

INK SLINGS.

Baseball teams are leaving their southern training camps for the trip north. Spring must be here.

The news that an enduring peace may be made in the Balkan states is almost "too good to be true."

From the way stocks are being run up we are inclined to believe that Wall street is getting ready to flood the market with spring lamb.

The wild geese came north last week. The others who went to Florida to get rich will be along just as soon as they can raise the car fare.

Times are supposed to be getting hard and just because they are supposed to be everybody is tighten' up for fear of getting stuck. Everything but the onion and it knows it's going to be stuck in a very few days.

Mr. Ford is to be called in to help solve the Pennsylvania bituminous coal problem. The automobile manufacturer says he pays eight dollars a day in his mines and keeps them going profitably. Possibly he does, but it is also possible that he consumes all of his own coal and therefore has no marketing problem.

We are informed that the ladies of the hospital auxiliary declined the honor of sponsoring the new drive for funds for the institution. The gentlemen of the hospital had the bullets all ready. Ladies are said to be taking the ground that if they are expected to do all the shooting they'll make their own bullets.

The New York boxing commission is about to suspend Gene Tunney because he won't defend his title as New York champion. Mr. Tunney is the champion heavy-weight of the world. Inasmuch as the world comprehends a few square miles of territory outside the confines of the Empire State the champ would be a moron were he to let the tail wag the dog.

Really, we must go out more. At a banquet, a few nights ago, we noticed that the erudite are drinking soup from the cup. As we have intimated we had been off such functions so long that we just naturally went on teasing ours into the far side of the spoon and struggling to get it out of the near side without a gurgler or the suggestion to those at our elbow that we were trying to inhale it.

The ministerial gentleman from Benton, Pa., who remitted and wrote that he did so "so that hereafter when you say anything I don't like I can call you for it with a clear conscience," is entirely too considerate. Readers don't usually stop to figure out whether they owe the paper anything when they have the urge to "call" the editor. In fact "calling" the editor is the favorite pastime of a lot of folks who we hope get as much "kick" out of it as we do.

Earl Carroll, the New York impresario of "bath-tub" fame, is out of the federal penitentiary and his term of parole has ended. He says: "My lesson was a bitter one. The government need have no fear of my future conduct. It has changed my whole life and things I once considered important are no longer of the slightest importance." Carroll probably now intends turning his wonderful creative talents to lifting the stage out of the depths of debauchery into which he helped plunge it. If that is what he means to do he will soon discover that his imprisonment was really a blessing in disguise.

Inasmuch as we haven't said much about it this spring we know you will indulge us long enough to remark that the edge will be off the fishing season in sixteen days. No matter what others may think, our idea of the trout fishing is just another of those things in which anticipation carries a thousand more thrills than the realization. From the thirty-first of July until the fifteenth of April our mind is one of hopeful anticipation. From the fifteenth of April until the thirty-first of July it is harassed with disappointment. The days we can get out on the stream it's too windy, the water's muddy or the fish are not feeding. The days when business keeps us in the office the other fellow comes in with the limit.

Marion, Virginia, is said to have a marvelous band for a town of its size. Marion is smaller than Bellefonte, but it has a musical organization worthy of a large city. We have often referred to the band that we once heard in McCook, Nebraska, another little town. That organization played up beside the big concert bands of the country and suffered little by comparison. In McCook the band was the town hobby. Nature didn't give McCook a Big Spring or big trout to point to with pride so the people there rallied to the support of a band so good that it would make the town famous and it did. Down in Marion, Virginia, Sherwood Anderson, novelist and short story writer, goaded Kiwanis into supporting a musical organization worthwhile. The result has been syndicated stories that tell of the Marion band and are published in thousands of papers all over the United States. Many individuals have tried it. The Undines tried it. The Odd Fellows have tried it. All with indifferent success. Maybe Kiwanis could give Bellefonte a really good band. Certainly nothing the organization could do would contribute more to the pleasure of all.

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Another Borah Futility.

