

INK SLINGS.

—Two more flighty girls are preparing for an air trip across the Atlantic or to Davy Jones' locker.

—It begins to look as though the "Southern Cross" might make the farthest point south without "going west."

—Premier Mussolini has extended the olive branch to the Slavs, but they are fearful that he took it from a persimmon tree.

—Col. Mitchell thinks that the Los Angeles ought to be sent to hunt for Noble and the Italia, lost somewhere in the arctic regions. We're for that if William takes the balloon and goes himself.

—Recent rains started the garden things to growing. That is a very gratifying result, indeed, if the amateur gardener only fails to note that the weeds are even doing better than the vegetables.

—Various theories have been advanced as to the purpose which influenced the appointment of Newton D. Baker to the bench of the Hague court. But everybody agrees that it was a first class selection.

—For the information of a lot of readers who we know are interested we make this confession: Since the fifteenth of April to the present moment we haven't landed a trout large enough to keep. And we want to tell you that that's some confession for one who has been building at a piscatorial reputation for forty-one years.

—If we were a candidate for nomination for President on either the Democratic or Republican tickets we would answer the clamor as to what we would do by way of enforcement of the Volstead act by unequivocally declaring that we would do equally as much, and probably more, than President Coolidge has done. Ever stop to look at it in that way, you people who are so awfully concerned as to what Smith or Hoover might do should either one be nominated and elected?

—We hear many things through the office window. Idlers gather on the pavement not two feet from where we sit at work and carry on conversation utterly regardless of the fact that there is nothing to prevent our hearing but a pane of glass. A few evenings ago two rather tough gentlemen got into a heated argument over a beating up that had been given a young lady the night before. Imagine our surprise when one of them emitted this bit of philosophy: "Well, she dresses like a man, she swears like a man, she drinks like a man and why in the — shouldn't she take a beating" like a man.

—A perusal of the auditors' statement of the financial condition of Bellefonte borough and a comparison with that of three or four years ago will reveal that notwithstanding an increase in the valuation of assessable property and a great jump in the millage rate it is costing about four thousand dollars a year more now to run the borough than it did four years ago. This is not a protest. It is only a reminder to those who are constantly insisting that we have this and that and the other thing that someone has to foot the bills and the property owners are the ones who have to do it. To some of them increased taxation means nothing. To others, however, it means such sacrifices that the rich would bawl their eyes out if they had to make.

—Because we know many of you will be interested by it we urge you to read Florence Parry's story on page seven of this issue. It is an unusual word picture of President Coolidge as she saw him recently in a Washington theatre. We have no doubt of its being a deadly accurate likeness. You will recall that when the President sent his famous "do not choose to run" message out from the Black Hills last summer this column stated its belief that the terse sentence was charged with sincerity. We expressed the belief that Calvin Coolidge was tired, tired of a life with which his nature has nothing in common. Miss Parry diagnoses the case in the same way but goes farther. She warns that danger signals are flashing and that we must not forget the price men pay for prominence. There is but one living ex-President.

—Next week our friends, the Republicans, will select their standard bearer. No matter who is chosen at Kansas City he'll be the only man alive capable of salvaging a country where the unemployed are wandering on the highways like flies and bootleggers sit in the places of the mighty. Of course no one is expected to inquire as to what party is in power now and what party should shoulder the blame for the business depression and lawlessness that exists under its administration. Those timid Republicans who penetrate the smoke screen far enough to ask such a question will be told: If the house needs cleaning let us clean it ourselves, and they'll join in the same old bally-hoo about the country going to the devil if a Democratic President should be elected. That's a state of mind we never could understand. We know hordes of them, however, perfectly sane in all of their other mental reactions, who become positively loony when someone suggests the idea that a Democrat might have just as much at stake in good government as a Republican.

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Mr. Coolidge's Gettysburg Speech.

The Memorial day speech of President Coolidge, at Gettysburg, was literally characteristic. In more or less ornate phrases he acknowledged that the country owes to the memory of the heroic dead a sentiment of gratitude but protested that the account is balanced by generous gifts to the survivors. His only standard of measurement is dollars and cents and according to his reasoning the millions paid in pensions to the Civil war veterans and the billions to the survivors of the World war are liberal recompense for the sacrifices made by the living and the dead. He expresses the same idea in referring to the evils of war. "Our investment and trade relations are such," he says, "that any conflict anywhere would affect us injuriously."

