

INK SLINGS.

If more people stayed at home on Sunday the undertakers would not be so busy on Monday.

Brother McSparran has called on Gov. Smith to resign and Al will probably do it—like the old woman kept tavern out west.

Thank the Lord, the farmers are having a season of propitious weather in which to salvage their short grass and scant wheat crops.

The selection of Mr. Raskob as chairman of the Democratic National committee knocks the bread-line and soup-house scares out of the Republican campaign map.

The assassination of President-elect Obregon, of Mexico, is not likely to have a very quieting effect on the domestic turmoil of our temperamental sister Republic south of the Rio Grande. Mexico just can't do without tragedy.

As tragedy after tragedy piles up in the wake of the disastrous Noble polar expedition it seems to be about time for the world to notify those who persist in flying into the jaws of death that if they can't fly out again they can stay there.

"Hoover Goes West" was the headline in metropolitan papers on Saturday. The American-English, Demo-Republican gentleman who resigned from the cabinet of President Coolidge to aspire to be President of the United States will "go west" right in November.

The Tunney-Heeney fight, which is less than a week off, hasn't aroused as much interest as usually precedes a fistie contest in which the heavy-weight championship of the world is involved. We figure that Tunney will retain his title if he doesn't find it necessary to recline on the canvas fourteen seconds again.

According to the records compiled in 1927 one person is killed with every nine-hundred and eighty-four automobiles that are turned out. Bear this in mind when you are reading stories of the daily out-put of the Ford and General Motors factories and it might scare you into being a little more careful at road intersections and keep you far enough from the white lines on curves to save your neck from the fool driver who thinks he can straddle them in safety.

Word comes from Evanston, Ill., to the effect that Vice President Dawes is a bit peeved because the Kansas City convention didn't re-nominate him. Explaining the selection of Curtis instead it is intimated that Charley was rather too forceful and self assertive to suit Coolidge. Suit Coolidge and why? He's through and what did he do as President, anyhow? His has been the most colorless administration we have recollection of.

Scientists must have it in for the aluminum manufacturers. They are responsible for the spreading notion that cooking utensils made of the light metal are contributory cause for the increase in cancer in this country. Some chemical reaction when food stuffs are cooked in aluminum vessels is said to impregnate the food with an element that starts the cancer germ in the human system. We don't know whether there is anything to it or not, but the purchasing public is taking no chances, for the dealers in aluminum-ware will tell you that sales are falling off at an appalling rate.

The prominent business man who recently left his office and went out to play a strenuous game of tennis in broiling mid-afternoon sunshine is dead as a result of his indiscretion. Sunshine is very beneficial to health when it is used properly. The case in question shows, however, that it is quite the reverse when abused. On Monday we gave a homeward bound lime kiln fireman a lift. That man does a ten hour shift every day before the hottest kind of a fire, yet he told us that he would like to take a week off to go out and help some farmer make hay, but was afraid he couldn't stand the heat of the sun.

State Treasurer Sam Lewis is right in his contention that the State has enough funds available to take care of every need of the five departments and institutions for the benefit of which new bond issues are proposed. But Sam has been sticking around Harrisburg long enough to know—and he does know—that no matter how many millions are available log rolling and political expediency are the motivating impulses in the House and Senate appropriation committees. Four of the five proposals are really meritorious. They are welfare work, reforestation, roads and State College. Roads have already more than twenty-three million dollars income from motor licenses this year and it is only half gone so we think it would be bad business to bond the State for more funds for that department. Welfare, reforestation and the Pennsylvania State College have no such annual income and will not be adequately provided for if the electorate of the State does not declare that they must be. For that reason this column and this paper favors three of the bond proposals namely: That for the Pennsylvania State College; that for reforestation of our denuded mountain lands and that for providing sufficient retreats for our physical delinquents.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 73. BELLEFONTE, PA., JULY 20, 1928. NO. 28.

The Campaign Auspiciously Opened.

The reorganization of the Democratic National committee affords a comforting assurance of a vigorous and successful campaign. The new chairman, John J. Raskob, is not widely known as a politician but he is internationally famous as an organizer and business executive. His appointment to the important office will serve two significant purposes. It is a guarantee of energy and efficiency in the management of the campaign and a warrant that business, big or little if honest, has nothing to fear in the event the Democratic candidate for President is elected. Mr. Raskob is the head of one of the largest and easily the most successful enterprises in the country.

