

INK SLINGS.

Parsons Weems dodged public condemnation a good while and no great harm would have been done if he had escaped it for all time.

From down in Florida comes the report that the fish "hop right into the boat" for the would-be Senator Vare. Down in Philadelphia they do the same. The "poor fish."

Gene Tunney has been challenged by three fighters and, being an accommodating gentleman, he has accepted all of them. The Marine could probably lick the trio all at the same time.

Here's hoping that nothing will be found that might arouse suspicion that the late President Harding was implicated in the scandal that is shaking the very foundations of the government.

The scarcity of Irishmen at the St. Patrick's day banquet of the Undines left the good Saint in the position of being patron to a large party that had no ancestral right to be "wearin' o' the green."

The prohibitionists of Wisconsin have endorsed Dr. C. W. Huntington, of Williamsport, for Vice President on their ticket. The gentleman will probably get the nomination, but what if he does? We have never heard of a candidate on the prohibition ticket even being accorded the solace of being listed among the "also rans."

Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior in the Harding cabinet, is said to be near death's door. He is the person around whom most of the Teapot Dome scandal focuses and has expressed a desire to tell all he knows. The former Secretary is a pathetic figure and probably realizes, now that it is too late, that the mistake he made was in the company he kept.

Of course we all deplore the slowing up in business and we all have our ideas as to its cause. We are not going to air ours just now. We are going to wait until things begin picking up again and then, if a single Republican undertakes to tell us that his party is to be given credit with the revival we are going to ask him whose party should shoulder responsibility for the depression that is being revived.

Senators Capper, of Kansas, and Borah, of Idaho, are kicking a lot of fellows out of the Republican party. My, how the two gentlemen would enjoy the job. There has been a long lane and they ought to be given the chance now that they have come to the turn in it.

The death of former Governor Sproul, which occurred at his home near Chester, Wednesday night, removes a rather notable figure from public life in Pennsylvania. Governor Sproul was a rich man, but it was never charged that he acquired his wealth in the political game.

Down in New Jersey public utility corporations cut off the service of patrons who have dogs that menace the meter readers when they visit the properties. We have always thought that the meter reader's job is a much easier one than that to which we fell heir, but we never took into consideration the dog menace. Now that we know that there is one all desire to be a meter reader has vanished. Three times during our life we have been "dog meat" and now, even a stuffed canine urges us into a burst of speed that makes the flight of Eliza over the ice when those bloodhounds were after her look like the progress of an ai.

After the war a Republican Congress spent two years in a vain endeavor to find a single case of misfeasance in office during a time when there were the greatest opportunities for unscrupulous men. In all the eight years of the Wilson administration not a governmental scandal arose to besmirch the country. Since then they have been dragged into the light with such frequency that those who are so alarmed at the growing disrespect of law might well look to other causes beside the Eighteenth amendment. While we are ready to admit that rascals are likely to turn up in all parties we little thought that the Republicans had such a majority of them.

The Hon. Holmes is plumping the nadir of his political expectations. Dr. Eubullent Ham thinks he's sitting on top of the political world. Jim Heverly says he's going to be nominated. There you have the latest dope on the fight of the three h's for a chance to be licked by Andrew Curtin Thompson when the ideo of November arrive in Centre county. Since last we made a paragraph out of him we have met Dr. Ham and might now write an entire page were it needed to fill up. He's an engaging sort of person, whose candor we admire and whose political unsophistication should be alarming—unto himself. He is a physicist and specializes on the ultra-violet ray. We didn't know that at the time we remarked that the three h's in the Republican race would likely raise a lot of h's. If we had we could have put a more superlative adjective into appropriate use. While the Doctor is not exactly a reticent person there were a few things we didn't find out so we took a chance on looking him up in "Who's Who in America." He's there, all right, but he's got to go through with a lot of political gymnastics in April and November before he gets into Who's Who in Centre county.

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Evils that Mean Disaster.

In an address delivered before the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, at Philadelphia on the natal day of that revered saint, Senator Joseph T. Robinson, of Arkansas, said: "Propaganda by secret agencies, legislation cunningly drafted and sanctimoniously proposed by selfish interests, intimidation or promise of preferment of public officials, the readiness of influential section of the press to serve base purposes, apparent indifference of the public to dishonest or corrupt practices, intolerance and all its leathsome brood—ignorance, falsehood and oppression which may come close before its existence is generally recognized."