It is difficult to imagine how this train of thought should dominate a Memorial day oration designed to celebrate "a great battle between the Union and Confederate forces, and with one of the greatest addresses ever delivered by one of the greatest men ever in the world, Abraham Lincoln." With Coolidge it seems to be an obsession. "Though we have at this time some of our forces in Haiti, Nicaragua and China," he says, "they are in none of these places for the purposes of making war but for the purpose of insuring peaceful conditions under which the rights of our nationals and their property may receive that protection to which they are entitled under the terms of international law." But in Nicaragua, at least, the rights they claim is to exploit the natives.

With the effort to renounce war as an instrument of national policy, which the President eulogizes with great enthusiasm, all fair and healthy minds are in sympathy. But even that laudable enterprise is under suspicion. The League of Nations offered the surest and speediest medium of outlawing war and establishing permanent peace but partisan malice created an opposition to the ratification of that treaty which was subsequently endorsed through a false pretense. Mr. Hughes, Mr. Taft and other distinguished supporters of the League, persuaded thousands that the election of Harding was the surest way to get into the League. Ever since that fraud was perpetrated Republican leaders have been trying to devise a substitute and justify their action.

—Mr. Lincoln gave the engineer of his Gettysburg train a gold watch but there is no evidence that Mr. Coolidge has "come across" with anything.

More Practical than Idealistic.

Late evidence developed by the new Slush Fund committee of the Senate indicates that Mr. Herbert Hoover is quite practical for a professional idealist. Ben J. Davis and Perry W. Howard, negro National committee men for Georgia and Mississippi, respectively, testified that they spent \$15,750 in those States in the interest of Hoover delegates. Even at that they are not sure the delegates whose election they secured will vote for Hoover in the Kansas City convention. A "lilly white" party has since been organized in Georgia with the certainty of a contest, according to Davis, and if his candidates are "double-crossed he may not vote his delegation for Hoover."

When the negro politicians of the South were lining up in favor of Hoover it was interpreted as a sign that the administration is friendly to the Secretary of Commerce. The negro politicians are invariably with the administration. The leaders being office holders they hope to continue in office if the administration candidate is nominated and elected. But they are not willing to work without recompense in advance as well as the hope of reward subsequently. This accounts for the draft on the Hoover treasury in the primary campaign, an unusual incident. Heretofore a promise in advance and a settlement in cash or equivalent at the convention served the purpose.

Of the \$15,750 disbursed in these two States for negro support \$11,800 had gone into Mississippi, leaving only \$3,950 for Georgia. The reason for this discrimination has not been revealed but it probably accounts for the impending contest in Georgia. Rush L. Holland, assistant attorney general under Harry Daugherty's administration of the Law Department of the government, was the paymaster, and he is an expert in measuring values. But he failed to get the measure of the man in that case. It is charged that Committeeman Davis kept all the money himself and his disappointed followers are responsible for the "lilly white" organization and the threatened loss of delegates.

—Herbert Hoover seems to believe that he can fool all the farmers all the time.

Cost of Political Campaigns.

A good many esteemed contemporaries throughout the country find pleasure in "poking fun" at the new Slush Fund committee of the Senate because it has failed to uncover any excessive expenditures by or on behalf of the candidates for President this year. But its inquiries have not been a joke by any means, and it is certain that much good may come from them in the end. Most of the candidates for President in both the major parties spent little money and the cost of the campaign for Mr. Hoover, though considerably in excess of that of any of the others, was trifling compared with that of the primary campaign of 1920 or the Senatorial campaign in Pennsylvania in 1926.

The expense problem of political campaigns has come to be one of grave importance. Measured by the expenditures for Vare on one side and Pepper on the other in the contest for the Republican nomination for Senator in Congress for Pennsylvania, in 1926, the money cost of a campaign for any important office in this State completely eliminated from the competition all except millionaires or the servile tools of predatory corporations. Even some sincere reformers were beginning to believe that a million dollars or more might be legally expended in presenting the claims of a candidate for a State-wide office. The new Senate Slush Fund committee has clearly proved that any man fit for the office may make a campaign covering the entire country for much less.

It is estimated by Herbert Hoover's campaign manager that the expense of his campaign for the Republican nomination for President will not exceed \$300,000. This is probably an underestimate, but Hoover's managers were needlessly profligate. For example, they made expensive contests in Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and several southern States which might have been avoided without material impairment of his chances. Notwithstanding these extravaganzas it is safe to predict that his disbursements will be less than half a million, while that of one candidate in 1920 was more than twice that much. The cost of Governor Smith's campaign for the Democratic nomination will be less than \$200,000.

—Two wrongs never make a right. Tariff taxing agricultural products simply gives the farmers a small share of the plunder taken from the public.

Support the New Voting Machine Amendment.