Senator Borah expresses his approval of Secretary Kellogg's "multilateral treaty" proposal with such enthusiasm that the impression that the Idaho Senator rather than the Minnesota diplomatist, is the real author of the plan is forced. Its purpose is to bind France, Great Britain, Italy, Germany, Japan and the United States into an agreement "not to resort to war with one another," and Mr. Borah is persuaded that it "would inaugurate a new epoch in international relations." Such a treaty certainly ought to have that effect. No such combination of forces against war has ever been formed in the past and unless it were regarded as a "mere scrap of paper" it would give that hideous monster, war, a rough road to travel in the future.

In giving his endorsement to the enterprise Senator Borah says, "nothing could be more important for mankind than a frontal attack on the institution of war by six great powers. If these governments would lay the axe at the root of the tree, refuse any longer to recognize war as legitimate and declare nations criminals who engage in this super-crime, the effects upon the people of the entire world would be stupendous. Their pent-up hopes and aspirations for peace would be released and they would demand that every conceivable kind of international dispute be settled without resort to violence. Hardly any person will dispute the accuracy of this appraisal, though most of us might express our views in less ponderous form.

But the trouble is that the multilateral treaty proposed by Secretary Kellogg and endorsed by Senator Borah is expressed in language that makes its adoption practically impossible, precisely as the reservations incorporated in the ratifications of the World Court kept us out of that peace-making process. It proposes to make the obligation on all the other signatory powers absolute, but gives the United States license to acquiesce or refuse according to pleasure, prejudice or whim. Naturally the other powers will be unwilling to sign away sovereign rights if the United States assumes this attitude and the multilateral treaty becomes as futile as Mr. Borah's absurd scheme to "lift an obligation of shame" by presenting Harry Sinclair a donation.

At the present rate of progress Senator Borah may raise the Sinclair reimbursement fund within a period of one hundred years.

Cunningham Slated for Jail.

At last hope dawns that Tom Cunningham, arrogant, impudent and odious Philadelphia bosslet, will be brought to just punishment. The other day Senator King, of Utah, introduced a resolution directing the sergeant-at-arms of the Senate to take him into custody on a charge of "contempt of the Senate," an offense punishable by imprisonment in the jail of the District of Columbia. The offense was committed more than a year ago but for some reason nothing has been done about it since. Now that the court of the District has convicted Harry Sinclair and held Colonel Stewart, of the Indiana Standard Oil company, for trial, the Senate feels certain that even an alleged Philadelphia crook is amenable to the law.

In February last year Mr. Cunningham testified before the Senate Slush Fund committee that he had contributed \$50,000 to Bill Vore's primary campaign fund. He was a clerk of the quarter sessions court of Philadelphia on a salary of \$8000 a year, and the generosity of his contribution aroused suspicion as to its source. An attempt to get an explanation met with great difficulty. He dodged the subpoena server for several weeks, to the infinite enjoyment of the Philadelphia machine, and when he finally yielded to the inevitable flatly refused to tell where he got the \$50,000. The suspicion is that it was collected from the bootleggers, gamblers, thieves and prostitutes of Philadelphia.

Money obtained from such sources is not much cleaner than bonds contributed by Harry Sinclair out of the profits of the Teapot Dome oil lease, and with his perverted notion of morality Cunningham preferred to take chances of punishment rather than completely wreck Vore's ambition to be the Senator. He probably reasoned that in any event the party leaders would protect him as far as possible, and that a nominal fine could easily be financed from the source the big contribution came. He has since been promoted to the more lucrative office of sheriff, but it is doubtful if his expectation will be fulfilled. Decent people everywhere will hope that he "gets all that's coming to him."

Governor Al Smith may never be President but he has certainly stirred up some of the Senators.

Former Secretary Fall Has Promised Facts.

The public will wait more or less patiently for the statement former Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall, has promised, concerning the lease of the Teapot Dome oil reserve to Harry F. Sinclair. "Mr. Fall is willing to testify whenever his health will permit," according to a statement made by his wife at El Paso, Texas, the other day. "If he isn't able to go to Washington for the trial scheduled April 22, and his testimony is desired, he is willing that it be taken here." To this pledge Mr. Fall is said to have assented with a declaration that he is "not only willing but anxious to testify. I am not afraid of the facts," he added, "they will bear out my acts."

