

INK SLINGS.

—Iowa has gone for Al Smith and many other States in which the New York Governor was believed to have no chance are leaning encouragingly in his direction. Can it be possible that they are acting on the advice we gave the country several months ago.

—After all there is a lot of sentiment in the human race. Madam Schumann-Heink has just deeded her two hundred and thirty thousand dollar villa in southern California to the disabled World war veterans of Minneapolis because they honored her dead son, who was a German soldier.

—As we sit here, confined to the house and, after seventy-two hours, only partially recuperated from the effects of a week-end vacation, we are in such a discouraged state of mind that we have no zest for argument. Therefore we are going to string along with Dr. Appel and agree with his current weekly health advice to the effect that everyone should strive to "take a real vacation instead of permitting the vacation to take you."

—It leaked out in the Senate, on Tuesday, that Ford collects twenty-five million a year more in freight bills than he actually pays. A few more little by-products of this sort would detract somewhat from the effect of Mr. Ford's supposed superior business methods. In other words, could he pay the wages he does and sell cars at his present prices if he did not have such questionable margins of safety as are revealed in this fictitious freight charge.

—Statistics compiled by the State Department of Welfare for 1927 reveal that there was an unusual increase in the population of the county prisons and penitentiaries of the State. Of course the answer to that would seem to be that liquor was the cause. Such was not the case, however. As a matter of fact there was a decrease of incarcerations for drunkenness, liquor violations and associated crimes. The increase was infractions such as robbery, larceny, carrying concealed deadly weapons, assault and battery, etc.

—Reading the startling revelations coming out of the trial of leaders of the K. K. K. at Pittsburgh we are wondering if the many eminently honest and respectable persons in Centre county who joined the hooded order when it was in the heights of its frenzy, several years ago, are not now a bit chagrined at the manner in which they have been exploited. All the testimony being brought out at the trial indicates that the leaders of the order found the credulity of the masses a veritable gold mine and stopped at nothing to keep it producing.

—"Dapper Don" Collins, the notorious confidence man, narrowly missed going to prison for life in New York. Had it not been that a couple of witnesses who were probably handsomely remunerated for doing so changed their minds about certain facts they were expected to testify to Don would have gone up the river to locate permanently. A fourth conviction in New York State means imprisonment for life. In many ways it's a good law. Law is supposed to be corrective in its effect and if it can't stop the criminal in four trials it ought to give up further attempt, meanwhile being careful to place the object of its fruitless administration somewhere where he will no longer need be worried with.

—Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, is just a politician. Nine times out of ten a clever politician knows more about government, good or bad, and how to have either, than a whole round-table of men and women incomparably their superiors intellectually. At an address before the Women's club of Philadelphia, on Monday, Mayor Mackey told the ladies that respect for law could not be expected of the younger folks when their elders discussed the superiority of their respective bootleggers on all occasions. Of course, the mayor was only hinting, but he was really plumbing the depths of prohibition enforcement. The failure of prohibition is certain unless each and every individual who has voted for it resolves to be honest enough to expect it to regulate his or her habits as rigidly and fearlessly as they urge it to regulate the habits of others.

—We note that on and after July one, next, Columbia University is going to pay its teaching and executive staff rather adequate compensation for services rendered. We express it poorly but we mean that because college professors are supposed to be so inadequately paid Columbia's new salary roll will be viewed by the less fortunate as a mark to be striven for by all institutions of higher learning. While we're for everybody's getting all they can when and where the getting's softest our imagination fails us utterly when we attempt picturing what the average college professor would do with any more than he gets. He might improve himself a bit sartorially, he might take an occasional trip, if he were to locate enough spots on the map which nobody else would get any kick out of visiting, but the chances are great that he would do neither. He's been inured to genteel poverty so long that if someone were to present him with a thousand shares of Radio he'd probably put them in a leather trunk in the attic and forget all about the trunk when the house caught afire.

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Recreant Democratic Leaders.