At a recent election held in Warren, Pennsylvania, to determine some local question, voting machines were used and the people of that progressive little city were well pleased with the result. The process was found simple and easily understood, the action expeditious and the count prompt and accurate. It has been predicted that all opposition to the adoption of that system of voting has vanished in that community. In Pittsburgh, where the system has been fully tested, the Republican party managers have openly expressed themselves in favor of the voting machines. Recent court activities may have convinced them that the machines are safer for election officers.

These incidents show that the trend of popular opinion is in favor of the adoption of the pending amendment to the State constitution authorizing the use of the machines. They indicate that the objection in the matter of expense is futile. Even if the cost of elections were considerably increased the guarantee of the integrity of the ballot and the honesty of the return would afford liberal recompense for the added expense. But as a matter of fact the use of voting machines will decrease, rather than increase, the expenses of elections to the extent that within a period of four or five years the original cost of the machines will be absorbed.

But the encouraging reports of sentiment in favor of voting machines should not be allowed to lull the supporters of the proposed constitutional amendment into a condition of overconfidence. There will be strong opposition to the adoption of the amendment in sections where fraudulent voting has been developed to a high point of efficiency. The Vare machine in Philadelphia and the Mellon-Leslie organization of Pittsburgh will not relinquish their opportunity to control elections by fraud without a struggle, and it is incumbent on all who favor honest elections to give their best efforts in support of the amendment. Don't be fooled by false pretenses of crafty politicians.

—Andy Mellon still holds the Pennsylvania delegation to the Kansas City convention in his vest pocket.

Pepper's Proxy a Perplexing Problem.

There is a good deal of mental speculation among politicians as to what influence moved former Senator Pepper to appoint Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, to represent Pennsylvania in the Republican National committee at Kansas City. It is certainly unusual for a member of that important committee to give a proxy to a representative of another State. In this instance it may have peculiar significance. Senator Moses has been among the most enthusiastic supporters of Herbert Hoover and as the proxy carried with it the chairmanship of the preliminary committee on contested seats it conveyed a decided advantage to the Hoover interests. It is not certain that the Mellon machine had such a purpose.

Mr. Pepper might have found in the Pennsylvania delegation to the convention a man fully capable of performing his duties both as member of the committee and chairman of the special committee. Governor Fisher, State chairman W. L. Mellon or Secretary of Labor Davis might have been depended upon to carry out the plans of the Mellon organization with "neatness and dispatch." Or General Atterbury, who will succeed Pepper after the close of the convention, could have been relied upon to perform the service acceptably, and his appointment would have been a courtesy to a distinguished fellow townsman. But he overlooked these opportunities to cultivate harmony and good feeling in the party leadership.

Some of those who are concerned in the matter express the opinion that Mr. Pepper is dissatisfied with recent party activities and that the slight of his colleagues in the delegation is in the form of resentment. The cordial support of Vare in his aspirations and the continuing honors bestowed upon him could hardly be other than offensive to a man of Mr. Pepper's professional and social standing, and that he named Senator Moses as his substitute with the purpose of thus contributing to the confusion of the plans of the Mellon machine. It may be the straw which will break the back of the opposition to Hoover and the lever that will hoist Mellon. Viewed from any angle it is a perplexing problem.

—During the fiscal year ending May 31 Centre county trappers collected from the State \$4,314 in bounties on 902 claims for capturing and killing noxious animals. As the pelts of the animals killed were worth from three to four times the amount of bounty received the total revenue accruing to the trappers was upwards of twenty thousand dollars.

—While eighty-eight per cent of the farmers in Centre county are credited with using commercial fertilizers only twenty-four per cent used lime during 1927, according to figures compiled in the bureau of statistics Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The total amount of tons used is given as 3,720 and the cost \$26,410.

—The Massachusetts Legislature has instituted impeachment proceedings against the Attorney General of that State for alleged official misconduct. How shocking! Official misfeasance is to be expected in uncultured Commonwealths, but who could have dreamed of such a thing in Massachusetts.

—Reports have it that Senator Curtis, of Kansas, is cock-sure that he will be made the Republican nominee at Kansas City next week. While it is our idea that the Senator is only kidding himself we would welcome him as leader of the opposition. Our fight would be half won before it is begun.

—The slush fund investigation has brought out the fact that George Washington was once a sageman in the Tammany Society. This fact probably caused a shock to a good many political scandal mongers.

—It is alleged that the story of the killing of an American mine manager by Sandina's rebels was a piece of propaganda to influence the vote in the Senate on the proposition to withdraw the marines.

—It is amusing to hear certain delegates to the Kansas City convention expressing preference for this or that candidate. Mr. Mellon's preference is the only one that will be considered in Kansas City.