In accepting the call of his party to service Mr. Raskob is as candid as he is confident. There will be no pussyfooting in the campaign on his side, on the prohibition or any other question in issue. He favors the rigid enforcement of the prohibition amendment to the constitution, rather than the false pretense which has been practiced since the adoption of the provision. He favors the enforcement of the Volstead law with equal energy and fidelity but maintains the legal right to improve it by any process which will "absolutely prevent the return of the saloon, eliminate boot-legging with its accompanying evils—graft, corruption and murder—and restore temperate life in our country."

This is precisely the attitude expressed by Governor Smith in his telegram to the Houston convention and is the best promise that has ever been made to enforce the Eighteenth amendment. He is in full accord with our candidate on the subjects of tariff taxation and farm relief and the records and reputation of both for integrity and sincerity afford substantial reasons why the chairman should be cordially supported and the candidate triumphantly elected. It can be safely said that the campaign has been started on right lines and it may be surely predicted that it will end in a complete victory for the people. It is a contest between the masses and the classes.

During his brief stop-over in Chicago Herbert Hoover was the guest of Vice President Dawes. If President Coolidge should visit that city he would probably pay a lunch courtesy debt to Big Bill Thompson.

Vare Machine Intimidates Witnesses.

The arrest of one of the witnesses in the Wilson-Vare contest on a palpably framed charge, reveals the panicky condition of the Vare machine. On Wednesday of last week Frederick Schadt, who had served as deputy tax receiver in 1926, testified before the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, that he had given some ninety tax receipts to persons who had applied for registration for which no payment was made at the time, at the request of Magistrate Connor, who subsequently, as party committeeman, paid for them. This was a violation of the law and nullified the ballot of each of the persons who voted on the strength of that fraudulent qualification.

Early next morning Magistrate Connor was passing a place in which Mr. Schadt was engaged in a conversation or controversy with a man named Wednick. On some pretext Connor ordered the arrest of Schadt for "breach of the peace." The prisoner was taken to Magistrate Connor's court and Connor committed him to jail. Mr. Schadt notified the attorney who had subpoenaed him and bail was promptly supplied. When the subpoena to testify was served on Mr. Schadt he said to the attorney that "if he told the truth he would be likely to get into trouble." Upon assurance of the protection of the Senate committee he consented to testify.

The obvious purpose of this flagrant persecution of a witness was to intimidate other witnesses who have been or are to be subpoenaed. Incidentally it was probably intended to punish Mr. Schadt for having told the truth but warning to others was the principal motive. It is an important feature of the system of the Vare machine. While ballot reform legislation was pending in the last Legislature it was shown that men were afraid to complain or expose frauds because of reprisals that were certain to follow. But this great evil has never before been so concretely expressed and unless the courts of Philadelphia are as rotten as the politics of that city, this instance will be the last.

President Coolidge predicts a treasury deficit in 1930. In other words Republican leaders are already preparing to blame things on the incoming Smith administration.

Frauds Shown in Philadelphia.

For a period of more than a week Senator Waterman, of Colorado, sitting as a sub-committee of the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections, listened to witnesses reciting the details of frauds committed in Philadelphia at the Senatorial election of 1926. Each day brought out fresh evidence of crime perpetrated, not by the illiterate and dependent victims of a vicious machine, but the crafty managers of the Vare organization. Every effort that minds schooled in political chicanery could invent was made to explain or justify the crimes. But they stood out in plain view and the inquisitor, though a Republican, was appalled at their enormity.

In one election division, as they are called in Philadelphia, it was shown that ninety per cent. of the votes cast and counted for Vare were fraudulent. In every division covered by the inquiry a large proportion of the votes cast and counted for Vare were fraudulent. And all these crimes were committed with guilty knowledge of ward and district leaders, and in some instances at the request of magistrates and other county and municipal officials. Though only one form of fraud was developed enough was shown to wipe out the Vare majority in some of the divisions. When the other forms of fraud are exposed there will be little left of the Vare majority even in "the neck."

There can be but one conclusion drawn from the evidence thus far presented. That is that the Senatorial election of 1926 in the twenty river wards of Philadelphia was so overwhelmingly fraudulent that it is completely void. More than two-thirds of the Vare majority were polled in the twenty wards in which Mayor Mackey testified that the voters do not know who they are voting for. Eliminating the returns of those wards the fifty thousand majority for William B. Wilson in the State, outside of Philadelphia, would entitle him to the certificate, not of doubt, but of election. Mr. Vare may manage to delay the decision for some time but the ultimate result is certain.

Of course we all agree to side-step personalities in the campaign and by the same token bigotry and fanaticism ought to be cut out, too.

Signs of Agricultural Distress.

