

INK SLINGS.

Governor Smith's visit in the prohibition South might be called an invasion of "the enemy's country."

Naturally the Germans claim credit for the accomplishment of the Bremen, but Ireland has some reason for elation, too.

There is still talk of the third term in Washington, which indicates that the President's neighbors have little faith in his veracity.

The German and Irish aviators failed to reach their destination, but they achieved a great triumph over the elements and saved their lives.

Congressman McFadden "started something" when he accused Mrs. Pinchot of indulging in bibulous habits. Cornelia is red-headed and resentful.

While everyone is overjoyed that the Bremen succeeded in making the westward flight over the Atlantic we wouldn't be a bit surprised if international complications arise as a result of it. An Irish and German crew is a bad combination when it comes to keeping peace and harmony in the family.

For State Committeeman write on your ballot the name of Dr. F. K. White. Dr. White is not a candidate for the office, but as no one else has filed for the position we feel that he would not decline to serve were he elected and Centre county could find no more representative Democrat to sit in the council of the State organization.

Well, the opening of the trout season turned out much as we predicted several weeks ago. A grand army of hopefuls utterly disconsolate, cold and disgusted, straggled home with nothing but albinos to show for the day they had waited months to enjoy. And we happened to be one of the most disgusted, for we didn't get a fish.

Since the women have cast off their tendrils and no longer elect to be the clinging vines of yore the man only kids himself who thinks his burden of responsibility is being lightened. Take the lady who has gotten her first taste of investing a little money in stocks, for instance. She can ask more fool questions and get so excited because her three shares have gone up or down a point that she makes life an abomination with her eternal: "Would you sell if you were me?"

We hear by moccasin telephony that Dr. Ham is not counting much on Phillipsburg. Why should he? We told him months ago that Senator Scott and Judge Fleming had not put the seal of approval on his candidacy. And when Senator Scott and Judge Fleming are not favorable to budding Republican hopes in Centre county lots of buds are going to be nipped. Now if the Hon. Holmes could only be persuaded that he's shot his wad and request State College to go one hundred per cent for Ham the Doctor might have a chance to nose Heverly out. Otherwise it looks very much as though the former county treasurer will come through to victory next Tuesday.

Through his daughter, Mary Waddle Adams, "Uncle Jimmy" Waddle writes that he hopes that "just now and for some weeks to come 'we' may have our wish."

To dig a can of angle worms And catch a mess of fish.

Think, if you can, how one feels when a man of ninety-four, alert in every faculty except sight, sends such a message to you. "Uncle Jimmy" just couldn't wish else than happiness to anyone. When he ran the local on the B. E. V. he was loved by every kid from Lock Haven to Tyrone. Why? Simply because he was always looking the other way when they "hopped" his freight for a ride that had millions more thrills in it than when all dressed up their parents took them a trip on a real passenger car. His daughter, Mary, possibly didn't know how truly she has inherited the spirit of her splendid old father when she wrote to us: "Don't worry is the best prescription for long life in the wonderfully beautiful world."

Next Tuesday will be primary day. The Democrats in the county have no contests so that very little interest will be taken in getting out to vote. There are eight delegates-at-large to the national convention to be elected, however, and those who go to the polls should inform themselves as to which of the aspirants best represents what the voter would like to have the Pennsylvania delegation do when it comes to nominating a candidate for President at Houston. The eight we elect at-large from Pennsylvania will have only half a vote each. Our district candidates, James Kerr and Charles F. Schwab, will have a full vote each. There is another matter that the Democrats of the county should not lose sight of. We have no candidate for member of the State committee and we are entitled to one. The position is important and should not go by default. Therefore we suggest that the name of Dr. F. K. White, of Phillipsburg, be written in the space that will be blank on your ballot. Dr. White knows nothing of this suggestion and would probably disapprove of it, but he has never failed to serve his party in any emergency and we know of none who would fill this position with more credit to the Democrats of Centre county.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Political and Economic Freedom.

If the admirably phrased platitudes uttered by President Coolidge in addressing the Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in session at Washington on Monday evening, were other than lip service to the principle of self-government, he would be entitled to high praise. But his purpose to bolster the electric trust and other monopolistic enterprises and discourage the operation of the Muscle Shoals property and the Boulder dam project is so palpable that all the virtue of his illustration is lost. "If the people are to remain politically free," he admonished the ladies he was addressing, "they must be economically free," which is both trite and true.