All these evils are already present and assiduously working their destroying results. The zero election districts in Philadelphia and the empty ballot boxes in Pittsburgh are manifestations of the wickedness of party machines and the "indifference of the public to dishonest or corrupt practices." The vast expenditure of tainted money to buy public office for unfit candidates, pledged to sinister purposes, is made possible by the same influence, and the cruel destitution in the soft coal regions of Pennsylvania and the crimes of violence in the anthracite coal fields are the fruits of promises of preferment and protection made by venal politicians who have acquired power by fraud.

Recent exposures have called attention to these lamentable conditions, but it remains to be seen whether they have aroused the public conscience to the point of resentment. National chairman Butler and Secretary of the Treasury Mellon have shown no signs of relinquishing their control of the party responsible and except for Senator Borah, no signs of penitence or improvement has been revealed. President Coolidge, who derived the greatest benefit from the Sinclair contribution, has not said a word, and Herbert Hoover, who sat in council with the guilty cabinet officers, is as silent as the grave.

They are still hunting up Democratic candidates for President, thus increasing the probabilities of a convention dead lock.

Duty of Newspaper Editors.

The most valuable asset of the Republican machine in Pennsylvania is a group of newspapers, professing to be Democratic, which traduce men of their own party, for one reason or another, who aspire to party favor or public service. Every newspaper editor is entitled to a free choice of candidates for office, just as every other man or woman exercises that right. But because he favors one candidate is no reason why he should vilify another. If the candidate of his choice is nominated he expects not only the newspapers which preferred another candidate but all voters of the party to support him or her. It is only fair, therefore, that he should be equally amenable to the rules of his party.

It is a lamentable fact that certain newspapers in this State are constantly denouncing distinguished members of their party who are aspiring for nominations to high office, thus creating prejudices which cannot be removed in the event the candidate they opposed happens to be nominated. Political organizations are precisely like all other associations of men and women. There is on the part of each one a moral obligation to be loyal to the others. If this obligation is violated the organization necessarily deteriorates and the opposition reaps an advantage, great or small, according to the influence of the recalcitrant on public sentiment. Whoever is nominated at Houston is entitled to the cordial support of the friends of the disappointed candidates.

Every newspaper in Pennsylvania professing to represent Democratic principles is at full liberty to eulogize his favorite candidate for any office to be filled. But in doing so there is neither reason nor wisdom in traducing rival candidates. An editor or other individual trying to prove to-day that he slandered a fellow man yesterday presents a poor spectacle to public view. But that unhappy spectacle may be presented in several counties in Pennsylvania after the Houston convention has gone into history. The alternative is to help the Republican machine in its manifest purpose to continue its criminal record in Washington for "four years more."

Whatever else comes out of the oil scandal it may be set down as certain that Harry Sinclair "has got himself disliked."

The sweater makers of Brooklyn have formed an organization and this may cause shivers throughout the country.

Senator Borah's Futile Enterprise.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, appears to have persuaded himself that a plea of nolle contendere will serve to lift an "obligation of shame" which has been imposed upon the Republican party through certain transactions of its accredited leaders with Harry F. Sinclair. In an appeal issued recently to the Republican voters of the country to raise, by popular subscription, a fund sufficient to "return to Harry F. Sinclair the \$160,000 in bonds which he secretly contributed to the Republican National committee's deficit in 1923," he states that \$5500 has already been subscribed and professes to believe that if the full amount is secured and paid to Sinclair, the party will be completely whitewashed.

By a singularly perfidious trick Mr. Sinclair stole from a group of equally crooked conspirators a bunch of Liberty bonds so large that he had to employ a "fence" to dispose of them. The Republican National committee, being heavily in debt and Sinclair being under heavy obligations to the party leaders, he appointed former chairman Hays as "fence," and authorized him to dispose of the bonds and use the money thus acquired to pay the committee's debts. It was altogether a curiously complicated piece of rascality, involving nearly all the active leaders of the Republican party, including two members of the President's cabinet and the chairman of the National committee.

In view of these fully established facts the collection of \$160,000 by popular subscription and paying it to Mr. Sinclair will not absolve the Republican party from responsibility for the most atrocious crime against the people of the United States perpetrated within recent years. All that can possibly be accomplished by Senator Borah's undertaking is the stultification of all concerned in it, for the reason that they are trying to protect criminals from the just penalties of their crimes. The only way to restore public confidence in the Republican party is to drive out of its management every person concerned in the Sinclair operation, including secretary Mellon and chairman Butler.

A good memory will recall the fact that Senator Curtis, of Kansas, was somewhat "mixed up" with the deal between Sinclair and Secretary Fall.

Harding's Estate to be Investigated.