A southern editor writing to the Nation, New York, rather sharply though apparently justly, criticizes the Democratic leaders in Congress for their failure to force tariff reform into their legislative programme. "Leaders in Congress," he writes, "have much to say about making the tariff the issue in the next Presidential campaign, but they carefully refrain from any definition of the party programme in precise terms. Senator Walsh insists with the utmost emphasis that he would write a plank into the next Democratic platform demanding tariff reduction in the interest of the farmer. Senator Reed urges tariff revision downward as the best means of relieving agricultural distress. Other Democratic Congressmen call for an old-fashioned tariff campaign in 1928. But none of the would-be tariff reformers has ventured to sponsor a specific proposal for translating tariff principles into law.

Tariff for revenue only has been a fundamental principle of the Democratic party for a hundred years. Section 8 of the Constitution authorizes Congress "to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States." In times of war such a levy might be justified "for common defense," and in the early period of our history a nominal tariff tax might have found sanction for "general welfare" in nurturing infant industries. But there is no license, either in the organic law or in reason, for levying a tax "for protection" that exacts from one element of the people in order to pay unearned bounties to another. The industrial life of the United States is amply able to take care of itself in competition with that of any other country in the world. The records of exports completely prove this.

The present tariff law yields to the public treasury approximately five hundred million dollars a year. But it costs the people of the United States approximately five billion dollars a year. The difference between these sums of money, amounting to four and a half billion dollars, is paid into the treasuries of industrial corporations and individuals engaged in the manufacture of products essential to life. Every man who buys a suit of clothes pays at least a third of the price because of the tariff tax, and every woman pays a tariff tax in the same ratio for her garments and other things. If the money thus unjustly taken from the people were collected at the custom houses and transmitted to the treasury it might be tolerated. But the fact that it goes to feed the avarice of favorites gives it the form of legalized larceny. And Democratic leaders are faithless because of failure to check it.

—John H. Leete, who resigned his position on the faculty of the Pennsylvania State College, some years ago, to go to Carnegie Institute, in Pittsburgh, has just been succeeded as librarian of Carnegie library by Ralph Munn, of Flint, Mich. We are not informed as to whether Dr. Leete resigned the \$6,000 job or whether he was the victim of local political fights in which mayor Kline, the councilmen and members of the board of trustees of the library are involved.

—"Big Bill" Thompson, mayor of Chicago, might ascribe his defeat at the recent primaries in Illinois to the minions of the King of England, but the real cause was probably Bill's failure to maintain order in his own bailiwick.

—The German who succeeded in beating a sea lion swimming is another one of them things. A lot of satisfaction he'll get out of gloating over a sea lion.

—Governor Fuller, of Massachusetts, declines to run for Vice President. Obviously he has no faith in the maxim that "history repeats itself."

—There are so many "favorite sons" this year that the term has become "an abomination in the sight" of political managers.

—Nobody hereabouts knows much about the new Ohio Senator, but it's a safe bet that he is entirely fit and a good Democrat.

—Senator Borah has about given up the idea of "lifting an obligation of shame" by donating money to Harry Sinclair.

—The Easter temperature indicated that winter still indulges in that disagreeable lingering habit.

—Secretary Falls' confession does not seem to have convinced anybody.

Real Obligation of Shame.

The shady transaction between Harry F. Sinclair, lessee of the Teapot Dome oil reserve, and Will Hays, formerly chairman of the Republican National committee and member of the Harding cabinet, is not the greatest "obligation of shame" resting on the Republican party. One Republican Governor of Indiana has just completed a sentence in the penitentiary and another escaped a similar punishment by pleading the statute of limitations. A Republican mayor of Indianapolis is now "in durance vile" for crimes committed while in office, and the Supreme court only a few days ago refused an appeal of Thomas W. Miller, Harding's custodian of alien property so that he will have to go to prison.