—The proposition of the farm bloc to raise the tariff tax on agricultural products is absurd. The only way to help the farmers by tariff taxation is to put all products used by farmers on the free list.

What a Keen Pennsylvania Farmer Can Accomplish.

From the Philadelphia Record.

It is not customary to think of Pennsylvania as a great agricultural State, because of the large importance attached to its manufacturing and mining interests, but still it may claim that when it comes to farmers it is no small Commonwealth. Indeed, if we may believe Allentown's proud boast, General Harry C. Trexler, of that city, is the boss farmer of the whole United States, as "it is believed he has more acres in cultivation than any other man in the country." He has 8000 acres in Lehigh county alone, and not far from 40,000 in the entire United States. Besides his Pennsylvania holdings, which include thousands of acres in the Western part of the State, near Newcastle, he conducts big farming enterprises in connection with his industrial plants in Maryland, Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and the State of Washington.

These interesting facts are mentioned, not from any desire to boost General Trexler, but as evidence of what may be accomplished when a captain of industry brings to farming problems that same high intelligence he devotes to other questions. The general is a big figure in the cement trade, and it is because he gives to his widely scattered farms the same care and concentration of attention that he gives to the cement industry he is able to command such success. To his beautiful orchards, his hundreds of acres planted to potatoes, his 2000 acres of pasturage, his wheat fields, his great private game preserve of 10,000 acres, and his numerous other undertakings he devotes the best thought that is in him.

These results, which contrast so strongly with those attained by many other farmers in Pennsylvania and other Eastern States, give force to the theory held by many that in the not far distant future farming will be conducted on much the same principles as manufacturing, with a highly specialized intelligence directing ample capital to the best ends of which the soil is capable.

Pennsylvania Memorials in France.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Mayor Mackey was the orator of the day at the dedication of the World War memorial to the State of Pennsylvania in the Romagne cemetery of the Argonne, France, Wednesday. In that spot are the remains of 14,000 American soldiers who gave up their lives for their country and for humanity. It was an impressive occasion in every way. On the previous day Pennsylvanians under the leadership of General Price dedicated a memorial bridge at Fismes, also in honor of the deeds of the boys from the Keystone State. * * * M. Tardieu paid the visitors the compliment of speaking in English, and told our representatives that the bridge was not only an imperishable monument which would ever recall their combats but assured them that the French would guard it as a gift of the most precious friendship they had ever known.

Among the men who participated in the dedication of the bridge were many who had been wounded in the action which took place at that point. But wherever our men were they gave a good account of themselves. In the midst of tangled wires, in the marshes, always fighting, the soldiers of the Twenty-eighth Division were given what a French commander called "the high seat of honor." Many of those present at the ceremonies must have recalled the day when, facing Fismes, they completed the capture of the town.

It was no idle compliment when it was officially announced that "this division—the Twenty-eighth—is second to none in the entire American Expeditionary Force." It is fitting that it should be embalmed in the memory of future generations by the memorial in the Argonne cemetery and by the bridge at Fismes.

When Wild Game Was Cheap.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

The late Oliver Curwood in his remarkable novel, "The Plains of Abraham," makes frequent reference to the Pennsylvania wilds and the period preceding the Revolutionary war. Among other things he writes of the abundance of wild life, the squirrels being so numerous in 1749 that Pennsylvania paid three pence a head for 600,000 that were killed as pests. At that time wild turkeys sold for a shilling apiece and pigeons brought a penny a dozen. It was then that the frightful slaughter of wild life by white people began. As many as a thousand deer were killed in a single drive by the merciless system of fire-hunting, the carcasses being left to rot. Hides were worth from ten to forty cents each. Stags were sold for a cheap jack-knife or a few iron nails. While this was true of the whites in the forest days the Indians were then and have always been conservationists, not killing for the love of killing, but in order that they might obtain food.

—The price of votes in the Kansas City convention will be governed by the laws of supply and demand. The South will furnish the supply.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—Approximately 2,000,000 people attended county fairs in the Commonwealth last year, according to L. H. White, director, bureau of statistics, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

—Lieutenant-Governor Arthur James, of Wilkes-Barre, has been a patient in the University of Pennsylvania hospital for a week. He is recovering after an operation on his right eye to correct a muscular disorder which had affected his sight.

—The Milliron Construction company, of DuBois, lowest bidders for the construction of the new steel and concrete bridge to replace the old covered wooden structure over Bald Eagle creek, west of Mill Hall, were awarded the contract by Clinton county commissioners at the low bid of \$40,449.70.

