this lobby down here spending thousands of dollars to prevent this investigation?" That is easy. The lobby is there because those concerned in the creation of the trust are opposed to a Congressional investigation and the administration is in sympathy with their purpose. Only a few years ago, easily within the memory of most of the Senators, Woodrow Wilson drove all lobbies out of the capitol by simply denouncing them as inimical to orderly public business. With the retirement of Wilson the lobbies returned.

Samuel Insull, of Chicago, bought a seat in the Senate for a servile agent in order to strengthen the opposition to a Congressional investigation. As a member of the group he declares such an inquiry "will ruin the business." He is perfectly willing to have an investigation made by the Federal Trade Commission. That commission has been organized to manufacture alibis for such enterprises as the electric power trust, and in order to make its work easy the Attorney General has put restraints on its activities that make it impotent as its servile agent. Yet there are Senators who plead for the amendment of the resolution so as to lodge the inquiry in the commission.

Senator Norris asks, "why should the natural resources belonging to the people be exploited by a few millionaires using the people's money?" That is also a problem easy of solution. It is because those millionaires contribute vast sums out of their unearned profits to campaign committees with which to corrupt the ballot and elect unfit men to high offices in the government. They have deliberately set out to absorb the wealth of the country and reduce the people to a state of peonage. It is the supreme menace of the day and generation and unless the people realize and resist the danger it will prevail.

—The bill providing for a pilgrimage to Paris of the "War Mothers" got through the House of Representatives but what the Senate will do to it is plenty.

—The empty ballot boxes of the "strip" in Pittsburgh caused no surprise to the investigators in Washington.

An Unholy Alliance.

Governor Jackson, of Indiana, has been acquitted of the charge of attempt to bribe, not because he is innocent of the charge but for the reason that a benevolent statute of limitations interposed in his behalf. More than four years ago he offered one of his predecessors in office \$10,000 for the appointment of a certain lawyer of Indianapolis to the office of district attorney, the money having been provided by the Ku Klux Klan. The evidence was positive but came too late. In Indiana, as in this State, prosecution for such offenses must be begun within two years after the perpetration of the offense. More than four years had elapsed before the complaint was officially made.

But the trial was worth while. It was a long drawn out affair and cost the taxpayers of the county a considerable sum of money. But it brought into public notice the shameful condition that has come out of an alliance of the Republican organization of Indiana and the Klan. Since this combination has come into existence, and probably because of it, one Governor of the State has served time in the penitentiary for malfeasances in office, one mayor of Indianapolis is now serving time and the head of the Klan is in prison under a life sentence. The political morals of the State have become completely bankrupt and one of the conspicuous members of the gang has had the temerity to announce that he is a candidate for President.

In instructing the jury to bring in a verdict of acquittal the learned judge took occasion to express his opinion of political conditions in the State. "How any Governor of Indiana could have believed for one moment that the Ku Klux Klan could have controlled verdicts in the courts," he said, "I cannot possibly see. I am perfectly aware of the slime and disgrace of that organization and participation in politics of the Ku Klux Klan. It has resulted in dishonor to the State of Indiana." That is the literal truth, and the sooner it is impressed upon the minds of the people the better.

—The grand jury for the February term of court, which convened on Monday morning, did not lose any time in disposing of the work presented to them by the district attorney. James L. Kerstetter was appointed foreman and of the nineteen bills presented to them seventeen were found true bills and two ignored. The jury completed its work on Tuesday afternoon after making the usual inspection of the public buildings, which included recommendations for various repairs and suggestions as to more sanitary conditions.

—The coal situation in a nutshell is this: The miner wants so much for mining it, the railroads want so much for hauling it and the retailer wants so much for handling it that the consumer hasn't enough to buy it. It isn't the operator who is responsible for the high price of coal. Today in the soft coal fields of Pennsylvania coal at the mines is little more expensive than it was twenty years ago. But to get it from the mines into your cellar? That's where the cost piles up.

—The groundhog is now getting credit for the variable weather of the past week, but whether it had anything to do with it or not, it has been a real taste of winter. Snow and rain Friday night and Saturday, with a temperature above fifty degrees, then a drop to four degrees above zero on Sunday morning. More snow Sunday night, high winds on Monday and almost zero weather on Tuesday morning was about as much real winter as any weather of the year.

—Congress is about to "renew assurances of distinguished consideration" for President Coolidge by snubbing him on the navy building programme.

—Some complaint has been made because Pittsburgh is to get three of the seven delegates-at-large to the Republican convention.

—The Pan-American Congress opened gorgeously and ended in mutual admiration but accomplished little.

—Joe Grundy may be snubbed with impunity by the Mellon machine but he will ever be true to the tariff.

—Jim Reed isn't waiting for the nomination to catch him. He is trying to catch the nomination.