But there is no promise of economic freedom in licensing a giant corporation to control an industrial necessity and vesting in it power to crush out all opposition. Governments are organized and maintained to protect the interests as well as the property of the people, and this obligation stands as firm against dangers within as enemies without. To secure this protection the citizen must yield something to government and it is infinitely safer to trust freedom, whether political or economic, to reasonable rather than to irresponsible monopoly. Government control of important sources of electrical power can do little harm, while absolute control by monopoly might work much.

So long as the people are able to "keep their own business in their own hands" the wise policy is to do so. But it is not always possible. In the postal service, for example, government management and ownership has inflicted no wrong upon the people and has conferred much good. No doubt monopoly would be glad to take over the service if the people were willing that government should relinquish it. Whenever it becomes necessary to make choice between yielding freedom to the government or to monopoly the lesser evil is the government, even though "advance agents of monopoly" sometimes, by accident or otherwise, get temporary control of the government.

Mr. Wilson will probably assent to Vare's demand for recount in counties where no suspicion of fraud exists merely to show what a stupid politician Vare is.

Mr. Vare's New Gesture.

What Mr. Vare had in mind when he demanded that the ballot boxes used in the election of 1926 in thirty-one counties of Pennsylvania be taken to Washington for recounting is beyond the reach of conjecture. At the time that Mr. Wilson asked for the impounding of the boxes used in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and in Delaware, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Schuylkill counties, Mr. Vare made a pretense that he wanted a recount of all the votes cast. It was an absurd proposition, for no fraud was alleged in counties other than those named by Mr. Wilson. But Mr. Wilson promptly assented to it and steps were taken for the impounding process. Afterward Mr. Vare revoked his demand and the recount was ordered.

Considerable time has elapsed since that Vare gesture amused the voters of the State and for the past two or three months a sub-committee of the Senate has been engaged in recounting the ballots, a slow and tedious process. The recount in Allegheny county has been completed and that of Philadelphia about half finished. Some amazing frauds were revealed in Pittsburgh and almost equally startling disclosures made in Philadelphia, according to reports that have leaked out, but the result will not be known until the recount is finished. Possibly Mr. Vare's purpose in asking for an examination of the additional counties is to postpone the verdict until the expiration of the term.

From the start of this contest Mr. Vare's policy has been to delay and confuse the operation, and in this sinister purpose he has been supported by the Republican organization of the State. If Senator Dave Reed had not obstructed legislation by inaugurating a filibuster during the closing period of the last Congress all the facts would have been revealed and all the frauds uncovered before the opening of the present session. The delay has cost the people a large amount of money and the State of Pennsylvania its constitutional representation in the Senate. Mr. Reed is now a candidate for re-election and if the voters of the State are just to themselves he will be fitly punished by defeat.

Mayor Thompson, of Chicago, hasn't resigned as he promised but he is somewhat subdued in manner.

No Ku Kluxer will ever again believe that Judge Thompson, of Pittsburgh, is a 100 per cent American.

Iniquities of the Klan.

If half the evidence brought out in the Ku Klux Klan trial, dismissed by Judge Thompson, of the United States District court at Pittsburgh, last week, is true, that mysterious and hooded fraternity ought not only be prohibited from operating in Pennsylvania, but driven out of existence everywhere. The reason given by Judge Thompson for dismissing the case was lack of jurisdiction. The organization having been chartered by the State, he said substantially, only the State courts could revoke it. "If the charges against the Klan were sustained," he added, "it would not only be right but the clear duty of the State to revoke the license so granted."

The litigation grew out of a controversy between two factions of the Klan organization, each claiming the right to control its activities. Part of the evidence was in the form of a deposition of a man named Stevenson, formerly head of the organization and now serving a life sentence in the Indiana State penitentiary for murder. He testified to all sorts of outrages perpetrated by the members, including a statement that men had been sent into Mexico to organize raids into the United States. Other witnesses testified to the murder of men and women, the burning of churches, floggings, burning victims at the stake, inciting riots and destroying reputations.

A man named Barrickman, one of the Pennsylvania members who has been expelled from the organization, who appeared in court as counsel for one side in the trial, declared that Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the organization, "boasts that he can make Presidents, dictate to Congress, dictate to courts and overthrow Commonwealths." He alleges that there have been as many as 800,000 members in Pennsylvania and that \$20,000,000 had been paid by them to the officials whom he now charges with corruption and mismanagement of the funds. It is small wonder, in view of the testimony, that Judge Thompson declares it the duty of the State to revoke the license.

The recent cold spell failed to make the front page of metropolitan journals because the Delaware peach crop was not far enough on to be damaged by it.

Exposure of Pittsburgh Ballot Frauds.

