

INK SLINGS.

—The peonies will hardly make it Memorial day.

—These cool May days are certainly giving the family coal pile the marasmus.

—Up to the present writing straw hat day doesn't seem to have taken with much virulence.

—When somebody starts asking you how wet Smith is answer by asking how dry is Hoover?

—It's all right with us if the Prince of Wales wants to wear red garters and we hope the youth of our land will ape the new style for we're tired seeing their socks sloshing between their shoe tops and their ankle bones.

—W. R. Inge, of England, says: "All young people with soft hearts tend to be socialists at twenty-one. Only those with soft heads are Socialists twenty-one years later." If the "gloomy dean" ever said a mouthful he did it when he emitted that opinion.

—If Mr. Guffey, Mr. McCormick and a few others will kindly keep their hands off the Democrats of Pennsylvania might select a chairman at Harrisburg tomorrow who will be for the success of the Democratic party and not for the exploitation of those who think they are above the party.

Herbert Hoover was on a fishing expedition to Central Pennsylvania during the early part of the week. Real fish are what Mr. Hoover is said to have been after. Perhaps that's true, but delegates would not have been scorned, we'll bet. For the latter the gentleman should have baited his hook with Melon.

—If we had our way we'd set the fool killers on these he-dancers who drape a leopard skin about their loins and cavort about in movements that remind us of the undulations of a giraffe's neck. They call it classic dancing but their descriptive adjective has too many letters in it the c and l ought to be left off.

—The investment yield of the better grade of stocks having fallen nearly a third of one per cent under that of the better class of bonds it is but natural to expect that money will turn to the purchase of the latter. If his should happen the crowd that specializes in buying at the top will be left holding the bag, as it always has done and probably always will do.

—From New York to Los Angeles in two days, by train and plane, sounds good for those who want to make the trip quickly. When we cross the continent the old covered wagon won't be too slow, for we want to get something else than a flying glimpse at the country we traverse. This "here she comes, there she goes" manner of traveling leaves one with nothing to tell of a trip except that he has been there and back.

—Of course those in charge of the work know more about it than we do; at least they are supposed to, but we are going to have our say, notwithstanding. The stone that is being put on the highways hereabouts is too large. It doesn't bond, there is not enough asphaltum to hold it and much of it is sloughed to the sides of the road, leaving the old road bed, in many places, without the slightest appearance of having been resurfaced.

—In the mail this week was one of the Brigg's comic strips which Bill Scullin, Tyrone tailor, evidently cut out and sent us as a reminder of the days when "melody flowed freely and unconfined." It is a jesting caricature of the "pick-up" male quarter and really very cleverly done. We see ourselves in it as others possibly saw us years ago, but the smile it should bring is halted by the sadness of the thought that those days of effervescent spirit and nightly comradeship are gone forever. God, what a tragedy life is when one has the will to do it yet, but the voice is so cracked and wavering that it would be farcical to attempt a comeback. Perhaps the fact that we have sense enough to know that our days or first tenoring are over should be compensation enough, but it doesn't stop the longing for

Time to turn back just for one night
To the scenes where memories hang
And give us the joy; Oh! the delight,
Of singing old songs with the gang.

—Central Pennsylvania Republican papers have been devoting considerable space lately to the launching of a boom for our Senator, the Hon. Harry B. Scott, for Governor. For several years there have been hints of such a possibility. Where they have originated we have never been able to find out, but since they have been persistently consistent we opine that they haven't just been sucked out of somebody's thumb. It is about time for Centre county to produce another Governor for Pennsylvania and since Senator Scott has both the time, the money and, doubtless, the ambition why shouldn't he become an aspirant for the honor? We have known many Governors in Pennsylvania and of them we think we are being quite truthful when we say very few have been superior in capacity for such an office to our Senator. Its overwhelming majority in Pennsylvania makes it possible for the Republican party to make Governors out of whom ever it chooses. That being the fact the party might go further and fair far worse than by making the Senator its candidate two years hence.