—The Bellefonte High school basketball team defeated the Philipsburg Hi, on the local floor, last Friday evening, by the score of 34 to 23. It was a fast, clean game.

HIGH SCHOOL GLEE CLUB SCORES ARTISTIC SUCCESS.

When one stops to think of the work it takes to train two hundred children of varying ages and aptitude, to costume and marshal them for such a performance as was given by the glee club of the Bellefonte High school, on Monday and Tuesday evenings, even more superlative praise than is generally being given the production of "Mlle. Modiste" appears merited. It was splendidly staged, went off with almost professional smoothness, and held two vast audiences charmed by the subtle comedy of the play itself and the artistic presentation of the interpolated numbers.

Because it was their play, their triumph we refrain from further comment on it and leave that to the dramatic critic of "The Bellefontian." It is the High's own publication and this week carries the following story of the play:

After playing to capacity houses at matinee and two evening performances "Mlle. Modiste" added her name to the long list of Glee Club successes.

In perfection of technique and in display of color, "Mlle. Modiste" is unrivaled. Never, in the history of the High school plays, has such a gorgeous array of rainbow hues greeted the eyes of an audience.

As the curtain fell, there were little murmuring sighs, both of admiration for the performance and of regret that it had ended.

As the crowd passed along the aisles, "Fifi" wasn't she wonderful! The character could not have been portrayed with more ease," was the remark on every lip. And so it was. Demure yet vivacious, Louise Tanner as "Fifi," won the hearts of her audience, with her portrayal of a lovable, sincere, French shop girl who, by the generosity of an American millionaire, was enabled to attain her cherished ambition—that of becoming a prima donna. Louise, as the prima donna, we secretly felt, realized one of her own desires.

As Hiram Bent, the millionaire, Peter Meek had the suave manners, the kindly air, and the poise of the true millionaire philanthropist. For his interpretation of this character Peter deserves commendation. Henrietta Hunter, as Mrs. Hiram Bent, called forth numerous laughs as she acted the part of the provincial woman bewildered by the splendor of the gay city.

William Brachbill, as the gouty count, played his part in such a realistic manner that it was hard to believe that the groans were not genuine.

Paul Crust, as Captain Etienne, had a true military bearing. The title of captain, we feel, was a just reward for loyalty to country; none the less just the well-deserved reward for loyalty in love—the hand and heart of Fifi.

Donald Conrad made a most romantic looking French artist; Virginia Kern, as a dancer was bewitching; Kathryn Bullock as Madame Cecile had all the haughtiness of the usual French modiste; Louise Meyer, as Captain Etienne's sister had all the poise and charm of a real French lady; Lenore Morgan, Dot Wilkinson and Margaret Hassinger, as shop girls, were French to the finger-tips; Marie Martin made a most beguiling Gypsy fortune-teller—but adjectives fail us in setting forth the good points of the principals.

As for the choruses, the grade children certainly added to the play. "Dew-Dew-Dew-Days" was one of the best choruses of the show, and Farina and the Duncan Sisters were the juvenile hits of the season. Little Helen Olsen as "Eva" and Druscilla Taylor as "Topsy" could have held the stage all evening and made the show themselves, and Louise Tramel was a "Farina" that even Hal Roach would do well to sign.

By far the most gorgeous was the Glow-Worm chorus. The slow, melodious music and the perfect rhythm of the dancers, clad in iridescent hues, held the people spell bound during the best chorus in the play. Perhaps, girls, George White has a place for you in his famous "Scandals." Why don't you try? We are sure that you could rival the Foster girls.

The costumes worn by this chorus were designed by Mrs. Krader. Never in any other High school play were such beautiful and fitting costumes worn.

The Colonial chorus in the stately minuet, the "Ice-Cream" boys, the officers and cadet girls—all the choruses deserve the highest praise.

The school and the town wish to thank Mrs. Krader for the entertainment which they enjoyed for two nights and for the great interest she takes in school activities.

—Beginning next Sunday afternoon at 3:30 and continuing about four weeks the musical organizations of the Pennsylvania State College will broadcast an hour's concert program. The student orchestra will give the first concert to be followed on succeeding Sundays by the men's glee club, the military band and the mandolin club.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Vincent Zoole, who "walked into jail" when he called on a Philadelphia policeman to find out why a search was being made for him, was sentenced to from twenty to forty years in the eastern penitentiary for holding up five taxicab drivers. He got \$700.

—The Fort Pitt and William Penn hotels, in Pittsburgh, will be managed by the Eppley Hotel company, of which Eugene C. Eppley, of Omaha, Neb., is president, after March 31. It was announced on Tuesday by officials of the Pittsburgh Hotels company, which controls both enterprises.