The oil investigation has finally cast a shadow over the reputation of the late President Harding. Senator Nye, of North Dakota, Republican, chairman of the committee, in announcing the purpose to investigate the estate of the late President said: "There would be a lack of satisfaction if this committee submits a report to the Senate without it determines whether there were any Continental bonds involved in the estate of President Harding." At the same time he expressed confidence that none will be found. But the suspicion is present and persistent. It is remembered that about the time these bonds were being hawked about Mr. Harding's small-town newspaper was sold at an absurdly inflated value.

It may also be recalled that after his death the estate of President Harding was appraised at a surprisingly high figure. His life work had been conducting a small-town newspaper with reasonable success. He served a term as Lieutenant Governor of Ohio on a salary which probably left little after his expenses were paid. He served one term as Senator in Congress at a salary which has since been declared inadequate to cover the cost of the service. It is true that he was neither a spend-thrift nor a miser. It is hard to figure how, under the circumstances, he could accumulate an estate of upward of a million dollars, though that was the amount reported by the appraisers.

President Harding was known as "an easy going" fellow, fond of life and given to rational enjoyments. Such men usually accept money as it comes without much inquiry or concern as to its source and the iniquitous "Ohio crowd," feeling under obligations to him for its prosperity, may have put something over on him which will cast a cloud over his reputation for integrity. But even if the proposed investigation does reveal some of the Sinclair tainted bonds among the assets of his estate no one will believe him guilty of any crime involving moral turpitude. Public opinion will hold him more deserving of sympathy than blame, which cannot be said of his associates.

The Pennsylvania relief department paid to employees and their dependents the vast sum of \$46,635.284 during 1927.

Harry Sinclair ought to be willing to give a few dollars to the Borah reimbursement fund.

Appropriate Name for Hays.

Senator Caraway, of Arkansas, correctly and appropriately labeled former Republican national chairman and Postmaster General Will Hays a "fence" for the loot fraudulently acquired by Harry Sinclair. In a speech delivered in the Senate, the other day, the Arkansas Senator said "no one that believes that men of intelligence do not act without information, has any doubt but that they knew where the bonds came from and what the purpose of Mr. Hays was in handing them around. The most that could be said for Mr. Hays is to say that he was a 'fence,' that he knew that certain goods were stolen goods and he was trying to help the thief find a market for them."

It must be equally clear to all thoughtful persons that Secretary Mellon knew where the bonds offered to him by Hays came from, and that because of his understanding they were returned to Hays. That being obvious the return of the bonds was not a complete fulfillment of his moral obligation as a high official of the government and a good citizen. It was his duty to report to the Senate committee investigating the disposition of the stolen goods that at least a considerable part of them were in the possession of Will Hays, who in hawking them about had offered them to him. If he had done this promptly the work of clearing up a mystery and exposing a scandal would have been greatly helped.

The truth is that the Republican administration at Washington and the Republican organization of the country are in this disgraceful scandal. Having obtained the bonds through fraud Harry Sinclair was anxious to get them off his hands. He employed part of them to bribe Secretary of the Interior Fall and used Hays as a "fence" to dispose of those remaining. Secretary Mellon might have cleared his skirts and national chairman Butler might have exculpated himself by declaring to the Senate committee the information that had come to them through Hays. But party exigencies required silence and party prejudice had stronger appeal than moral principles.

If the Public Service Commission grants the request of the Pennsylvania Railroad company the morning train on the Lewisburg and Tyrone railroad will be taken off on or about April 1st. The company has contended for some time that it has been losing money on the operation of this train. There is practically no traffic of consequence on the train when it leaves Bellefonte at six o'clock in the morning and returning here at 4:20 in the evening the most it carries are the Harrisburg newspapers and the mail matter from Pennsylvania and State College. So far as the papers are concerned, they can be brought to Bellefonte by way of Lock Haven and would reach here at 5:02 instead of 4:20. But so far as the mail matter is concerned, that would be a more important matter. It would mean a delay of at least fifteen hours in all mails coming out of Pennsylvania or from State College, with no possible way of overcoming it. This matter will probably be given consideration when the question comes before the Public Service Commission for a decision.

Philadelphia and Boston experts in public utility undertakings were in Bellefonte during the fore part of the week making a general survey of the proposed gas plant for Bellefonte and State College. It is reported that they were very favorably impressed with the outlook and its assurance seems probable.

Senator Capper, of Kansas, declares the record of the Republican party is "slimy, odorous and reeking with corruption," yet he zealously supports the leaders responsible for that condition.

It may be of importance to know that Charles R. Forbes received his distinguished service medal before he was sent to the penitentiary and not after he came out as reported in the newspapers.

Spring is here. Don't cheer too much, for in two months December is likely to be trying to kid us into thinking it's as pleasant as May. That's what we had to go through last year.