The trial of the two or three hundred election officials of Pittsburgh, accused of frauds in the primary elections last year, was begun on Monday and is still in progress. The first case considered was that of Joseph H. Klein, an official on the board of the fourteenth district of the Twenty-first ward. The first witness called was Mr. Klein, himself, who had volunteered to serve as "State's evidence," and he testified that the return sheets "were marked at the direction of non-members of the board without the ballot boxes having been opened." The non-members he named will be arrested at the instance of the district attorney and put on trial with the rest of the crooks.

This is a promising beginning of a legal crusade against ballot pollution in a community in which improvement is needed. One of the accused is chairman of the District committee and the others are party workers or watchers. It is a step in the direction of the higher-ups in the transaction. If either or all of them will follow the example of Mr. Klein and tell who influenced them to commit the crimes the root of the evil will ultimately be reached and just and proper punishment imposed. Everybody knows that the servile election officers are not the real criminals in election frauds. The men who devise and direct the operations and promise protection are responsible.

In the case in point the witness declared that "the ballots were later erased and changed to make them conform to the tally sheets." This is a stupid method of accomplishing the criminal purpose but better than that used in the election of 1926 in some districts in the same neighborhood. In that instance the boxes were opened and the ballots dumped into the sewers. Either of these methods would be effective enough if there were no investigation afterward. But fortunately the public has become aroused, agencies for the prosecution of such crimes organized and from this time forward every suspicious case will be thoroughly investigated.

Probably nobody read the Illinois primary election returns with greater dismay than William S. Vare, of Philadelphia.

It has been a slow process but the time is coming when Harry Sinclair's postoffice address will be the Washington jail.

Subscribe for the Watchman.

Near East Relief Drive is Now On.

To save more than 100,000 orphaned children who have been cared for by Near East Relief institutions from back sliding into vagabondage, as well as to carry through 32,131 orphans still in orphanages or in subsidized homes to self-supporting livelihood, Near East Relief asks the American people to raise \$6,000,000 in the shortest possible time—not later than June 30, 1929, according to an announcement made today by Miss Mary H. Linn, chairman for Centre county.

More than one million lives, including a disproportionately large number of orphaned children, the announcement points out, have been saved in Near East countries, devastated by war, deportations and other emergencies, during the past 12 years of humanitarian service. Exclusive of the children assisted through or with their parents, 132,366 have received special institutional care. More than 100,000 who have gone out on their own from Near East Relief training schools constitute a new and powerful constructive influence among the 244,000,000 people dwelling in Near East lands. At least \$100,000,000 have been invested in this unparalleled philanthropy. Successive unforeseen emergencies—war's aftermath, the Smyrna catastrophe, deportations, exchange of populations, earthquakes—have been met, while all the time steadily developing the largest constructive child-welfare service ever undertaken by one nation for other afflicted countries.

Practical occupational training for both girls and boys is the keynote of this educational work, calling also follow-through assistance to "graduates" at the early age of 14 or 16 of the economic and social conditions in the Near East. 30 chapters of a mutual service league or "ex-orphanans," several working boys' homes and working girls' homes, and other community centers of social service have lately been established.

In accordance with the best recognized principle in child welfare work, the announcement states that in four and a half years more than 45,000 children were outplaced in homes in more than 11 countries, principally Macedonia, Greece, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Armenia, Georgia, Persia, Bulgaria and Rumania, accompanied by an educational campaign of teaching native housewives hygiene, sanitation, good cooking, skillful baby tending by older orphan girls trained as community nurses.

Of the children now in the orphanages 54 per cent are still under thirteen years of age. Their years of dependency up to the age of 16 represent 28,653 child-year units, and this alone, according to present per-capita cost, calls for a sum of \$3,556,410, to carry through. The \$6,000,000 budget supported by the report of a two-year survey committee of specialists—Dr. Otis Caldwell of Lincoln School, Prof. Paul Monroe, of Columbia, Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, and fifteen others representing all American agencies in the Near East—and approved by the Executive committee of Near East Relief, seeks to "insure the completion, with honor, of all of America's commitments to the orphans of the Near East and communities where they live." Full orphanage care and training for the children still in orphanages, "parental" follow up work for the children outplaced in homes or industry, and contingent provision for health and welfare work among graduate orphans and for contribution toward a constructive and final solution of the refugee problem, are the three divisions of the projected consumption program.

A Ghazir rug, a large quantity of beautiful linen work, pottery and many other articles made by the wards of the Near East Relief, will be for exhibition and for sale at Miss M. H. Linn's home, on north Allegheny street, for the next ten days. Half of the proceeds from the sale will be credited to Centre county's quota for this last drive, the other half going to special work among the crippled and blind. Every one is invited to look at them.