—The loss of a woman's hand brought a damage award of \$100 by a jury verdict, at Butler last week, while \$600 damages were awarded by the same jury to the owner of an automobile which was damaged in an accident. Louis Rott was awarded the \$600 for his damaged car and his wife got \$100 for the loss of her hand.

—Partly recovered from injuries suffered in jumping from a window of a train as it was traveling through the yards at Harrisburg, James Tuttle, 20, wanted in Altoona for robbing the branch of the Altoona First National bank of \$5000 on December 28, was removed from the Harrisburg hospital on Friday night and taken to Altoona on a stretcher.

The quarry plant of the Bethlehem Steel company, at Nager, broke ground for improvements that will cost in excess of \$200,000 and which will increase the capacity for shipping broken limestone to Bethlehem furnaces at Johnstown. The entire plant will operate electric crushers, railroad cars, cranes, breakers, and screens, all to be built and in service in a few weeks.

—Pleading guilty to charges of extortion and conspiracy, Emyln Evans, former deputy internal revenue collector at Johnstown, on Saturday, was sentenced, at Pittsburgh, to serve a year and a day in the Federal penitentiary. George Bondy and Milan Slavovich, against whom Evans testified on similar charges, received like sentences. They were charged with extorting \$1775 from a Johnstown man as Government taxes. W. A. Goll, former deputy internal revenue collector at Beaver Falls, was paroled for three years when he pleaded guilty to embezzling \$3150 collected in taxes.

—As the ice went out of the West Branch of the Susquehanna river, at Lock Haven, last Friday, it crushed both water mains of the Lock Haven Suburban Water company, leaving the surrounding villages without water for several hours, until water superintendent C. S. Harter ordered the use of the emergency pump owned by the company at Mill Hall. The water hydrants of the Suburban company were attached to the Lock Haven water system by means of a fire hose which was stretched across a street in the extreme western end of the city.

—Damages in \$10,000 are asked by Mary S. Foutz, Philadelphia, in an action in trespass instituted in the Franklin county courts against John W. Garrett, Waynesboro. Mrs. Foutz's statement is that on the morning of April 8, 1927, she was riding with Garrett in his car on a highway near Greensboro. He drove past another car and struck an embankment. She had her arm broken as the result of which it has become permanently stiff and she was handicapped in her work as dressmaker. She incurred expense for medical attention and was unable to work for six weeks, her statement sets forth.

—Franklin S. Searle, former Harrisburg mail clerk who cashed checks said to have been stolen from the government in Altoona and Juniata, pled guilty to possessing and forging checks for war veterans in federal court in Pittsburgh, on Monday, and was sentenced to 13 months in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia. Sentence was imposed by Judge R. M. Gibson. It was said by George V. Craighhead, postoffice inspector, that Searle opened 37 bank accounts in Altoona, Juniata, Bellwood, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and York, using the names of persons to whom the checks were made payable. He forged the checks and deposited them in the various banks. It was said that he obtained about \$900 on the forged checks.

—Police arrested two shop laborers at York, on Monday, for counterfeiting, charging them with the manufacture of quarters. One man, Luther Arthur Will, 22, of York R. D. 10, admitted the charges upon cross examination and pointed out the spot in the Condone creek there, where he threw the dies early that morning when his learned police were on his trail. His companion, Fatsy Meyers, 24, denies knowledge of the manufacture or passing of any bogus money. Police learned of the counterfeiting activities last week when the two men are said to have passed several counterfeit quarters on a West York groceryman. A citizen obtained the license number of the car the men were traveling in at the time and they were traced by this means.

—Charged with victimizing farmers in Lancaster county, Charles Steiner, 39, a huckster, Harrisburg, was arrested on a warrant issued by justice of the peace Charles Hicks, Maytown, charged with obtaining goods by fraud and under false pretenses. According to justice of the peace Hicks, Steiner and another Harrisburg huckster, Charles Simpson, got produce valued at \$75 from Hiram Nissley, a farmer, loaded it on a truck and then explained that since they forgot their check book they would have to drive to their hotel for it. They explained they would return, but never did, Nissley said. Justice of the Peace Hicks said the two Harrisburg men had operated for three months throughout Lancaster county and victimized three other farmers near Maytown.

—Living at the foot of a mountain near Fields Station, about ten miles from Williamsport, Mr. and Mrs. George Davis combine the good work of providing food for squirrels in the winter with furnishing amusement for themselves. Mr. Davis always has on hand a large supply of peanuts for the little animals, which visit his property during the winter as well as during the summer. From the house to a tree about fifty feet away has been stretched a rope, from which, at intervals of two or three feet, dangle strings about a foot long. Each string has a peanut fastened on the end. To obtain the peanuts, the squirrels must walk upside down on the stretched rope to one of the strings, where they must hang by their hind legs and reach down with their paws to gather up the nuts. The Davis family enjoys the entertainment from a window of the house.