Len Small, Republican Governor of Illinois, was recently compelled to disgorge more than \$600,000 which he had stolen while serving as State Treasurer and the Republican Governor of Pennsylvania as well as the Republican organization of the State have exhausted every available resource to help William S. Vare to retain the seat in the Senate which he stole in 1926. Secretary of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon and the present chairman of the Republican National committee have made themselves accessories after the fact to the conspiracy of Fall and Sinclair to rob the government of its oil reserve. Yet all these malefactors are continued as leaders of the Republican party and directors of its policies.

One of the Republican Senators in a speech, the other day, aspersing certain prominent Democrats of the country, said, "birds of a feather flock together." This grouping of crooks in the Republican organization and recognition of them as leaders of the party is an infinitely greater "obligation of shame" than accepting tainted money to discharge unlawful debts, bad as that is admitted to be. If Senator Borah wants to relieve the Republican party from "an obligation of shame" let him denounce the present leadership and serve notice that if the Kansas City convention is controlled by them he will organize and lead a crusade, the purpose of which will be the defeat of the candidates they nominate.

—The public has been informed as to who persuaded Mr. Fall to lie about Doheney's \$100,000 donation, but is obliged to guess as to who induced him to swear that the Sinclair donation was a business transaction.

Secretary Mellon Changes His Mind.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon has revised his estimate of the amount of the tax cut which may be made with safety, and as usual he has the cordial support of the President. Soon after the assembling of Congress Mr. Mellon conveyed an opinion that a tax cut in excess of \$225,000,000 would be destructive and Mr. Coolidge agreed with him. Last week Mr. Mellon notified Congress that a cut of more than \$200,000,000 would be disastrous and the President again concurs. But neither Mr. Mellon nor Mr. Coolidge advances any substantial reason for their change of mind. The treasury receipts have not diminished and there are no signs of an unexpected increase in expenditures.

At the time that Secretary Mellon proposed a tax cut of \$225,000,000 the President, presumably by Mr. Mellon's approval, was urging Congress to adopt a navy construction program involving an expenditure of \$75,000,000 at the start and a billion or more in the end. Congress properly ignored this recommendation and made provisions for navy construction of less than \$400,000,000. This ought to have made available a tax cut of the difference. It is true that the President wanted to saddle about \$200,000,000 of the flood relief cost upon the section of the country which suffered, but even if that policy had been adopted there would have remained \$200,000,000 to add to the surplus.

Nobody has ever been able to find out what Mr. Mellon means by his constant and continued resistance to tax reduction. Six years ago he protested that any cut above \$300,000,000 would be dangerous and Congress made a cut of nearly \$500,000,000. But the surplus increased rather than diminished. Each Congress since, at the insistence of the Democratic members, has made a cut in excess of the recommendation of Mr. Mellon and the surplus remains at a perilously high level. The present Congress contemplates a cut of between three and four hundred million dollars, and as usual the recommendations of the President and the Secretary will be ignored and the tax payers benefited.

—Hoover has enlisted "Jim" Good, of Iowa, but the chances are that Lowden will annex the delegates.

Big Tom Heading for Jail.

For many years Big Tom Cunningham, of Philadelphia, like other gangsters, has led a life of leisure "treading the primrose path of dalliance," undisturbed by care or conscience. During the latter period of the life of the late Senator Penrose, and since the death of that "easy boss," he has revelled in the luxuries of lucrative office, unrestrained by law and indifferent to public opinion. Having by long immunity come to the belief that he is above the law and amenable to no power other than his own caprices, he has grown defiant. He refused to answer relevant questions put to him by the Senate Slush Fund committee relative to the source of his generous contribution to the Vare campaign for Senator.

In the United States District court, in Philadelphia the other day, Mr. Cunningham proposed to enter into an agreement with the Senate. That is, he expressed a willingness, or rather made an offer, to answer the questions asked if the Senate would agree to admit Mr. Vare to membership of that body. To Mr. Cunningham this didn't seem like an unusual proposition. It appeared to his mind as a genuine reciprocity, an ordinary quid pro quo. By precisely such bargains the political affairs of the Republican party are conducted and the power of the political machine maintained. It is the method which has kept him in office continuously for nearly a quarter of a century, and others like him for an equal period of time.

