

INK SLINGS.

—When fortune opens her cornucopia into the lap of poverty very often another snob is made.

—Reports of growing strength for Frank O. Lowden in the middle west might not disturb Herbert Hoover greatly, but certainly they are not what one would call music to his ears.

—You will find that people who have always been accustomed to nice things make less fuss about temporary inconveniences than those who experienced little else until they suddenly came into possession of riches.

—The subscriber who sent us thirty dollars to be applied to subscription is taking a long chance. We know we'll use the money at once then probably be sore because we have to work so many years for him for nothing.

—The announcement that Lindbergh is to receive the Woodrow Wilson award of twenty-five thousand dollars for distinguished service to humanity during the year is one that will raise no question as to its appropriateness.

—Harping again on our belief that the liquor problem is one for the home, the church, and society rather than for politics, we suggest an interesting subject for debating societies. It is this: Resolved that Francis Murphy, Dwight L. Moody, and Ira D. Sankey did more for the cause of temperance by personal appeal than has been accomplished by prohibitory law.

—The Rev. Rex O. Stealy didn't stay in the legislative race long. Two weeks ago he announced his candidacy and already he has withdrawn. We haven't an idea of what got him into the contest or what took him out, but we can always hazard a guess on such matters. On this one our guess is that the parson discovered that he and the politicians didn't talk the same language.

—Larceny, wife desertion and bootlegging seem to be the popular crimes of the day. These three offenses are responsible for about three-fourths of all the criminal business of the Centre county courts and we believe that if the larceny and wife desertions were traced to their real cause bad rum could be charged with being accessory before the fact in most of them.

—We rise to remark that the banquet, Wednesday night, of the lady politicians of the county, was the first affair of that sort that we have ever attended where not a trace of anything "on the hip" was visible. Explanatory of this bit of information we hope no one will be mean enough to suggest the idea that the ladies wouldn't think of increasing breadth of beam even to provide a cache for a gill of the best pre-war stuff that could be found.

—Now that Brother Stealy has taken himself out of the Republican legislative race the contest looks as though Holmes and Heverly will fight it out between them. A little fence building is said to be in the making for a lady at State College, and also, some think that our Mayor would not be averse to immolating himself on the altar of party sacrifice if war might thereby be averted. They are all skating on thin ice because war clouds have been rolling up ever since last November. The portents are bad. Both Holmes and Heverly begin with h and h is the beginning of another very significant word.

—Here's the second of March and it will be only forty-eight days until a grand army of meticulously truthful men will hasten to their favorite trout streams. They'll founder about in the water, constantly fearful of falling into its icy embrace. They'll get chilly first. Then comes that awful coldness that increases exactly in the same ratio that hope of catching anything decreases. Then the morale of the grand army of meticulously truthful men is all shot to—and it becomes a rabble of weary, disgusted stragglers, homeward bound, thinking of nothing else than to lie sick enough to make the family believe they had had a good time.

—While at the banquet of the Centre county League of Women Voters, Wednesday evening, we were reminded by the indefatigable chairman of the local organization that some time ago we had said that it had sung its swan song. No doubt we did say that very thing, though at the moment we don't recall either the occasion or the provocation—if there was any. However that may be, any prediction anyone may make concerning the probable activities of women should be done with the reservation that they are always liable to fall back on the prerogative of changing their mind. It is altogether likely that when we said they had sung their swan song that there was every appearance that rigor mortis had already set in in the local organization. Wednesday night's interesting—we might even say brilliant—gathering indicated that the ladies have already changed their mind. They have thrown away the old book with the swan's song in it and taken up a new one with the mellifluous melodies of the canary. Everything is going to go just fine now—yes, just fine, up to the moment the wrong political cat gets the canary.

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Quick Changing Party Conditions.

It is utterly and absolutely impossible to hold a line on the plans and purposes of the leaders of the Republican machine in Pennsylvania. Only a few weeks ago, with the amiable intention of refuting a false and damaging rumor, and upon the authority of Senator Dave Reed and Mr. Bill Vare, the Watchman stated that the personal relations between these aspiring politicians were not only cordially friendly but enthusiastically affectionate. Upon the same apparently dependable authority we stated that Congressman Morin, of Pittsburgh, had no intention of running for Senator against Dave Reed but was simply putting a little pressure on chairman Mellon to keep Morin in the seat he now occupies.