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Big Business Under Suspicion.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller Jr., who as an individual and trustee, controls a large proportion, though not a majority of the shares of the Standard Oil company of Indiana, has asked Robert W. Stewart to resign the chairmanship of that corporation. When the question of Mr. Stewart's participation in the rascally deal of the Continental Trading company was under investigation by a Senate committee, he testified that he had received none of the bonds or profits of that sinister operation. Mr. Rockefeller then assured the committee that if subsequent inquiry proved the contrary he would ask Mr. Stewart to resign the chairmanship in order to vindicate the integrity of the corporation.

At a later session of the committee, after Harry Sinclair had been acquitted of conspiracy to rob the government, Mr. Stewart acknowledged that he had received \$759,000 of the bonds as his share of the profits of the Continental Trading company's shabby transaction, and Mr. Rockefeller has asked for his resignation. "Your recent testimony before the Senate committee," Mr. Rockefeller wrote Mr. Stewart, leaves me no alternative other than to ask you to make good the promise you voluntarily gave some weeks ago, that you would resign at my request. That request I now make." Thus far it has not been complied with and the indications are it will require force to remove him, and the force may not be available.

The oil scandal has strengthened greatly a suspicion in the public mind that the entire fabric of Big Business in this country is resting on a rotten foundation. It is now freely predicted in financial circles that a majority of the stockholders of the Indiana corporation will sustain Stewart, notwithstanding his moral delinquencies, because his management has produced big dividends. Other evidences of moral degeneracy are abundant and flagrant. The Governor of Pennsylvania, the Secretary of the United States treasury, some Senators in Congress and leading bankers and commercial organizations have exhausted all their resources to confirm Bill Vare's stolen title to a seat in the United States Senate.

It is small wonder that a distinguished jurist sounds an admonitory note against this dangerous trend. In Washington, the other day, Judge Edwin B. Parker, addressing the United States Chamber of Commerce said, "business must, in order to reap the advantage of group action, scrupulously discharge its group responsibilities. It must condemn and repudiate, not alone the principal offenders, but also those social outlaws whose conduct is in the twilight zone between acts illegal and criminal and acts simply immoral," which acts will inevitably bring upon themselves and the entire institution of business the thunderbolts of public wrath." Those who are supporting Vare are equally culpable in his crime.

—The Athletics got a bad start in the pennant race but they're going strong now.

Type of Man Needed.

The Democratic State committee will assemble at Harrisburg tomorrow for the purpose of reorganization. The most important feature of its work will be the election of a chairman of the committee and chairmen of the several district committees. So far as our information goes there are no active candidates for the chairmanship though it is an important office. This being a Presidential year a man should be chosen for this service who commands respect, is adapted for the work and is capable and honest.

Signs indicate that an effort may be made at the meeting tomorrow to select a chairman who may not be in sympathy with the candidate for President in the event that this honor is bestowed by the Houston convention upon a man now popular in the public mind. Such a result of the reorganization would be a major, if not a fatal mistake. The chairman of the party in Pennsylvania this year should be a broadminded, enthusiastic and militant Democrat, to whom the arduous work of the campaign will be "a labor of love."

There are plenty of men in Pennsylvania who measure up to this high standard of fitness. It is not an envying job, for it involves hard work and little recompense, other than the satisfaction that follows faithful endeavor and worthy achievement. If such a man is called to head the party organization tomorrow, no matter who the candidate for President may be, the Democratic voters of Pennsylvania will be encouraged to invest both energy and enthusiasm in a supreme effort to win a deserved victory in November.

Uncle Andy and Hoover in Agreement.

Now it may be safely predicted that Uncle Andy and Sir Herbert Hoover have practically come to an agreement. It hasn't been signed, sealed and delivered as yet, but it has become a custom among these eminent politicians to transact business carelessly and make "gentlemen's agreements" serve the purpose of a "sealed instrument in writing on paper or parchment." Harry Sinclair paid Albert Fall more than a quarter of a million of dollars for a third interest in a property worth less than that without even taking a receipt for the money, and Uncle Andy might well take Sir Herbert's word for the future delivery of a favor, that might never be available, in consideration of a service of much present value.