The farming industry in Pennsylvania is gradually but certainly passing out of the hands of land owners and into the hands of tenants, according to a report recently filed by the Federal-State crop reporting service. In Lancaster county 41.2 per cent. of the farms are operated by tenants, in Cumberland county 36.8 per cent., and in Franklin county 33.9 per cent., and so cultivated. In Centre, Union and Mifflin counties the percentage is about 33.3. The only counties in which the percentage of tenantry is low are Cameron, Carbon, Elk, Jefferson, Sullivan and Wayne counties where the average is five per cent. The report indicates a similar condition in other States.

The mortgage debt on farms in Pennsylvania is also increasing, according to the same statement. Since 1900 the total mortgage debt on Pennsylvania farms has increased \$1,000,000 and the farmers' equity in the farms has declined from 66 to 59 per cent. The average value of the mortgaged farms is \$5803 and the average mortgaged debt \$2385. There has been little or no change in the value of farms since 1920, the report continues, "but the increase in the average mortgage debt was over \$400" during that period. There are two sources of worry in this condition of affairs. One lies in the trend toward absentee ownership and the other in the indication of unprofitable operation.

In any event, however, it is difficult to reconcile such a condition in agricultural life of the country with the continued boasts of prosperity. Agriculture is the basic industry of the country and while the ownership of the farms is slipping away from those who cultivate the fields and the mortgage debts are increasing, there can be no substantial prosperity. The sky rocketing of values of speculative securities and the paid for propaganda of tariff pampered industries are not signs of prosperity. Substantial prosperity comes from the soil and labor, and while the farmers are losing their land and wages decreasing there can be no real prosperity.

Henry Ford's support of Hoover will be about as effective as his peace mission to Europe during the World war.

Telling the truth is an unparadiseable sin among the political crooks of the Vare school.

Fine Arrangement for the Trust.

The "strangle hold" which the Electric trust has acquired on the government of the United States is further revealed in the fact that propaganda in the interest of electrical devices is now being distributed "in official government statements enclosed in postage-free envelopes of the Department of State" with the entire sanction of the department. The deliberate stifling of the Boulder Dam project and the pocket veto of the Muscle Shoals legislation were strong symptoms. But the flagrant misuse of the franking privileges positive proof. It is levying upon the public, through the Postoffice Department, the cost of advertising by mail the commodities of the Electric trust.

This organization has been investing vast sums of money in purchasing seats in both branches of Congress, in the State Legislatures and in the several courts, State and Federal. It has been paying large sums of money in an effort to introduce its propaganda into the text books of the public schools. But these adventures, reprehensible as they are, have been undertaken at their own expense. Of course they expect reimbursement by raising prices after monopoly has been established. But the new scheme of saddling the trust upon the public treasury, by dispatching their literature in franked envelopes, is a step in advance of either of the others.

The pretense under which this outrage is perpetrated is an Act of Congress creating the American Seville Commission for the purpose of organizing an American exhibit in the International Exposition at Seville, to be staged some time in the future. Originally the Department of State handled the matter but since the creation of the commission it has been handed over to a private "press agency" which performs all the work except paying the bills. In addition to the compensation paid this private agency the Electric trust pays liberally for recommending its wares and the agency located in New York fulsomely praises the product of the trust at the expense of the taxpayers of the United States. It is a fine arrangement for the Electric trust.

Up at Juniata, on Saturday afternoon, a thirty-three year old woman, mother of nine children ranging in age from fourteen years to four months, shot and killed her forty year old husband when he attacked her with a butcher knife. The parties in the tragedy were Mr. and Mrs. Peter Witt. The man is said to have been possessed of a violent and un-governable temper and had frequently beaten and otherwise ill-treated his wife. He became enraged on Saturday because supper was not ready when he reached home shortly after three o'clock. Mrs. Witt was exonerated of all blame in the killing. With nine children to take care of she will be amply punished for an act which seems wholly justified.

The Pennsylvania railroad company is going the limit in curtailing expenses. Quite a number of agencies over the entire system have been discontinued. On the Bald Eagle Valley road the agencies cut out are at Julian, Snow Shoe Intersection and Eagleville. Instead of the regular authorized agents at these points clerks are now in charge. James Snyder, who has been agent at Snow Shoe Intersection for many years, was laid off and Merrill Lyons, of Bellefonte, installed as clerk. Mr. Snyder, who is not far from the retiring age, was placed on the relief and will likely be put on the retired roll in due time.

Oral argument was made before the Interstate Commerce Commission, in Washington, on Monday, in the matter of the several applications of the Bellefonte Central Railroad company to take over and operate the Fairbrook branch. A decision is expected within thirty days.

If it is true that Wm. Fisher, a Reading cafe proprietor, suffered a twenty-one inch scalp wound when a soured customer threw a bottle at him he must have a "bean" like a flour barrel.