But Big Tom will find things different in the present instance. He will not have a perverted public sentiment and debauched magistracy to shield him from punishment. The Senate will not stultify itself and the government by trafficking with him on his own preposterous terms or any other. It may not be possible to obtain from him the information desired. If he should "tell the truth" it might result in both himself and his candidate going to jail. But the District of Columbia court can, and probably will, fitly and fully punish him for his contumacy, and there will be no corrupt political machine capable of rescuing him. Big Tom is heading for a term in jail and "the punishment will fit the crime."

—At this distance from the Kansas City convention it doesn't seem to matter much which candidate gets the delegates. The candidate who gets the support of Mellon and Butler "will knock the persimmon."

Three Plans to Prevent Fraud.

The Pennsylvania elections associations, composed of a body of patriotic men and women who favor honest elections, has made a tentative report which contains three recommendations upon the evil of excessive expenditures by or in behalf of candidates for office. The first, and presumably the one most favored, would limit expenditures in primary campaigns "equal to ten cents for each vote polled by the largest vote-getter of the party in the preceding election." This plan holds out small hope for candidates of much merit but little wealth. Taking the vote of Governor Fisher as a basis it would allow State-wide candidates for nomination in that party to spend upward of \$100,000.

The second proposition is to "place no limit on the amount of money used but very clearly defining the purposes for which campaign funds may be used, who may contribute and who may disburse the money." To invest this plan with value it would be necessary to audit the account and bestow upon the auditing court "power to bar any candidate who has used money illegally." The third suggestion is the adoption of "the Oregon system," which provides for the "publication by civil divisions of official pamphlets in which candidates or committees, upon payment of moderate fees, shall have the privilege of presenting statements and arguments for and against candidates."

It is an involved problem the elections association has undertaken to solve, and whatever method is adopted will leave loop-holes for evasion and fraud. For example, the experiences with Tom Cunningham, after the Senatorial election of 1926, casts a doubt upon the effectiveness of plan number two. He has refused to reveal the source of the money contributed by him and openly and impudently defies the Senate in the matter. Plan number one practically eliminates all except rich men from aspiration for office in the Republican party, and plan number three is an experiment which is yet to be tested in communities in which ballot corruption has been reduced to a science.

—It is suspected that former President Poincare, of France, is trying to make the United States pay all the debts of the late war.

GOOD MORNING!

Now that winter's over,
If we could have our wish,
We'd dig a can of angleworms
And catch a mess of fish.

British Traits in American Business Men.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Some of the traits we get from the British are precious and valuable. They have been kept alive by the undoubted Anglo-Saxon impress upon our civilization, for which we have every reason to devoutly thank God. The greatest of these traits is a sense of honor. It would be idle to pretend that sharp practices are lacking in American business, and that we are wholly free from trickery, and even partially free from ruthlessness. But all the same there is a code—and most men are honest men, and stick to it instinctively. They would lose their self-respect if they didn't, and they prize their self-respect too highly. It is our code to "play cricket" in every dealing with our fellow-men. The proper sort of stolidity also is an asset we get from our English forbears. We do not easily fly off the handle or become panic-stricken; and we do not allow either love or hate to obscure our business judgment.

On the other hand, other British traits which persist in cropping forth in American business men are deplorable. Can we not be stolid without being unimaginative and stupid? Can we not be honest without being indifferent or lacking in enterprise?

A recent news dispatch from Brussels should give us seriously to think. The Belgians suffered at the hands of the Germans a decade ago, and the Americans fed them. But now it seems that business is increasing with the Germans more rapidly than with the Americans.

Americans, we are told, are regarded by Belgian experts as showing an amazing indifference to increasing competitive lines of goods to offer to the market. John Bull-like, they write letters in English instead of French, stick to f. o. b. New York quotations in dollars, offer goods by our antiquated system of weights and measures which Europeans do not understand, and refuse to extend credits.