—Zacharias Bamberger, a Civil war veteran and member of the company of mounted infantrymen that escorted the body of President Lincoln from the railroad station in Harrisburg to the State capitol, where it lay in state, died at 11.30 o'clock Saturday night, nine days past his ninety-ninth birthday. He had been ill several weeks.

—Announcement was made on Monday, of the purchase of the Juniata Tribune, a weekly newspaper published by the late I. T. Mitchell, at Millintown, by the Sentinel Publishing company, of Lewistown. This is the first step toward the formation of a chain of weekly and daily newspapers to be published by the Sentinel, Lewistown's only daily.

—George Idell, Philadelphia architect, and Wilbur Steinbach, of Steinhach and Sons company, Lewistown, have reported that the Millin county almshouse is not beyond repair, and that an expenditure of \$50,000 would put the institution in good shape. Millin county commissioners have allowed the building to remain idle for a considerable time after it was closed by the State Department of Welfare.

—Two Petrolia, Butler county, Boy Scouts have perfected a radio receiving and sending outfit which they can operate in an automobile traveling forty-five miles an hour. G. O. Yough, scout master, and John Naylor, his assistant, reported testing the apparatus and said they were able to transmit messages to each other at a distance of five miles. They said also that they picked up other amateur stations on the automobile set. The experiment was made at eighty meters.

—John H. Hilliard, of Pennsylvania Furnace, has been retired by the Pennsylvania Railroad company after serving as a truckman for nearly 50 years. Mr. Hilliard was first employed in the construction of the Clearfield and Cambria branch of the Tyrone division and later on the Fairbrook branch. In his entire 50 years of service, he never suffered a personal injury of any kind, was never disciplined and did not miss a day's work in the last eleven years on account of illness.

—Acting on the order of the chief burgess to stamp out gambling, police raided a poolroom, at Shamokin, Saturday night, arresting two proprietors and twelve patrons. Steel bars and locks employed as a guard against raids by the owners became a trap when police broke in the front door and the gamblers could not get the bars down from the back door in time to make a getaway. One man, designated to keep watch at the front door, failed to keep his trust. Police were tipped off by a man who lost \$98.

—The Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railway company is arranging to plant its watershed areas located near Johnsonburg, Punxsutawney, Indiana and DuBois with forest tree seedlings next spring. The seedlings will be supplied from the State forest tree nurseries of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters. Railroad companies throughout the State are planting large numbers of forest tree seedlings each year for watershed protection and the elimination of fires along their rights of way.

—An intensive search has been in progress the past week for a clue to the whereabouts of John J. Green, assistant cashier of the McDowell National bank at Sharon, who disappeared about May 20 while en route to a convention of the Knights of Columbus at York. The last seen of Green, it was learned, was when he left Sharon, supposedly for Pittsburgh, to join other men going to the convention. Officials of the Sharon bank said Green's accounts were in good order. They could assign no reason for his absence.

—The United States government, on Monday sold the property of the new Hallam Distilling company, near Hallam, York county, for \$23 at a public sale. The property, which was the scene of several spectacular raids and a fire since the national prohibition law went into effect, had an appraised value of \$10,000 to \$15,000. The sale was ordered by the internal revenue department to satisfy a lien for a sum approximating \$17,000 for the non-payment of Federal taxes for the withdrawal of whiskey from the company's bonded warehouses. The property was sold to Menotti Gohn, of Hallam.

—Attorney J. Klinger, of Johnstown, formerly district attorney of Clinton county, will make formal application to the State board of pardons at its meeting on June 20, for the pardon of Raimondo Valentino, of Avis, young Italian who was sentenced to life imprisonment several years ago after a jury had found him guilty of first degree murder of Howard Wagner, of Jersey Shore. Urged by his attorney to enter a plea of guilty to manslaughter, Valentino refused, maintaining his innocence throughout the trial, which resulted in his conviction of first degree murder with a jury recommendation of life imprisonment.

—To cater to the desire for something new, Morgan B. Emig, of Hallam, York county, has built a three-room bungalow in a large buttonwood tree on his ancestral acres. It is surrounded by a screened porch and overhangs a placid creek. One can lie in a hammock and see the fish in the stream below when the water is clear. It is furnished, heated and lighted. He also has installed colored electric lights on top of an 85-foot flag-pole that attracts the attention of travelers on the Pennsylvania railroad nearby and on the Lincoln highway, a mile away. A power unit in the top of the tree gives such volume to a loud speaker of the radio set that it can be heard far away on a calm evening. It was planned especially for honey-mooners, but also is used for small parties. A flight of steps on the trunk of the tree leads up to the cottage.