The expectation thus expressed that his evidence will justify his part in a conspiracy to betray public interests will arouse suspicion in many minds that he has devised a plausible alibi which will deceive the public. He had two opportunities to "tell the truth and the whole truth," but declined on the ground that "his evidence might incriminate him." Increasing age and multiplying infirmities may have led him to the opinion that concealment is no longer worthwhile, but his language doesn't indicate such a frame of mind. He is apparently still hopeful of vindication, and as he is an able, experienced and resourceful lawyer nobody can tell "what he has up his sleeve."

Still it might have been advisable for the committee which is conducting the investigation to go to New Mexico and take his statement. Many surprising features of this great crime against the country have been exposed by skillful grilling of unwilling witnesses, and if Mr. Fall is a willing witness the whole truth might have been brought out. It is certain that he knows all about the matter in mind. He had a leading part in the conspiracy from the beginning and got a large share of the loot. Like Secretary Mellon and chairman Butler, he has remained silent a long time and his silence as well as theirs has retarded the progress of the inquiry. But he may have changed his mind.

Mr. Schwab thinks the wages of labor ought to be determined by the law of supply and demand. But he continues to advocate the theory that the price of commodities ought to be regulated by tariff legislation.

Source of the Burden of Shame.

Nearly a month has elapsed since Senator Borah undertook to "lift a burden of shame" from the Republican party by presenting Harry Sinclair \$160,000, easy money, and he has only raised about five per cent of the amount. Possibly when Mr. Blackmar and Mr. O'Neil return from Europe they will "chip-in" sufficiently to equalize Sinclair's contribution. If each of them would give \$50,000 and Borah raise say \$10,000 for reimbursement purposes, Sinclair would only be out \$50,000 and the Teapot Dome oil lease would have been worth a hundred times that amount to him if his conspiracy with Secretary of the Interior Fall had not been interfered with by meddling Senators.

Assuming that the "burden of shame" was imposed on Senator Borah's party by a conspiracy in which Sinclair, Blackmar, O'Neil and Stewart participated, it is only fair that those who got the bacon should pay the expense. Mr. Stewart solemnly swears that he got no profit out of the Corinental bond transaction but it has been pretty clearly shown that Sinclair, Blackmar and O'Neil each got approximately \$750,000 out of it. Out of Sinclair's share some \$250,000 were paid to Fall and \$160,000 to the Republican slush fund, making a total of \$410,000, cutting his net profit to \$340,000. But he expected vast profits out of the Teapot Dome lease. In that the possibilities were unlimited.

It is a principle of law that an accessory to a crime is as culpable as the perpetrator. In the disposal of the Liberty bonds acquired by Sinclair from the Continental Trading company Will Hays, the "fence," took into his confidence Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, Secretary of War Weeks, chairman of the National committee Butler and other Republican leaders. The "burden of shame" which Senator Borah refers to is this transaction. The only way to lift it is to repudiate those concerned in it, directly or indirectly. Mellon, Butler and all the others still living are as active in the leadership of the party now as they were then. Senator Borah is aiming at the wrong target.

The Racing Commission of Maryland, having barred Harry Sinclair from all race tracks in that State, the Presbyterian General Assembly might properly do something to Elder Will Hays.

Couzens, Republican, Demands Mellon's Scalp.

It may have been inspired by an old grudge but in any event the resolution introduced by Senator Couzens, of Michigan, practically demanding the resignation of Secretary of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon, as essential to the restoration of the Republican party to public confidence, is likely to make the party leaders "sit up and take notice." Of course, it is only a gesture which both the President and Mr. Mellon may ignore. A similar resolution directed to Secretary of the Navy Denby was offered in, and adopted by, the Senate following the exposure of the Teapot Dome oil lease four or five years ago. But President Coolidge paid no attention and Denby continued his stupid service.