But the Germans! They give long-term credits, as they did before the war; they figure out freight rates and customs, and quote prices to the Belgian buyers in their home town in Belgian francs; they carry on all their business in excellent French; and whatever merchandise they offer is adapted to the market as a result of careful study of its needs.

When will we come to this? When will we come to compete on equal terms in world markets when we have competitive lines of goods to offer? We shall not do it by keeping on our present system. The first steps are the adoption of the metric system in the export trade and a knowledge of foreign languages. After that we can study the local conditions of the markets all over the world. And we can quote prices that are intelligible to the prospective customer.

Let us keep the good we get from the British and abandon the bad that has come with it.

Senate Changes.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The appointment of Cyrus Locher, Democrat, of Ohio, to succeed the late Senator Willis marks the third change in Senate alignments during this session. When it opened the Republicans had a nominal majority of one; but the deadlock over Frank L. Smith, of Illinois, and William S. Vare, of Pennsylvania, transferred that margin, in actual voting strength, to the Democrats. This was somewhat offset by the gradual conversion of Mr. Shipstead, Farmer-Laborite, who is expected to seek re-election this fall as a Republican.

The session was only a few days old, however, when the margin was shifted back by the death of Senator Jones, Democrat, of New Mexico, who was succeeded by Mr. Cutler, Republican. The Republicans gained another vote when Senator Ferris, Democrat, of Michigan, died and Mr. Vandenberg, Republican, was appointed as his successor, only to have the margin of one restored by the Ohio change.

The lack of any appreciable difference in strength of the two parties explains much of the ungovernable tendencies of the Senate. So does the fact that thirty-two Senators are facing re-election. Of these, twenty are Democrats and eleven Republicans, not counting Mr. Shipstead.

Lewis and the State Cash.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

There isn't much wonder that envious muck-rakers point the finger of scorn at Pennsylvania State Treasurer Lewis as of April 1—no Fool's Day so far as the State's finances are concerned—reports the high record of \$68,613,435.84 as the monthly balance and no outstanding obligations. For March the total receipts were \$14,669,097.04, and total payments, \$11,880,587.20. Some good concern we submit and why not tell it in Capitol guide books, tourist booklets and all manner of publicity. Governor Fisher's speech before the Pennsylvania Society of New York last December is the kind of joyful tidings that should have wide and constant distribution.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Somerset county sugar maple grove owners are counting on a splendid season for maple molasses and sugar. The first day of tapping showed an unusually heavy flow of sap, as seventy-five barrels of sugar water were collected from one grove of 1000 trees.

—Michael Dendas, 21, charged with an attempt to extort \$15,000 from Mrs. Sarah Kulp, wealthy widow of the late Monroe Kulp, Congressman, of Shamokin, is occupying a cell in the Northumberland county jail, while his counsel, attorney Daniel W. Kearney is seeking his release on \$500 bail.

—Frank Hoak, a Glen Rock blacksmith, has been declared the champion apple dumpling eater of York county. Mrs. O. H. Cramer recently baked fifty-nine dumplings so that seven men could stage an eating contest. Hoak easily won first place by eating thirteen. Henry Rohrbach made a poor second, eating only six.

—Traced to Locoming county through a stolen automobile, two convicts, Edgar Daner and Wilfred Krell, who escaped from the Northampton county jail March 27, were captured in a hunting lodge near Cammal. Daner attempted to flee from the officer and was shot in the arm. He is in a serious condition at the Williamsport hospital.

—Thieves knocked the combination off two safes in the jewelry store of Robert J. Snyder, at Norrisstown, on Monday night, and escaped with uncut gems and watches valued at \$20,000 leaving behind them a new set of burglar tools. The robbery was discovered by Snyder. He found two padlocks broken off an iron door in the rear of the store and the door wide open.