The Republican aspirants for the nomination for Legislature drew for places on the primary ballot on Tuesday. Holmes will be first, Heverly second and Ham third.

Senator Capper, of Kansas, has a better idea of discharging "an obligation of shame" than Borah's. The Kansan would "throw the rascals out."

"Average Good Business."

From the Pittsburgh Press. The National City bank of New York, as a result of a survey of the entire country, comes to the conclusion that there is no apparent hindrance to "an average amount of good business during the year." This great financial institution is conservative in its opinions. It does not paint a rosy misleading future when facts do not warrant. Its views, therefore, need not be looked at as doubtful of progress and increased employment, but rather as a caution to industry not to engage in over-expansion as a result of mushroom booms.

This is sane advice. Inflation either of employment or plant expansion brings its penalties, more severe in the dislocations they impel, than the even tenor of "average good business." The National City bank does, however, see a year of gradual improvement, not to be brought about by any magic but through the soundness of this country's year. Money for investment is plentiful, and it will seek outlets. This means the paving of the way for "projects whose carrying forward involves employment of labor and consumption of materials," to again quote the bank's review. It brings out the point that so long as the world's wants are unfulfilled and the need for production to meet them exists, there "will be no limit to the possible expansion of industry and trade."

What capitalist and worker are primarily interested in is steady improvement, steps taken properly in their turn, and not in the spirit of feverishness which brings its later penalties. Financial institutions do well to warn against expectation of any sudden entrance into Utopia.

The presidential year's specter is being discarded rapidly by business as something curtailing movement. No candidate is to be chosen by either of the two majority parties will bring to the White House revolutionary theories related either to business or government.

As the construction period opens up with the coming of spring there is certain to be a better time, in which men will earn more, have more to spend, and thus revolve money about the circle and aid in the stabilization of conditions. This is the ideal of "average good business," which meets the demands of all classes.

Everywhere, even in the midst of unemployment and semi-depression, men are saying that this to be a "better year." That spirit alone is destined to be an assistance, for it creates confidence.

Senator Walsh's Candidacy.

From the Charleston News and Courier. An able, accomplished and honest man is Thomas J. Walsh, Senator from Montana, who has entered the contest for President. His name has been placed on the ballots in California by William G. McAdoo and his followers. Senator Walsh is a dry. Mr. Walsh is one of those men who can address an audience of average intelligence for an hour on the tariff, on the League of Nations or any other important subject, hold its attention and inform it without telling stale jokes or indulging in cheap humor. He is a student, thoroughgoing and sagacious. He is aggressive and indefatigable, as the oil rascals and other varieties of rascal well know. In the period before, during and after the World war he was a supporter of the Woodrow Wilson policies.

The short of it is that Thomas J. Walsh is one of the strongest and best Democrats in America. His candidacy will arouse the same terror and anger in the Tom Heflins that Governor Smith's does, because he also is a Roman Catholic, but the circumstance that he enters the contest encouraged by Mr. McAdoo and his friends is sufficient evidence, were evidence needed, that the Heflin element is negligible in the national Democratic party.

Each Victim of Greed.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. Interstate Commerce Commissioner Esch, beaten for reconfirmation at the hands of the Senate, is a victim of the greed of the worst bipartisan group that has ever traded away the prosperity of a great industry for a few dirty dollars.

And worst of all, in this group of slimy lobbyists are a band of wealthy Pennsylvanians who demand the last penny of profit from Southern coal fields rather than a little less for themselves and a square deal for Pennsylvania mines and mine workers.

Esch was dismissed by the Senate because he favored a fair freight rate for Pennsylvania coal. The South had long enjoyed an unfair differential at the expense of Pennsylvania—a rate that plunged the Pennsylvania mines into their present deplorable state, ruined financial backers and threw thousands of workmen out of employment.

Andy Mellon may not have encouraged the Sinclair contribution to the Republican campaign fund, but he was certainly "accessory after the fact."

The "Watchman" is the most readable paper published. Try it.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Ludwig C. Tross, of Johnstown, former Cambria county delinquent tax collector, was sentenced, on Monday, to make restitution, pay the costs, and serve from two and one half to five years in jail after he pleaded guilty to embezzling \$36,000 of county funds.

A fund of \$50,000 was left by the will of Mrs. Alice R. Russ, widow of Patrio Russ, late Harrisburg hotel owner, for the foundation of a home for aged women in Harrisburg. The estate is valued at \$425,000, and James C. Ryan, of Schenectady, and the Commonwealth Trust company are named executors.

Believed dead three years, Harry A. Blankenmyer, 37, has returned to his home in Lancaster. He says that three years ago he was without money and without a place to sleep. He walked to Reading, joined the navy and was sent to South American waters. Mrs. Charles Baldwin, Philadelphia, the man's mother, always refused to believe he was dead.