Less than a week later conditions changed, if Mr. Reed and Mr. Vare were telling the truth then, and we feel obliged not only to withdraw our statement but to apologize to our readers for plunging into such a filthy pool of partisan politics at all. Reliable authority then indicated that Reed and Vare were not on friendly terms but on the contrary were threatening each other with war in its most ruthless form, while Morin, having failed to coerce Mellon into supporting him for Congress, was striving to defeat Reed for nomination for Senator. Unwisely Vare recently declared his aspirations to boss the party activities in the whole State and thus provoked an opposition which, if continued, would have annihilated him or wrecked the machine.

It may be recalled that a month or so ago Governor Fisher, Mr. Mellon and Mr. Vare held a conference in New York at which time it was decided, according to Vare's understanding, that the party organization and State administration would militantly support Vare's effort to get a seat in the Senate. The plan was to have the Attorney General officially demand the recognition of Vare's credentials and if that failed of results the Governor was to appoint Vare, or one named by Vare, to fill the vacancy which might ensue. Since then the Governor has refused to carry out the agreement, and in resentment Vare and Mayor Mackey decided to assume control of the "State as well as the Philadelphia political programme," as expressed by both gentlemen, according to newspaper reports.

At this crucial period in the controversy, or may we say comedy, the scene was shifted to Washington and the chief medicine man, Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon, was called into council. With marvelous force and surprising expedition he settled all the differences and firmly fixed the status of the several contenders. Vare promptly agreed to support Reed unconditionally though his friend Strausberger, of Norristown, will be on the slate for delegate-at-large. The Vare-Mackey threat failed of its purpose completely under the penetrating eye of the great boss and Vare started for Florida leaving his dependents to shift for themselves. But there may be other developments later.

—The weather man must have become somewhat twisted in handling atmospheric conditions in this section of the country. During the early part of the winter it was unusually mild and now when it is getting along toward spring we are having real winter, as evidenced by most of the weather of the past week. On Sunday morning, for instance, thermometers in Bellefonte dropped to zero while in some places throughout the county it was four and five below.

—While no appointment has yet been made of a county vocational director to succeed John B. Payne, resigned, W. E. Jeffries, of Crawford county, appears to be the most likely candidate. He was here several days during the week and was taken over the territory by Mr. Payne.

—The Woman's International League for Peace is misdirecting its energies in urging President Coolidge to call the marines out of Nicaragua. They should address their petition to Wall Street.

—The conscience of the Philadelphia woman who is contributing to the Carnegie fund on the installment plan must be slow as well as "small and still."

—Orville Wright believes that the Smithsonian institute has been giving credit to others that belonged to his brother and himself.

—Bill Vare is showing some signs of reform. It is said he has severed his relations with traitor John O'Donnell.

—Gifford Pinchot is out definitely but Cornell is in with both feet so the family is safe in the lime-light.

Revival of the "Draft" Scheme.

The idea of "drafting" Mr. Coolidge as the Republican candidate for President in the impending campaign has the celebrated Banquo's ghost completely "shoved off the map." The cryptic declaration that he does not choose to run, made in the Black Hills in August, was accepted at its face value by only a few who had already grown weary of his "ponderous platitudes" solemnly expressed. One of two subsequent references to the subject almost persuaded a majority of the people that he actually intended to eliminate himself, but by force of habit employed ambiguous language to express the purpose. But his most intimate friends remained unconvinced and persisted in the expectation of a "draft."

It is not surprising, therefore, that within a week, and almost within the shadow of the Kansas City convention hall, the proposition has been revived and is now under serious consideration. It is recalled that Mr. Coolidge has never said he would not accept the nomination if it were tendered to him. It is of record that when Roosevelt wanted a third term Mr. Coolidge pronounced against the breaking of the Washington tradition and is therefore estopped from asking such a fracture in his own behalf. But it is well known everywhere and among all people that he likes his job immensely and flatters himself with the belief that he has acquired a front seat among the great Presidents.

No man in public life has been closer to Mr. Coolidge during the past six years than chairman Butler, of the Republican National committee. Few have been as intimate with him as National committeeman Hilles, of New York, Bascom Slemp, of Virginia, and Senator Fess, of Ohio. Yet all these Republican leaders have held from the beginning that the declaration held important reservations and they are responsible for the revival of the proposition now. The obvious purpose of these same manipulators to tie up the convention in a deadlock, an enterprise encouraged by Mr. Coolidge, excites the suspicion that a carefully laid plan has been perfected and that it may be successfully carried out.

—Pittsburgh millionaires kept us out of the League of Nations, according to Colonel Harvey. War is too profitable to Pittsburghers to be given up.

Hopeful Sign from Washington.