On Monday local freight on the Lewisburg branch of the Pennsylvania railroad left Sunbury with forty-six loaded cars of freight for points along the line, Bellefonte and State College. When the train struck the heavy up-grade the load was too much for the locomotive and ten cars were set off on a siding. When the grade became steeper it was necessary to set off ten more cars with the result that only twenty-six cars of the original train load could be brought through to their destination.

Some esteemed contemporaries appraise the Deneen victory in Illinois as equivalent to "jumping out of the frying pan into the fire."

Epochal Achievement in Aviation.

For the first time the East-to-West crossing of the North Atlantic has been accomplished by a heavier-than-air machine, and the laurels—snow-sprinkled, but none the less fresh and fragrant—are on the brows of the German and Irish aviators, marooned, but safe, upon a tiny island off the bleak coast of Labrador. Baron von Huenfeld, Captain Koehl and Captain Fitzmaurice (Colonel now, as a prompt reward for his daring) failed in their main objective, but what they did was a splendid achievement, and it was enough to satisfy an anxious and watchful world.

They are safely through their hazardous venture, and the Bremen, the stout ship that carried them, is said to be only slightly damaged. This, in view of the tremendous difficulties to safe landing in that barren country of rough ice, seems almost miraculous. Baron von Huenfeld speaks of this landing upon Greenly Island as merely "intermediate," and expresses the determination of going on to New York as soon as his plane can be refueled. But, if the fliers are comfortable where they are, there is no need for hurry—and, for that matter, there is little likelihood of it. The island is so thoroughly icebound and so far from large settlements that supplies may be a considerable time reaching it. The triumphant entry into New York can wait. It is enough to know that Friday the 13th was a lucky day for the Germans and the Irish.

How lucky the outcome of this memorable flight was! The Bremen, we are told, was sailing through a snow-storm when forced down by lack of fuel. In that fierce North Atlantic weather the fliers had got off their course. They seem to have missed Newfoundland entirely, and the veering of a bare hundred miles further toward the northwest would have carried them out over desolate seas, or upon bleak, uninhabited shores from which they might never have returned alive. The experience of the men of the Bremen may explain what happened to one or more of the predecessors in that westward flight over the ocean.

Bunk.

Federal prohibition enforcers have worked the newspapers into saying there is to be no liquor in Kansas City and Houston available for the delegates to the national conventions. A deputy Commissioner of Prohibition is conferring with the local authorities to make sure that the bootleggers will suspend operations until after the nominations are made. An effort also is being made to tighten the coast guard lines at Galveston to prevent importations to nearby Houston.

Bunk. Prohibition officials know that they dare not interfere with the drinking habits of politicians. Washington is among the wetter cities of the land. Most of the State capitals are as wet. Legislators may vote dry, but they want their liquor, and prohibition enforcers know that any interference with the regular supply will be required in the appropriation bill for enforcement officers. And what is true of Congress and the Legislatures is equally true of other gatherings of politicians. Prohibition enforcers dare not antagonize the men on whom they are dependent for jobs and salaries.

Any one who believes that liquor will be harder to obtain in Kansas City and Houston during the convention week than it is today will believe anything.

S-4 Exonerations.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. In a final review of the findings of the Naval Court of Inquiry on the submarine S-4 disaster, the Navy Department has pronounced a general exoneration. Rear Admiral Brumby, who was in charge of rescue operations, had been criticized by the court as lacking the knowledge required by his work in the submarine-testing area, and his removal had been recommended. The court divided responsibility for the actual collision between the commanders of the submarine and of the Coast Guard destroyer Paulding. Secretary Wilbur rejected all these findings, though leaving the case of the Coast Guard officer up to the Treasury Department, which had already exonerated him from blame. This decision, in effect, places the S-4 disaster in the category of unavoidable accidents. It is probably the most acceptable view under the circumstances. Yet it also seems to mean that no lesson is to be drawn from the tragedy. From this viewpoint, it is not so satisfactory. If it could have been indicated that strictest vigilance might have avoided the accident, there would have been something more to go on for the future.

Worth Recalling.

From the Springfield Republican. Will the game laws prevent the Democrats from recalling that Will Hays was among those seriously considered for the Republican nomination for President in 1920, and that after he and Fall had got into the Harding Cabinet, close advisers of President Harding were prepared to see Fall made Secretary of State on the retirement of Hughes.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Henry Jackson Dean, aged 60, died at his home, Electric avenue, Milroy, of blood poisoning from a cut on the inside of his left thumb by a piece of barbed wire.

It is rumored that a resident of Williamsport will start an air line between that city and New York. The report states that a field is now under construction and that two five-passenger planes will be used at the field.