At the caucus of the Pennsylvania delegates to the Kansas City convention, held in Philadelphia last Saturday, Uncle Andy was elected chairman and in expressing appreciation of the honor he said, "We hear much talk of the various candidates and of their policies. Among them all Mr. Hoover seems to come closest to the standard we set for this high office." That was hardly a frank avowal of support, but as Mercutio remarked, "it is enough" to put the Hoover managers in a high state of exultation and persuade his convention colleagues that the nomination of Mr. Hoover will be "best for Pennsylvania and the nation." Anything that benefits Uncle Andy necessarily helps the party in Pennsylvania.

In other respects the caucus revealed a happy frame of mind among the delegates and a sublime interest in the prosperity of the organization. There were a lot of speakers and all of them in jovial mood. Big Tom Cunningham was re-elected treasurer of the State committee and appraised the selection of General Atterbury as a guarantee of "free passes all over the country." William S. Vare was signally honored and Max Leslie, of Pittsburgh, was not overlooked in the disposal of favors. In fact substantial evidence was registered that the ballot thieves, big and little, still stand high in the favor of the organization. If there are any reformers left in the party they will find little comfort in the proceedings.

—Secretary Hoover got very much peeved when the Senate committee asked him personal questions. But if he is nominated for President even more embarrassing questions will be put to him.

Big Tom "Marching On."

Big Tom Cunningham, of Philadelphia, is still moving toward the District of Columbia jail. In the United States District court at Philadelphia, the other day, Judge Dickinson gave him another substantial push. The Judge decided that Mr. Cunningham must stand trial in Washington on a charge of "contempt of the Senate," and that court has already established a record of convicting more offenders more important, more affluent and more influential. Mr. Cunningham may escape conviction and sentence, as Colonel Stewart, of the Indiana Standard Oil company, did by practically confessing perjury. But that is a humiliating process.

Judge Dickinson not only dismissed Big Tom's application for a writ of habeas corpus but issued a warrant for his removal to Washington. Of course there will be an appeal and delay in the execution of this process. Plenty of money can be obtained from the sources that supplied his \$50,000 to the Vare campaign corruption fund to retard the progress of justice. But it will be a foolish and futile investment. The Philadelphia methods of protecting criminals will not avail. The issue will be joined outside of the jurisdiction of that system. When Big Tom got to "cutting up" in Washington he "took in too much territory." The "organization" is impotent outside of Philadelphia.

And it is right and proper that this arrogant political pirate should be checked in his career of electoral crime. It ought to, and may have, a wholesome influence on the political morals of Pennsylvania. For years Big Tom and a group of men of his type, servile followers of Vare, have been debauching the elections, not only of Philadelphia but of Pennsylvania. When they are made to understand that they are not immune from punishment they will probably be less eager to build up big majorities by fraud, and honest men and women will be able to rescue the government of the State and cities from "the gang." It is "a consummation devoutly to be wished." It may be hard on Tom but he deserves it.

—Philadelphia has scored big in achievement in the past, according to the esteemed Record, but its most marvelous work is in voting dead men, infants and animals.

Philadelphia Criminal Method Revealed.

The testimony of former district attorney Fox, of Philadelphia, before the Senate Slush Fund committee last week, makes the duty of the Senate in the Wilson-Vare contest plain. Mr. Fox testified to such a volume and variety of fraud in the Senatorial election of 1926 as to invalidate the returns in at least what are known as the "river wards," if not of the entire city of Philadelphia. The "river wards" are those from one to twenty, and the votes of those wards eliminated the fraudulent majority returned for Vare would be wiped out. It is a principle of law that fraud vitiates any transaction with which it is concerned and a vote so submerged in fraud as that is certainly void.