—R. C. Gleason, justice of the peace at Smethport, 25 miles east of Kane, was offered a Turkish bath ticket, good for use in Olean, N. Y., as a marriage fee Friday. The Squire married a couple from outside the State and the groom informed him that he had no money, but that the justice was welcome to the ticket if he could use it. Squire Gleason refused the ticket and gave the couple his blessing.

—"Don't holler, Dad, and we will not hurt you," said one of five bandits who pressed a revolver against the face of Jonas Harr, night watchman at the Richland silk throwing plant, at Quakertown, Pa., early Sunday morning, then made a safe getaway with raw silk valued at from \$8000 to \$10,000. Harr had just returned to the office of the mill from the boiler room as the bandits had entered through a window.

—Leaving a note that they be buried in a rough box without flowers and that money which otherwise might be spent for their obsequies be used for a better purpose, Earl R. Peters, 18, and his wife, Miriam, 22, ended their lives by asphyxiation in their home, at Lancaster, on Monday. Three years ago the couple eloped to Elkton, Md., and were married. Financial difficulties were believed to have led to the suicide pact.

—Claude Hersberger, of Reading, in taking a walk along the Schuylkill river, on Monday, found the left leg and hip of a man probably six feet tall, in the mud near the city sewage disposal plant. The foot was covered by a brown stocking and brown brogan. The leg seemed to have been torn instead of cut from the torso, which could not be found. Police are checking up missing people lists and hospital records in other towns.

—Mrs. Mary Edith Hutchinson, 59, died at Williamsport, last Thursday, in a fire that destroyed a chicken house at the rear of her home, 310 west Center avenue, South Williamsport. Not until after the structure was burned down were firemen aware that the woman was inside. When the woman went into the chicken house, it is believed, she was overcome by the intense heat and collapsed, knocking down and causing an explosion of a lamp in a brooder. Three streams of water were pumped on the blazing structure.

—Miss Susie Krebs, who lives on the Sizerville Road, five miles from Emporium, is the champion rattlesnake killer of Cameron county—perhaps of the State of Pennsylvania—perhaps of the United States—perhaps she is even champion of the world. She has killed over two hundred rattlesnakes—covering a period of about thirty years. Her highest record in one day was twenty-two. This was two female snakes each with a brood of little rattlers. At another time she killed twelve. This also was a mother reptile. She frequently killed them in pairs. They ranged in length from five inches to over five feet.

—Trapped in a small hut built among the branches of a tree twelve feet from the ground, 17-year-old Lloyd Scheidler, of Woodside, Dauphin county, was burned to death, on Sunday, while his father looked on helpless to save him. The boy had gone up to the hut to sleep the night before. His parent, George Scheidler, returned from work Sunday morning, and saw the tiny building in flames. Using a long pole he poked in the bottom of the hut and the body of his son, badly burned, fell at his feet on the ground. A stove was found in the hut later and it is supposed the boy started a fire in it to warm himself while he slept.

—Elmira Brown, 16; Verna Burchett, 16, and Amelia Blecher, 17, escaped from the Shelter Home for Girls, at Lancaster, Sunday morning, when left alone in the kitchen and have succeeded in eluding authorities. They jumped five feet from a window. The girls were washing dishes when Mrs. Maude Nauman, the matron, left the kitchen for a few moments. When she returned, they were missing, an open window revealing their method of escape. The Burchett and Blecher girls were runaways. The Brown girl was arrested two months ago in Reading on a charge of larceny and was held at the home prior to being sent to an institution at Muncy, Pa.

—Improvements costing \$350,000, in addition to those already begun, have been authorized by Charles M. Schwab at the Danville Structural Steel company plant, of which he is the owner. He motored there from Bethlehem last Friday and spent the day inspecting the work under way. When he purchased the plant about three months ago he ordered the rebuilding of part of it. This work has been started, and an addition to the tube mill 200 by 600 feet will be begun as soon as the work now under way has been completed. This is expected to be completed by August, and then work will be started on an addition to the brakebeam plant 200 by 250 feet in size.