The State Health Department has announced that during the year 1927 not a single case of small-pox originated in this State. There were but seventeen cases reported every one of which was imported. There were no deaths from this cause. This is the lowest record ever established in Pennsylvania and is nearly 50 per cent lower than the record of 1926 which then set a new low point.

Formal acceptance of his election as president of Susquehanna University has been forwarded by Rev. G. Morris Smith, of Buffalo. He has advised Senator Charles Steele, chairman of the executive committee, that he will move to Sellingsgrove about May 1 and his inauguration has been arranged tentatively as a high light of the commencement season, which will end on June 11.

Within a period of only twenty-three years, Curt Reeser, of York, Pa., who is just twenty-three years old, has been enrolled on the patient list of hospitals and sanatoriums exactly thirteen times. He is at present confined to the West Side sanatorium, at York, with an injury to the thigh of his right leg. The majority of Mr. Reeser's sessions with hospital attaches and surgeons have been the result of accidents.

Sentence has been withheld on petition of defense counsel in the case of Captain David E. Miller, of Greensburg, commanding officer of the State highway patrol in that district, found guilty of malfeasance in office. Counsel indicated a new trial would be asked. The officer was found guilty Saturday in connection with charges that he had caused reduction of a charge brought against a motorist. Miller was found not guilty of conspiring to defeat justice.

Thirty-two of the forty years that the Rev. Dr. A. M. Mehrkam has spent in the ministry have been spent in the services of St. John's Lutheran church, at Columbia. Sunday Dr. Mehrkam celebrated the preaching of his first sermon there, March 18, 1888, when he was then a student in the Mount Airy theological seminary. After serving the church twenty-one years Dr. Mehrkam accepted a call to the Lutheran church at Rochester, where he served eight years and then returned to St. John's.

Thomas J. Ayres, an automobile dealer, of Lewistown, and G. D. Hetrick, former assistant cashier of the Millin County bank, in Lewistown, were fined and paroled for one year when they entered pleas of guilty in Federal court, at Scranton, on Monday, to misappropriating \$4,500 of the Millin bank funds in 1925. Ayres, who figured in a similar charge with a McVoytown bank, was fined \$300 and Hetrick \$100. It was charged by the government that Ayres engineered a "check kiting" scheme that involved a number of banks.

The demand for ring neck pheasants by the State game commission is so great that the markets will not provide the number desired, so the commission decided today that it will propagate the pheasants by hatching them in the game preserves. Ordinary barnyard hens will be used in the hatching. Ten thousand eggs will be distributed to the referees and game protectors who will be instructed how to care for them after they have been placed with the hens for incubation. Five thousand of the eggs will come from the New York State game commission.

Colonel Charles Lindbergh will have to make a few more goodwill flights if he expects to cover in his world-famous plane the distance that Samuel Masemer, a York, Pa., street car motorman, has traveled in the past twenty years. Masemer has been motorman on the trolley line between that city and Hanover since it was established twenty years ago. The rail distance between those two points is twenty miles each way. He makes five trips daily, averaging 2000 trips a year. The veteran motorman has rounded out over 73,000 trips for an aggregate distance of 1,400,000 miles. He has traveled over the same territory so often he says he knows every fence post along the line.

His neck broken almost three years ago, Rody P. Marshall, Jr., 17, who through his injury became acquainted with several well known sports idols and was a familiar figure at National league baseball games in recent years, died at his home in Pittsburgh on Sunday night. The boy was injured while diving in shallow water at Narragansett, R. I., and until recently seemed to be regaining his strength, although he was confined to a bed and admirer of Babe Ruth, Bobby Jones and others of the sport realm, was visited by those notables when they were in Pittsburgh. Marshall's keen interest in the Pittsburgh Pirates and their interest in him was credited to some extent with prolonging his fight for life.

Victor Lingle, 37, patrolman of the Lewistown police force, died Saturday afternoon at the Lewistown hospital from injuries sustained when run down by an automobile driven by Joseph Stenley, 42, humane officer for Millin and Juniata counties a month ago. Citizens of Reidsville reported a woman kidnaped, thrown into a car in which there were several drunken persons and driven at high speed in the direction of Lewistown. Lingle took his post at the foot of Stratford's Hill and was struck. The impact broke the steel frame of his heavy service revolver and bent his mace almost double. His body was driven into a sewer inlet. It was Stenley's claim that his brakes would not work. Stenley is under \$1000 bail. Chief of Police S. E. Peck said that there is evidence that Stenley had made his brags that "he would get Lingle."