But the conditions were somewhat different then. The oil lease scandal aroused a good deal of popular indignation, even at that early period of its development, but the blame was limited to a few conspirators and the Secretary of the Navy was generally regarded as a victim, rather than a participant in the transaction. But Secretary Mellon is not so stupid and his explanation of his concealment of the whereabouts of the tainted Liberty bonds contributed by Harry F. Sinclair to the Republican National Committee failed signally to persuade public sentiment that he was blameless in the matter. His silence on the subject clearly made him "accessory after the fact" to Hays' crime.

It is freely admitted by Senator Borah, Senator Capper and other prominent leaders of the Republican party that the Sinclair-Hays affair has enveloped the party in "an obligation of shame" which must be removed before the coming Presidential election. It is equally certain that that result cannot be achieved if Andrew W. Mellon continues as the dominant figure and the controlling force in the councils of the organization. It is an open secret that his influence will determine which of the several aspirants will be nominated at the Kansas City convention unless some of the feathers are plucked out of his "head gear," and his prompt removal from office is the only remedy.

From all indications the hearing to be held in the court house, at 9:30 o'clock on Wednesday morning of next week, before representatives of the Public Service Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission, in connection with the application of the Bellefonte Central Railroad company for permission to build six miles of road from State College to Fairbrook, will be an interesting proceeding and attract a large crowd of interested persons. State College people will especially be heard from, as the hearing will probably settle the question of better railroad facilities for that town. A decision in favor of the Bellefonte Central will mean the building of the connecting link between that road and the Fairbrook branch, thus giving State College a direct line to Tyrone and all points east and west.

Since there is so much opposition to capital punishment what would be the matter with sentencing the murderers to do the pioneering in such scientific research as trans-oceanic flying and pilgrimages to Mars. To soften the sentence a bit it might be stipulated that if they should reach their destination they should never attempt to get back.

Without authority to speak on the subject it is a safe guess that Secretary Mellon will not resign. Controlling the vast resources of the Treasury is an enticing job, and the Mellons never relinquish good things.

Liberalism is its own recompense as well as "virtue is its own reward." In 1923 Secretary Mellon gave \$50,000 to the Republican slush fund and in 1925 a Republican Congress reduced his income tax \$300,000.

Charlie Schwab told the Senate committee the other day that he "had never received any money" for his work. Probably he got stocks and bonds in big bundles.

It would be impossible to convince some people that the First amendment to the Federal constitution is quite as binding as the Eighth.

The continued boom in stocks on the New York exchange has made brokers and their clerks tired and most other people weary.

Mr. Hoover still holds the lead in straw votes but nominations for President are not made by that process.

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After All, a Storm Does Clear the Air.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Some of our Republican contemporaries are in a state of painful agitation over certain excesses in the pursuit of facts, near-facts and fictions concerning the oil scandal. Deeply afflicted are they, and bitter their cries, by reason of "malicious gossip," "wanton slanders," "character assassination" and other tendencies which suggest to them a revival of the witch-burning delusions of old. That there is some cause for these complaints it would be idle to deny. Perhaps because the chase so long was fruitless the achieving of results has led some of the huntsmen into highly speculative bypaths, which they have been beating with more enthusiasm than judgment. Thus we have had ardent demands for the dispatch of a subcommittee to Canada; innuendoes that Governor Smith was a beneficiary of oil contributions; the edict that the hoofs of Sinclair's horses shall not sully the race tracks of Maryland; rhetorical demands for the resignation of Secretary Mellon, and indeed, of President Coolidge and his entire cabinet; charges that the Democratic campaign treasury exudes the odors of tainted wealth; a solemn inquisition to determine whether a President shared in the gains of an illicit transaction; even official notice of an exciting fable that a Judge had received a package of oil bonds—a consent which turned out to be Christmas cards.