The newspaper correspondents who reported the testimony for publication declared that the members of the committee "were filled with visible consternation," that those present were "shocked" and "amazed" by the exposure of crime and venality made by Mr. Fox. As a matter of fact the only surprising feature of the recital lies in the fact that the corrupt methods are not limited to the river wards but permeate the entire city. Until within recent years there were sections of the city in which honest and independent voters were able to prevent fraud and conduct elections fairly. But in late years the organization has been successful in its efforts to debauch the vote of the entire city.

Mr. Fox would not say that Mr. Vare directed these frauds but he declared that the "organization" encouraged them, that the "organization leaders" are cognizant of them and that Mr. Vare is the head of the "organization." He did say that the "organization" protected criminals and though Mr. Vare, personally, never appealed to him, as district attorney, to condone crime or be easy with criminals, subordinate leaders in the "organization" did so in the name of the "organization" of which Mr. Vare was the head. In fact he showed clearly that William S. Vare is a corrupt and by inference that the Republican State organization is culpable in supporting Vare's bogus claim.

—The State Highway Department has started the issue of a weekly bulletin showing the progress of State highway construction throughout the State, the various detours and where oiling operations are being carried on during the week. The map, of course, carries all the primary as well as secondary highway routes in the State, and is comprehensive in detail, though it almost takes a mathematician to figure it out.

—A New York boy for whom the police have been looking since last November was arrested while praying at his mother's grave on Sunday. The crime for which he was wanted is his fifth offense and if he is convicted the Baumes law of New York will send him to Sing Sing for life. An awful price to pay, but penitence knows no cost.

—Mr. Vare took advantage of the caucus to "issue a statement." Judging by his vote, outside of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia in 1926, the people of Pennsylvania are not much interested in his opinions.

—We have been told that "Wampus" run is alive with trout, but we have not been able to meet up with anyone who knows where Wampus run is.

—Senator Watson carried the Indiana primaries and if Hoover is nominated at Kansas City somebody else may carry the State in November.

—It is whispered in Washington that the President's compromise on the flood relief bill looks a good deal like an unconditional surrender.

—In the coming campaign in Pennsylvania the voice will be the voice of General Martin, but the hand will be the hand of Uncle Andy.

—The Bremen bird men are having a fine time while army planes are trying to rescue their ship out of the mud at Greenly Island.

—It is a safe bet that Jim Watson's delegates will be willing to vote for Coolidge, Hughes, Curtis or anybody else to defeat Hoover.

—It may be said that there are also a good many scalping knives ready for Hoover in Ohio, in the event of his nomination.

—Now if Goff defeats Hoover in West Virginia the "favorite son" idea will be more generally respected in the future.

No Uprising in Rumania.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Revolution is obviously no part of the programme of the Peasant party in Rumania. The recent march of the Green Shirts upon Bucharest was a peaceable affair, and the Government had no occasion to interfere by force. Of the two hundred thousand who set out for the capital only five thousand got there; Maniu, the leader of the party, called them off. All that he desired, apparently, was a demonstration which would compel the attention of Bratianu, second of the dynasty and far less powerful than his dead brother. Disorder would have alienated popular sympathy. Most Rumanians, fearing Hungary and Soviet Russia, are anxious for internal harmony. The march was a sort of political strike. Such tactics accord with the naturally pacific character of the Rumanians.

The elder Bratianu had no great difficulty in maintaining a semi-patriarchal regime. The vast mass of the people had little regard or capacity for democratic rule. But the new Rumania differs from the old in more than one respect. The province of Transylvania, added to Rumania after the World war, has a more aggressive and enterprising population, and one more politically minded. Moreover, the increased importance of the country internationally has resulted in a new birth of patriotism. The Peasant party is no more willing than any other to see it torn by internal dissensions. That is one reason why there is so little sympathy with the ambitions of Prince Carol. Even if he were more liked and respected, he would find few to fight for him.