The most encouraging information that has come out of Washington recently is that the Supreme court of the District of Columbia has declared Harry F. Sinclair in contempt and sentenced him to six months in jail. It cannot be hoped that he will be brought to punishment soon for he is "an artful dodger" of penalties and will exhaust every expedient to avoid incarceration. But the decision of the court and pronouncing of sentence is an evidence of improvement in the judicial machinery of the District. In recent years the courts of the District have seemed more like refuges for criminals than temples of justice, and the new departure is a subject for public congratulation.

More than a year ago Mr. Sinclair was sentenced by another of the District of Columbia courts for contempt of the Senate in refusing to answer pertinent questions in the investigation of the Teapot Dome oil scandal. But by the easy but expensive process of appeal the sentence of three months in jail then imposed has been delayed until now and may not be enforced for some time to come. He will try even more strenuously to escape this time and may succeed for a long period. But he will have to pay the penalty in the end and his experience may serve the purpose of restraining other very wealthy criminals from violating the laws of the land, as they seem to be doing in the past.

In pronouncing sentence Judge Sidons said the act of Sinclair and his associates had a most "sinister aspect." Sinclair was on trial for conspiracy with former Secretary of the Interior Fall on a charge of conspiracy to rob the government in the lease of the oil reserve. The Supreme court of the United States had just previously pronounced the transaction as fraudulent and the evidence which had been presented indicated that conviction was inevitable. More for the purpose of stopping the trial than expectation of corrupting the jury the espionage of the jurymen was "indugated" and the purpose was "defiled." But instead of helping the criminals it has made their punishment certain.

It would be wise for both Mellon and Vare to study that ancient adage which tells what happens when rogues fall out.

Fisher's Equivocal Position.

It might be unjust to withhold from Governor John S. Fisher the full measure of praise that may be due him for the attitude he has assumed with respect to the controversy between chairman Mellon and Mr. Vare. Anxious to re-elect Dave Reed to the Senate, Mr. Mellon realizes that the cordial and possibly criminal support of Mr. Vare's organization is essential. To secure that he summoned Vare and the Governor to New York. Vare demanded that the Governor surrender his prerogatives and prostitute the powers of the administration to his sinister service. Mellon agreed to everything and Vare with an inflated chest went away satisfied.

The public reaction to this corrupt traffic in official service was vociferously adverse, and Governor Fisher timidly announced that he had "made no commitments." Vare's response to this was an announcement that he and Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, would assume control of the party programme not only for Philadelphia but for the entire State. Interpreting this as a declaration of war the Governor publicly declared "I don't care what others may do, but Vare shall not commit me or my office to any such thing; it is intolerable. This is a time to fight." As Vare and Mackey were equally positive in their declarations it may be said the war is on. May it continue to the point of extinction.

While the Governor is to be commended for the courage and conscience expressed in his declaration popular admiration will be modified to an extent by circumstances. He sat in the New York conference with Mellon and Vare and understood that the purpose of the meeting was to divide the favors of the party, after the fashion of a band of pirates, and entered no protest. He heard Mellon bargain away his functions and powers without a word of complaint. If the public had quietly accepted the conditions he might have silently acquiesced. But the storm aroused either his fears or his conscience and it is conjectural whether he is a hero or only "the goat."

—President Coolidge properly and freely exercises the women's privilege of changing his mind. In his annual message he said the afflicted people should pay part of the cost of the Mississippi control. Now he says the government should pay all.

Pinchot Declines to Run.

We own to a somewhat deep-seated feeling of regret that former Governor Gifford Pinchot has taken himself definitely out of the running for Senator in Congress this year. As a candidate for the Republican nomination against Dave Reed he might have contributed largely to "the gayety of nations." He knows so much about the iniquities of his party, is so familiar with the methods of the Mellons and the corrupt practices of the Vare machine that the announcement that he might enter the race inspired a hope that within this year of unusual political activity the people of Pennsylvania would come to see the light and turn in the direction of political righteousness.

An enticing invitation had been extended to Mr. Pinchot to assume the leadership of a mighty and militant force in a crusade for political morality. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers is a potent force in the industrial and civic life of the Commonwealth and it freely tendered him its hearty and enthusiastic support. Beyond the shadow of a doubt hundreds of thousands of Republicans, disgusted with the scandals of recent campaigns, were ready and anxious to join this forceful organization in a determined effort to dislodge a "corrupt and criminal combination, masquerading as the Republican party," from control of governmental agencies in Pennsylvania.