The "red heads" of the Bloomsburg State Teachers' college have formed a club, the only requirement of membership of which is to be the proud possessor of slightly better than Auburn tresses. On the night of the organization, 21 charter members were enrolled.

More than two large truck loads of clothing, shoes and provisions as well as over \$500 in cash have been donated by Oil City residents to the Central Labor Council for the relief of destitute miners and their families in the soft coal regions of Clearfield and Jefferson counties.

Falling asleep with her feet in the oven of her kitchen range, Mrs. John Bisker, of Yoe, York county, caught fire and was burned about the head and body. When she awoke her apron was ablaze. It was burned from her body. Mrs. Bisker said she had felt ill, so she sat down to warm her feet in the oven.

Two men entered the home of Mrs. Merle O'Connor, an invalid, at Vandergrift and after robbing her, according to police reports, bound and gagged the woman and set fire to the house. The woman's husband and neighbors discovered her plight and pushed out the fire before she had been seriously burned.

Tyrone Methodists, on Sunday, dedicated their new \$28,000 Sunday school building, which is of block granite, is thoroughly equipped and admirably appointed for the work of a modern church. The morning sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Samuel McWilliams, of Johnstown, and in the evening the dedicatory sermon was delivered by Bishop McDowell.

After sending three young children with their father, who was going on an errand, Mrs. Earl Hogg, Kirkwood, Lancaster county, went to the parlor of her home and ended her life by shooting herself with a heavy-caliber revolver. The woman, according to members of her family, had been ill for some time and became despondent. The body was found by the husband and three children when they returned.

The realty of the bankrupt Smith Ice, Cold Storage and Fuel company has been sold by the trustee to the Hanover Ice company for a consideration of \$16,500. The property is located two miles west of Hanover, Pa. The purchase includes two tracts of land, improved with a concrete block building together with ice cream making machinery and fixtures. There is a railroad switch alongside of the plant with roadway rights.

Arising at the usual time, Saturday morning, to prepare to go to work at the Cameron Colliery, Thomas C. Salter, of Shamokin, finished dressing when he was seized with violent abdominal pains and died less than an hour later. By the time the doctor arrived, the man had lapsed into a state of coma and his heart failed to respond to medical aid. He died without regaining consciousness. His wife and one daughter, Sarah, survive.

Ralph Miller, 40, peace loving farmer of Wayne township, Clinton county, went insane Thursday and was taken to the Clinton county jail after his actions had alarmed his wife and seven children. There he wrecked his cell, tearing out the toilet and breaking up his mattress and bending the iron cot, threatening the sheriff's life when he approached him. Miller thinks he is the son of the Saviour and that he is intended to preach the Gospel.

Frances Marie Myers, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Myers, of Butler, probably holds the State record for her number of living grandparents. Recently she attended the funeral of her great-great grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, of Bryds Bend, near there, and she still has a great-great grandfather, a great-great grandmother, two great grand parents and two grandparents still living. All reside in the vicinity of Butler.

Thirteen persons, including a mother and her six children and six members of a wedding party at the home of Ambro Krepachak, Slavish miner, were burned to death in a fire which destroyed their home at Blair Four, Blair county, on Sunday night. The fire, believed to have started at midnight, swept the frame dwelling before the occupants could escape. All apparently suffocated and the bodies were charred beyond recognition.

Because nobody knew why he was in jail, at Bloomsburg, Michael Yanko, of Fishing Creek, committed in November, was released by court order, on Monday. The commitment showed a charge of assault and battery but no transcript was ever returned and no one appeared to press the charge. The district attorney was never given any information about the case. Yanko told the court he had not figured in a fight and did not know why he was being held.

Plans are being made for the erection of a \$125,000 unit of a new 141-15 school building at the Lock Haven State Teachers' College, work on which will be begun early this summer. The building, when complete, will cost approximately \$400,000. The new senior high school building, which will cost nearly \$300,000, and the new \$70,000 State armory are also under course of construction in Lock Haven at the present time as well as several industrial plants.

Seven small trees from the Gettysburg battlefield have been shipped to Napa, California, where they will be planted on the grounds of the California Veterans' Home. In making the request to Colonel Davis, superintendent of the park at Gettysburg, for the trees, the commandant of the soldiers' home in the western State said the plans for the beautification of the grounds there called for trees from every battlefield on which the United States forces have fought.

The rush of applications for the renewal of certificates of convenience stopped on Saturday which was the date set by the Public Service Commission as the last day they would be received if they were to be heard at places other than where the Commission usually meets. As all applications granted in 1928 must be renewed this June, the commission announced that hearings would be held at seventeen different places throughout the Commonwealth for the convenience of those who wish to renew their certificates.