Yet there are one or two circumstances which mitigate the heinousness of these extravagances. In the first place, the ingenuity and the hardihood of the real offenders and their accomplices have presented so affronting a challenge to the Government, the Courts and public opinion that they have awakened an implacable determination to enforce decency, and have created a profound distrust even of innocent appearances. In the second place, there have been as many Democratic as Republican victims of unjust aspersions, and with infinitely less warrant, in recklessness and venom, perhaps, the spokesmen for the party of Fall have won supremacy. And finally, deplorable as some of the manifestations have been, they have arisen from instincts that have a wholesome aspect.

If charges have been loosely made, if reputations have been heedlessly attacked, it is because the public and its honest representatives have been sickened and infuriated beyond endurance, not only by official and political corruption, but by a conspiracy of silence among those who should have been the first to condemn the outrages. It is regrettable, indeed, that the inquiry has exceeded the bounds of decency, and that the discussion has bespattered upright men. But those who have been unfairly attacked will survive, and meanwhile some who would have escaped less wrathful pursuit have suffered the discredit they richly deserve. And, finally, an indiscriminate blast of indignation may be at times a sign of moral vigor. Though here and there it may scorch a sensitive and unhardened skin, it is a healthier symptom than public indifference or cynicism, and far more attractive than the attitude of evasion and silence and toleration towards criminality which has been exhibited by some of those responsible for safeguarding the nation's welfare and honor.

Commission's Task.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record.

In the latest session of the Election Law Commission held in Philadelphia, numerous suggestions were made in addition to the many made in previous sessions. The Commission has been so bombarded with so many points of view on how to improve the election system that it is going to have a difficult task in separating the wheat from the chaff. There is a lot of chaff in what has been brought forward. While some of the recommendations express views long held by eminent persons who are not inclined to go off into the impossible or the impracticable, others go to the verge of silliness.

The Commission must not only decide what is reasonable and sensible; it must also bear in mind what it is possible to secure from a Legislature that is not anxious to grant much in the way of real election reform. The attitude of past Legislatures has been more of hostility than of wholehearted cooperation in the attempt to overcome fraud. In the Philadelphia meeting the chairman of the Committee of Seventy urged that the September primary be abolished, that the personal registration system be amended so that one registration will suffice for every year thereafter unless the voter moves into another district, that the voting machine method be legalized. These are only a few among the scores of suggestions put up to the Commission. There is no doubt about there being room for improvement. There is no doubt that the Commission will make recommendations that will not go too far into questionable experiment. There is doubt whether the Legislature will heed even the minimum of what could be made into law. After the Commission's report has been compiled it will be the duty of the influential people in every community to back it up in a way that will bring the strongest kind of pressure to bear upon the Legislature.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Because he fears he would be as lone-some and useless as a stray cat were he to lose his job, George J. Higgins, worth \$1,500,000, continues at 63 years of age to stick to his post at Reading as station agent for the Philadelphia and Reading railroad. He has refused numerous promotions because he doesn't care to leave Shamokin.

Anthony Wakara, 44, leaped to his death in a vat of molten steel at the Homestead steel works last Saturday night. Only a few particles of his bones were recovered from the liquid metal. A son said Wakara had been despondent since his wife's death. He left home for work Saturday night saying that "this is the last night I'll work," the boy said.

"Come on, Mom, give me your blessing for I'm going to go," Victor Anonia, aged 25, told his aged mother as he arose from the breakfast table at their home, in Shamokin, last Saturday. Without awaiting a reply, Anonia shot himself through the head and fell dead at the feet of his mother. A sister and brother-in-law also witnessed the act. Anonia's wife, from whom he was separated, recently brought suit for divorce and the case was to have been tried in Sunbury, Monday.

Two of four major contracts for the erection of the \$300,000 high school, at Lock Haven, were awarded Harrisburg firms, last Thursday night at a special meeting of the school directors. The contracts go to: Frank P. Case and Son, Troy, Pa., construction, \$199,977; E. Keener, Williamsport, heating and ventilation, \$29,243; Herre Bros., Harrisburg, plumbing, \$13,000; C. M. Davis and Sons, Harrisburg, electric wiring, \$8,870; Leitch and Green, Harrisburg, architects, are being engaged.