In taking himself out of the picture for the present Mr. Pinchot reveals no sign of a purpose to abandon his fight against political corruption. He is influenced by his course by an impression that the time is not auspicious. "The essential question at this moment," he writes, "is not whether I would make a good Senator but whether the decent people of Pennsylvania are ready to rise against and drive out the Mellon-Vare combination of unclean wealth and crooked politics that has overruled our people and for the time being dominates the State." Possibly the future may offer a better opportunity, but "delay is dangerous," and Mr. Pinchot forfeited a triumph once by not acting promptly.

—Secretary Mellon is opposed to levying State taxes on National bank shares, which calls to mind the fact that Mr. Mellon appears to be opposed to taxation on everything except small incomes.

What Will the Republicans Do at Kansas City.

From the Miami, Florida, Daily News.

In Ohio the official Republican party is backing for the presidential nomination the Senator who made the speech putting in nomination Warren C. Harding at the 1920 Republican convention. This same Senator is on record with the opinion that Harry M. Daugherty is "clean as a hound's tooth." To put it brutally, what looks to all the country like the same old "Ohio gang" is going to Kansas City to nominate another President.

In Indiana, the hat of Senator Jim Watson has been thrown into the ring. Watson means, in Indiana, what Willis means in Ohio. He is a part of the kind of politics now giving Indiana its present painful national publicity. His Indiana organization is Indiana's equivalent of the "Ohio gang."

These two candidates represent an effort and a determination to repeat at Kansas City what was so brilliantly performed at Chicago eight years ago. It is an effort to nominate a presidential candidate on the level of the nomination of that year and subject to exactly the same political influence and control. This brings us to a few pertinent remarks put forward by the Chicago Tribune, perhaps the most powerful of all newspaper supporters of the Republican party. The current oil scandals, a malodorous product of the "Ohio gang" dominance from 1920 on, have been getting on the nerves of the never over-sensitive Tribune. It, therefore, advances these belated opinions:

For the nation and particularly for the Republican party, there is a lesson to be learned from the whole miserable business. Fall was Harding's appointee and friend and Harding never should have been President of the United States. He was nominated by a convention which paid scant attention to the qualifications of the candidates before it. Of all the men before it, Harding was least qualified by character, attainment and association. Few could forecast his miserable career as President, but everyone knew his limitations, which alone should have barred him from serious consideration. Another Republican convention is to be held this year. We can hope that the delegates will come to it with a greater sense of responsibility to the nation and their party than was shown eight years ago.

While the Tribune, oppressed with shame at the record of the convention of 1920 and its still accumulating evil consequences is publishing this warning, we see the same elements which dominated that convention preparing to dominate the one soon to come. Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York—the same combination is under way in the hope of repeating its triumph of 1920.

Much Needed Improvements in Army Housing.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Few measures now before Congress are of greater urgency than a bill just introduced appropriating \$12,665,000 for army housing construction. Drafted by Representative James, of Michigan, as the result of a personal inspection covering all sections of the country, it promises belated relief of a discreditable and damaging situation.

That there has been shameful neglect in this matter is notorious. More than a year ago the Secretary of War told of thousands of officers and enlisted men and their families living in "wartime shacks, many of them utterly unfit for human habitation," declared conditions "a national disgrace." Last fall General Summerall, Chief of Staff, was rebuked by the President for telling the public that American troops were forced to endure the privations of prisoners of war, but the truth is that he performed a public service in calling attention to facts which constitute a reproach to the nation. At a committee hearing last week it was shown that soldiers in posts near New York are herded in overcrowded, ramshackle and unsanitary quarters, and General Summerall testified that conditions are equally deplorable throughout the United States.

To provide adequate housing for the army will take heavy expenditure, but the program cannot be pushed too energetically. It raises no issue of militarism, and is more urgent than any considerations of economy. For the sake of humanity and common decency this great and wealthy nation should at any cost repair the neglect which inflicts upon its defenders needless and inexcusable hardships.

—Blustery March is now with us and garden making time will be here before we realize it!

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The O. D. Musser store at South Philipsburg was entered recently by robbers who carried off much meat, flour and canned goods. They apparently used an automobile to haul away their loot.

—The National Transit Pump and Machine company, of Oil City, is placing orders for \$350,000 worth of new tools to enable it to turn out its products quicker and cheaper. The company is a subsidiary of the National Transit company.

—Mrs. Prudence Welch, 21, wife of William Welch, 23, of Castanea township, Clinton county, was killed on Monday, when struck by a bullet from a revolver her husband was cleaning. The husband declared he thought the gun to be unloaded, but is being held pending a coroner's inquest.

—Snyder county boasts that it has one of the youngest, if not the youngest, sheriffs in the State. He is Cyril F. Runkle, 26 years old. He served as a deputy under his father and when his father became ill he carried on the work of the office. At the expiration of his father's term he became a candidate for office and was elected.