Yet the question whether the people are to govern themselves or be governed by Bratianu with an unrepresentative Parliament is one that must be settled sooner or later. Bratianu would like to obtain the collaboration of Maniu; he would permit another general election if the Peasants would unite with the Liberals in a common list of candidates. But the former are naturally afraid that this would mean their elimination as a party. The best organized opposition to Bratianu is the National party—a fusion of blocs, the remnants of Jonescu's old following. But there is apparently no prospect that Maniu will combine with them. Unless, then, there is some radical change in the situation, a political overturn in Rumania does not appear to be imminent.

Not Needed Now.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Mr. Cutting, of New Mexico, has lost little time after entering the Senate in offering resolutions for amending the Constitution. New members are especially susceptible to the popular idea that the way to bring about this or that more or less needed reform is to tinker with the fundamental law. And so he would have two new constitutional amendments. One would give Congress control over all primaries, including presidential ones, and the other would bar from Senate or House any candidate who violates any election law. The latter suggestion is particularly inept in view of the existing constitutional provision making each house the judge of its own membership. Where violation of law has been clearly shown, neither House has ever evinced any disinclination to act. Contentions, indeed, have been raised on the other hand that the Senate especially has tended to exceed the bounds of its lawful discretion in excluding accused or suspected members-elect.

No limit is now imposed on expenditures by presidential candidates, although national party committees are required to report their outlays. The amount that may be expended personally by candidates for Senate and House in the general election, not the primary, is limited by law. Apparently the Constitution would have to be amended to cover presidential candidates' campaigns; but the desirability of such action has been seriously doubted by students of this question. President Roosevelt once referred to the danger that such laws will "act only as a penalty upon honest men." Certainly the present investigation at Washington has indicated no pressing need for a further cumbering of the statute books in an attempt to enforce economy in campaign expenditures.

Why Ten Per Cent?

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

A wealthy St. Louis man, dying a short time ago, remarked in his will that for forty years he had given 10 per cent of his income to charity. He felt he had discharged his obligation and he made no further provision for charitable giving.

Many will say he did well in giving away ten per cent of his income. And he deserves credit for being more generous than many others.

But the fact remains the man does not necessarily discharge his obligation to the community or to his own conscience by giving away any stated per cent. In the case of some men and women ten per cent of the income would not represent a particle of sacrifice.

Generosity and unselfishness cannot be mathematically computed. Giving which represents no sacrifice, whatever, deserves much less praise than the giving which earns the classification of "inconvenient service."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Announcement is made by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways that 110 detours are now in effect on Pennsylvania roads.

—The Beech Creek State bank has become the Beech Creek National Bank by charter grant at Washington. Federal bank examiners went over the bank's affairs and conformity to the requirements of a national bank were effected.

—An office door and a laboratory drawer containing gold and platinum for filling were jimmied Friday noon in the office of Dr. William E. Black, dentist, in Lewistown. Material valued at \$100 was taken, including a fraternity pin and ring.

—Helen A. Smith Baum, of Pittsburgh, has been awarded \$13,000 damages against the city in a verdict returned by a jury in common pleas court on Monday, for injuries she suffered when an automobile in which she was riding ran into a hole in DeSoto street, August 30, 1924.

—Samuel D. Truxall, 82, of Butler, Pa., has not missed a day from his job as caretaker of the Butler Guaranty Trust company in 25 years. Not only that, but he has lived there 78 years, has been without employment for only two weeks in 52 years and never has been confined to bed on account of illness.

—An offer to give four farms, embracing 880 acres, to the county of Berks as a site for a new jail, workhouse and almshouse has been made by William W. Eslick, Reading manufacturer. The land, situated a short distance northwest of Reading, was once the property of Joseph Heister, former Governor of Pennsylvania.