The number of stolen cars that are wrecked in the effort to get away ought to admonish those inclined to that form of felony that it is futile as well as foolish.

The Russian Soviet government's activity in the rescue of the Noble aviators from the drifting Arctic ice reflects credit on Moscow.

We are entirely willing to have the Democratic party judged by its "performances" during the World war under the Wilson administration.

No Terror in This Poison Gas.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Yesterday The New York Times editorially administered a well-merited rebuke to the authors of a contemptible "whispering campaign" which is already under way against the Presidential candidacy of Governor Smith.

That such a campaign would be inaugurated by irresponsible underlings, despite the desire of candidate Hoover to play fair, was to have been expected.

Happily, however, Alfred E. Smith seems to be invulnerable to the cowardly stab in the back, the slinking back-stairs gossip, that the would-be destroyers of character aim at him. There is evidence of this in New York State election returns.

All the discreditable methods that are now being used to influence votes against Governor Smith's Presidential candidacy were employed against him in his five campaigns for the Governorship of New York.

The first time he ran, in 1918, he was elected by 15,108 votes. The electorate at that time had little knowledge of his executive capacity. In 1920 Governor Smith ran for reelection. It was the year of the Harding landslide. He was defeated by 74,000, but ran a million votes ahead of the Presidential candidate of his party.

In 1922 he was again a candidate, and received a plurality of 38,945—the largest ever given up to that time for any candidate for State or local office in the country.

When President Coolidge carried New York in 1924, Governor Smith rolled up a plurality of 108,559, and was the only Democrat on the State ticket to be elected.

In 1926 the Smith plurality was 247,676.

Here is a man whose standing, personal and official, is proof against poison gas. Not that skulking slander may not deprive him of the votes of the comparatively few whose self-respect is at such low ebb as to permit them to give ear to it, but that for every drop of malice so distilled there are two drops of antidote in the public knowledge of the Smith character and record.

Let us put on our gas masks, make sure that the disinfectants are handy, and proceed cheerfully with a contest to secure indorsement of those principles best suited to advance the welfare of the country.

Leaving the Farms.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Inability to "make ends meet" is probably the largest single factor, while old age is the second largest, according to a statement just made public by Dr. C. J. Galpin, senior economist of the Federal Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Galpin's statement was based on a questionnaire survey of 20,000 men who formerly were farmers. Of those replying it was found that one-third had left farming because it was a "poor business," while one-fourth based their departure on old age and inability to carry on under its attendant liabilities.

In other words, it is the old, old story of the cartoonist who summed it up in the words: "They all look good when they are far away."

The man on the farm sees only the large wage scale and the short hours of the town worker, and both of these are greatly over-advertised. The man who has worked all his life on the farm thinks longingly of a little home in town and no chores to do the remainder of his days, just as the city man yearns to spend his old age in the quiet and peace of the farm. It would be interesting to know just how many of these 20,000 have since wished they were back in the country. But government statistics cover no such illuminating points, however important they may be.

Discovery of the United States.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Governor Smith is from New York, Mr. Hoover from California, Senator Curtis from Kansas and Senator Robinson from Arkansas.

That might be termed the discovery of the United States. Heretofore only one other Presidential candidate has come from the region west of the Mississippi. That was Mr. Bryan, three times the Democratic nominee. No Vice President has ever come from that part of the country, nor has any Vice President come from south of the Mason and Dixon line since the civil war. The election of Mr. Hoover and Senator Curtis would therefore be a double and the election of Senator Robinson a single innovation.

Indeed, politics in the United States tend to a balance which they have never enjoyed. There is no reason why the President of the United States should not come from any part of it, but usually they all come from a very restricted area. The United States west of the Mississippi is much larger than the United States east of that river, but it has never given the country a President.

It would be a much better balanced country politically if the practice followed at the Kansas City and Houston conventions became a custom.

Advertisements placed in the Watchman always bring results because they are read every week.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE

A 16 weeks old heifer, owned by Lloyd Grugan, Shintown, was bitten on the end of the nose by a copperhead snake in a field near Grugan's home, and died 20 minutes after being bitten.

C. M. Kift caught a nineteen-inch brook trout in the cellar of his home in Muncy last Friday. The recent storm had filled his cellar half-full of water and upon going down there he saw a fish floundering around. Securing a rod and line he returned and after a few minutes' effort, landed the trout.

A patient in the Danville hospital for the insane committed suicide by hanging himself with a strip of linen torn from his bed. The man, John Saver, 35, of Montoursville, earlier had had an altercation with another patient and had been put to bed. Later he turned his bed on end, tore a strip from a sheet and hanged himself from the bed.