—Because most of the Westmoreland county almshouse inmates are unable to eat bread crusts, Superintendent J. B. Robinson had new bread pans made for the bakery, which increases the size of the loaf by one half. He estimated that this innovation effected a saving of \$400 for the year 1927, notwithstanding the fact that 2,538 more meals were served in that year than in the preceding year.

—Private Fred E. Getzer, 25, of Troop B, state police, who was married in January to Miss Celeste Hoffman, of Harrisburg, died last Wednesday in the Wyoming barracks when he accidentally shot himself. Getzer was preparing to go on duty at midnight when the light service in Wyoming borough was cut off. He is believed to have been groping his way in the dark when his shoulder holster caught on something and his revolver was discharged.

—Raymond Daly, 88, a carpenter, collapsed from hunger on a street corner in Philadelphia, Friday night, although he had a \$5 bill in his pocket. Daly said he went to Philadelphia from Baltimore six months ago, but found it difficult to obtain work. Two weeks ago he sold some of his tools for \$20 but determined not to spend any of it until he obtained employment. Despite his growing weakness from lack of food Daly said he could not resist appeals made to him by men he met on the streets and gave away \$15 of his \$20.

—Edward Hickery, a member of the Chester school board, is minus a pair of trousers and \$250 in cash as the result of a visit by a burglar to his home on Broad street near Upland, early Saturday morning. Mrs. Hickery was awakened by someone walking in the hallway and aroused her husband. There were no lights, as the burglar had removed all bulbs from the sockets. After replacing the bulbs, Hickery discovered that his trousers, which he had hung on a hook in a closet near his bed, were missing, with \$250 which had been in a wallet in a pocket.

A bill to establish a fish cultural station and auxiliary stations in Pennsylvania has been introduced by Representative Kiess, of Williamsport. The measure has been indorsed by the Federal Bureau of Fisheries and by various game clubs throughout the State. The bill would have the Federal government take over the cultural station near Harrisburg and would establish an additional spawning station from which fish would be sent to sub-stations to be placed in streams. A station in New York State supplies the fish used in Pennsylvania streams at present.

—The Johnstown Traction company of Johnstown was made defendant in two suits in federal court, at Pittsburgh, Saturday, in which damages totaling \$40,000 were asked as the outgrowth of an accident in which a traction car and a truck figured. Mrs. Katie Stanislawczyk, whose husband, Joseph, according to her bill of complaint, was killed in the crash asked \$25,000. Stanislawczyk was the driver of the truck. Joseph Szczepanik, a helper, asked \$15,000 for injuries suffered. The accident, it was said, occurred December 24, 1927. The complainants charged negligence on the part of the traction company.

—A boy, identified as William, 12-year-old son of Arthur Bell, of Princeton, N. J., was found frozen to death in an empty freight car on the siding at the Armstrong Cork company, at Lancaster, Saturday morning. According to the police at Princeton and also at West Morrisville, where he entered the car 10 days ago, the boy ran away from home after being punished for being delinquent in his studies. Bruises on the body bore mute evidence of the boy's struggle to open the heavy steel door which sealed his tomb. One shoe and stocking were off, apparently removed by him to examine injuries he had sustained. Identification was made by clothing.

—Miss Ermine Elssler, a maiden lady, sixty years old, of Pottsville, who died last week leaving a fortune estimated at \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, left her entire estate to her chauffeur, James F. Curran, 40, and unmarried, of that city. Forty years ago, Miss Elssler's mother bought a piece of real estate on the outskirts of Miami for \$100, which investment was forgotten until the Florida boom started several years ago when the deed was found among some old papers of the mother, then deceased. The property was developed into the Princess Park addition of Miami, Fla. and was sold off in lots and netted a profit estimated at \$1,000,000. Miss Elssler was without relatives. Curran had been her chauffeur for the past three years.

—An estate with an estimated value of upwards of \$1,000,000, which was accumulated by a thrifty station agent for the Pennsylvania railroad, has been left to charity for the most part, the will of Martin J. Agan, prohibited, at Pittsburgh, revealed. Agan was formerly station agent at Cheswick. It suburbs. One hundred acres of land is given for a public park to be used by the residents of Springdale and Cheswick. Annuities of from \$50 to \$200 per month are given relatives and various sums ranging upward go to the Catholic church and several charitable institutions connected with the church. Two-thirds of the net income of the trust estate, except as otherwise provided for, also goes to charity. All of the testator's interests in his father's homestead at Blairville, Pa., is left to Rose A. Whitler and three nephews.