—When heavers want to build a dam they persist regardless of efforts made to discourage them or the convenience of the State foresters who use nearby roads. Forest Ranger Robert Bailey has reported to the Department of Forests and Waters. Beaver are becoming numerous in the vicinity of Bear Meadows, in the Logan State forest district, Bailey reported.

—William Womeldorf, a farmer residing about sixteen miles from Lock Haven, suffered a \$15,000 fire loss with no insurance, when straw and hay in his barn took fire Thursday night as he was attempting to remove an old car from the barn, five head of cattle, implements and crops, outbuildings, house and part of the contents were destroyed.

—It cost John Meskovich, landlord, of Uniontown, just \$2353 for his attempt to provide for his tenants that there was no leaking gas in the cellar. When the tenants, Valera and Walter Sumek, complained of leaking gas, Meskovich challenged their statement by striking a match. The resulting explosion caused burns for which the tenants sued for damages and were awarded \$2353.

—Four young women prisoners in the Indiana county jail dug through a brick wall and escaped late Sunday night, but were recaptured on Monday. Several bricks were pried from the wall of the hospital section of the jail. As the women, ranging in age from 19 to 25 years, escaped an employee at a gasoline station saw them and reported to police. All of them were found within the city.

—Charles Duser, 50, member of the Pioneer Fire company, of Hazleton, lost his life in responding to an alarm when a building occupied by the Jacob Koplin store, the Pennsylvania House Furnishing company and the Stanley studio was gutted by fire late Saturday night. Duser was thrown from a motor fire engine as it rounded a corner and he died from a fractured skull at the State hospital. He was a Lehigh Valley railroad trainman.

—The board of trustees of Selingsgrove State Colony for Epileptics has advertised for bids for the construction of new cottages. This institution will house the State colony for epileptics. At present the epileptics are being accommodated in the mental hospitals and in the schools for mental defectives. It is estimated that 2000 epileptics are now being cared for with the insane and feeble-minded. Many of these patients can be given better care if segregated in such an institution as is being developed at Selingsgrove.

—An attempt to blow up and destroy by fire the \$225,000 plant of the Speeceville Brick company at Speeceville, Dauphin county, was frustrated by employees who discovered a pile of black powder and kerosene soaked debris in the wooden cutting room of the plant. State police started an investigation of the "plant" and attempted to learn the reason for starting the blaze. A chance inspection of a boiler led to the discovery of the powder. Candles had been placed on the pile and were burning at the time.

—The Beech Creek plant of the General Refractories company which won the cup awarded by the General Refractories company in its slushy campaign contest for 1927, has also been awarded a handsome silver cup for the year 1927 awarded by the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Casualty company for the lowest accident severity experience among the clay group. The Beech Creek plant is also up in the front ranks of the no-accident group for the quarter ending March 31, 1928, being tied with West Decatur, Danville and Sandy Ridge.

—Fire, suspected of being incendiary origin, early Tuesday morning swept the A. J. Black Coal company at Broad Top city and died out only after destroying property valued at \$70,000. All except \$10,000 of this loss falls directly on the coal company, the smaller amount representing the loss of a road contractor who had road machinery stored there. Last Thursday morning an explosion, which authorities believe was caused by idle miners, destroyed a generator at the mine with a loss of \$20,000. The Black company loses its one fourth covered by insurance, while the road contractor carried no insurance.

—Free J. Tyrell, 53, attorney and Sunday school superintendent, on Sunday shot and killed Philip J. Clark, 36, in the First Christian church at Mulhall, a suburb, of Pittsburgh, a few minutes before Sunday school classes were scheduled to assemble. Clark died with three bullets in his body. Tyrell was arrested a half hour later. A year ago Tyrell filed papers in a divorce suit for the wife of the slain man, Clark said. Since that time, the father said Mrs. Clark had been working in the office of the attorney. Detectives said they learned Clark had sought to force Tyrell to resign as Sunday school superintendent. Clark was said to have appeared at the church, on Sunday to make charges against Tyrell. He was shot witnesses said, as he was talking to a church trustee.