His bed struck by a hot-water boiler, which was skyrocketed through three stories and the roof of his home by an explosion resulting from overheating, at 12:15 Sunday morning, George Elbert, aged 54, of Reading, miraculously escaped death. He was found helplessly entangled in the bedding by firemen, who prevented the wrecked house from burning. Elbert's only injury was a lead cast on the palm of his right hand. His wife, sleeping in an adjoining room, was thrown from her bed by the force of the explosion but was not injured.

Twenty-two railroad cars valued at \$1,500,000 are being prepared by the American Car and Foundry company, at Berwick, for shipment to Brazil, where they will be used by the Paulista railroad. The lot, which will be shipped as a solid train, will include dining cars, first and second class passenger cars as well as combination passenger and baggage coaches. Special air brakes with which the cars will be equipped so as to meet the requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission will be removed at Wilmington, Del., where the coaches will be loaded on ship for Brazil.

After being a cripple for 18 months, the result of infantile paralysis, John Dunham, 4-year-old son of Dr. Dunham, of Mount Carmel, is able to walk again. Until stricken two years ago he never had been ill nor taken medicine. Then he lost the use of his legs and had to get about by crawling on his hands and knees. On December 9, he was taken to the Shriners' Home for Crippled Children, in Philadelphia. Two months later he was on crutches and on Sunday he tossed away the crutches and walked. John Vezo, of Kulpmont, and Ellen Rogers and Ralph Heckler, of Mount Carmel, are paralysis patients in the Shriners' home.

Tramping all day Saturday through the woods of Greene township, Clinton county, along the old Sugar Valley pike, near the Florida Farms, prohibition officer Louis A. Gundrum, of Williamsport, came upon a 2000-gallon still in full operation, one of the largest to be uncovered in Clinton county in the past four years. The still was dismantled and 200 gallons of liquor, fifty gallons of alcohol and 500 gallons of mash were destroyed, but the officer was unable to find anyone on the premises. J. W. Welshans, reporter-ownor of the local paper, who had appeared before United States Commissioner Marsh, at Lewisburg, to explain the presence of the still on his property.

His desire for steak for Sunday dinner directly caused the death of John Wagsteck, 65, a roomer in a Philadelphia house. Saturday night Wagsteck bought the steak and Sunday before noon he retired to his room, but the cut over a small gas flame, then set down in a chair to doze while it cooked. Just before 1 o'clock, James Roston, owner of the rooming house, ran upstairs, certain from the smell of smoke that his establishment was on fire. He threw open the door of Wagsteck's room, went through a cloud of black smoke which filled the place, and dragged a still form from its chair into the hallway. Later, at the Episcopal hospital, physicians pronounced Wagsteck dead. He had been suffocated.

Because it was his misfortune to wed a kissless bride, who detested the idea of carresses so much that she deserted him, one day, Fred H. Springer, of Allentown, on Saturday began suit for divorce. Springer is a postal employee, 44 years old and was married July 3, 1926. In preparation for housekeeping he established a home at No. 1500 Broadway, West Bethlehem. He says his wife instantly and vehemently protested against being kissed, saying osculation was repugnant to persons of refinement and left their new home the very next day, returning to her former home in Norristown. Although Springer has kept up his residence and the latch string is out, he declares in the divorce libel that she has spurned all his appeals and refuses to join him.

A six-acre box huckleberry patch, claimed to be the first discovered in the world and one of the few in existence today, becomes the property of the State through the gift of C. C. Hovatter and Howard Scholl, Millersburg lumbermen. The patch, situated in the Soule woods near New Bloomfield, was discovered in 1846 by a professor at Dickinson College, who reported his finding to Asa Gray, noted American botanist. The plant, extremely rare, has been a source of interest for botanists for some time. A peculiar feature is that, although it blooms freely and bears fruit, there are no seedlings. Scientists are at a loss to explain its origin, and some believe it to be a remnant of the preglacial period. Hovatter and Scholl recently sold the surrounding territory but kept the patch, which, in order to preserve they donated to the State. It will be known as the Box Huckleberry State Forest Reservation and will be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Forests and Waters.