Public sale of the Bloomsburg and Sullivan railroad is not believed by many residents to mean the passing of railroad service on that line. It is understood that several other firms are interested in the line, despite falling off in passenger and freight service during the last several years. The sale is understood to be scheduled for October.

When the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal company paid \$850,000 for the former Krupp coal lands near Wilkes-Barre, recently, a record for recent years was set. It was the largest purchase of coal land—143 acres—since the World war. The property was taken over by the alien property custodian when the United States entered the war against Germany.

When constable John Feeny appeared at the home of Clarence Gillian, 55 years old, of Uniontown, to arrest him on a charge preferred by Mrs. Gillian, the husband went to the bedroom occupied by his two children and Mrs. J. A. Redman, his step-mother, and killed himself with a revolver. Mrs. Gillian said her husband had followed her around with a gun, threatening to kill her.

John Gerald Parks, 17-year-old son of James and Mary Parks, of Lloydell, was instantly killed Thursday, July 12th, by an explosion of a stick of dynamite while working with his father in the Irvona Coal company mine at Coalport, Clearfield county. The victim was badly mangled, both legs being terribly shattered, left hand blown off and badly cut and bruised about the face.

The Berwick plant of the American Car & Foundry company has received an order for 800 box-cars for two Brazilian railroads. It was announced on Monday. The cars will be crated for shipment and then rebuilt in Brazil. The Central Brazil Railroad has ordered 550 cars and the Paulista Railroad 250. The company also will build a large order for an Argentine railroad, but assignment of the order to a plant has not been made.

Grant Arnold, dairy farmer of Mifflin county, lost a valuable dairy cow, and four heifers, recently through some mysterious poisoning. Their deaths were due to lead-poisoning, according to an analysis made by the authorities at State College to whom the stomach of one of the dead animals was shipped. A search of the pasture lands showed part of a wagon load of old paint tins and other rubbish likely to have been dumped by a firm of painters and paperhangers.

Information is being sought regarding the whereabouts of Floyd L. Fowler, of South Williamsport, who disappeared from his home over a week ago and copiers of his family believe he may be a victim of amnesia, as he had been complaining of severe headaches. Mr. Fowler is described as being five feet, six inches tall, with light hair and eyes. When last seen he was wearing a light suit and cap. He carried a large sum of money.

When Mrs. C. H. Rogers opened the cash drawer of a gasoline station conducted on the Lycoming creek road, Lycoming county, to make change for a small bill given by several gypsy women, one of the latter snatched a handful of bills from the drawer and fled. The amount was \$83. Of this Mrs. Rogers was able to recover \$52 after chasing the woman. Police of Jersey Shore later stopped the catwoman with which the women were traveling and forced its members to give up the remainder of the money before allowing them to proceed.

Orders to record ultimate rights-of-way on nine highways situated in Blair, Lancaster, Clearfield, Philadelphia, Bucks, McKean, Somerset and Montgomery counties were issued on Monday by Secretary of Highways Stuart after approval by Governor Fisher. Seven of the plans provide for ultimate widths from eighty to 100 feet, while the other two, because they are situated in built-up or congested districts, provide for ultimate widths of sixty to seventy feet. Four of the new rights-of-way are in Montgomery county, and one on Legislative Route No. 57 for 5.4 miles in Blair county from the Tyrone borough-Snyder township line to the Blair-County line.

Lewis Hoffman was shot and killed and his brother Herman was seriously wounded on their farm near Salix, Cambria county, Saturday night by three men, believed to be highjackers in search of liquor. The suspected highjackers were met at the farm by the brothers. In the fight that followed Lewis Hoffman was struck by two bullets. After shooting Herman the men fled at Homer Hoffman, 32, another brother, but the bullets went wild. The assailants escaped. County authorities found a still and a large quantity of liquor and mash on a farm said to have been leased by George Hoffman, father of the boys, to a South Fork man. The father was not at home when the shooting occurred.

The entire group conducting tent evangelistic meetings of the Pentecostal church at Shady Grove, Dauphin county, was quarantined for eighteen days against smallpox by State and county health authorities last Thursday. Although no cases of the disease were discovered among the colony, Dr. J. H. Kinter, county medical officer, said he was satisfied the present smallpox epidemic, discovered Tuesday along the southern border of the county, had its origin in the evangelistic meetings of the group. The leaders and their assistants conveyed their tents to Shady Grove from Maryland. Dr. Kinter said. They refused vaccination and the health officials established the quarantine, confining all the evangelists and closing the canvas "tabernacles."