

## Democratic Watchman

### INK SLINGS.

—We're not scared by the large Republican registration in the cities of the State, for in one of them we know the tip has gone out to "register as Republicans, but vote as Democrats."

—Isn't it nice in Mr. Hoover to extend the farmers "the sympathy and solicitude of the Republican party." "Sympathy and solicitude" go such a long way toward paying taxes and paying the tariff barons more for corn huskers than any other agriculturists on the globe have to pay for the same machines.

—Of course President Coolidge and Mr. Hoover are not to be blamed for the failure of the wheat crop in Centre county, but you can bet your old Palm Beach suit that had John W. Davis been the President the Hon. Holmes would be flying through Penns Valley telling the farmers Davis did it.

—Next week we shall publish a letter from a correspondent in Florida. It is interesting because the lady blows us up about as hard as old Dame Nature blew Florida up during the fore part of the week. She charges us with abusing Hoover and after reading it we came to the conclusion that Herb doesn't need sympathy half as much as we do.

—Mr. Hoover's Newark speech and Gov. Smith's Omaha delirance were characteristic. The former's ponderous platitudes and the latter's incisive candor were in striking contrast. Mr. Hoover merely muddies the water through which the Ship of State is sailing so that the passengers can't see the hidden rocks, while Al throws out the life line to them.

—In New Jersey, a few nights ago, Mr. Hoover stated that there are less than two million unemployed in the country today. In Harrisburg, on Monday, the legislative board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen declared for a six hour working day in order to relieve an industrial situation in which four million men are unemployed. Which is to be believed? The men who work for the people or the candidate who wants to work the people.

—If Mrs. Mabel Willebrandt's statement to the effect that "New York City is the worst spot in the United States" is to be believed may we not also believe the statement of her fellow federal enforcement officer that "Philadelphia has been and is the source of supply of bootleg alcohol for the nation." As a matter of fact we don't believe either statement. Mrs. Willebrandt is a partisan politician, holding a job that she knows she will lose if the political complexion of the country changes in November and she is making extravagant statements in her desperation to hang on to the public trust.

—One of the older women of the town, but for whom we have great esteem, has sent us the following quotation from Deuteronomy 22 and 5: "A woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man \* \* \* for all that do so are an abomination unto the Lord, thy God." Enclosed, also, was an editorial clipping from the Philadelphia Inquirer eulogistic of Franklin W. Fort's declaration that Mr. Hoover is "the best qualified man in the country." The latter she sent so that we "won't abuse the Republicans so severely." My, how labor's love is lost. The modern girl doesn't give a hang who she is an abomination unto and, as for us, the dear, good woman is starting too late to teach an old dog new tricks.

—Away back in 1885 when Grover Cleveland took charge of a job that Chester A. Arthur had made rather a list of idle cars were standing on railroad sidings all over the country. Our Republican friends dubbed them "Democrats" and kept rubbing them in to us until they jimmied themselves back into power four years later. If cars idle because there was nothing to transport in them were "Democrats" in 1885 what are they today? Certainly they must be "Republicans." And we want to tip Hoover off to the fact that he can get the biggest audience of "Republicans" he ever did have or ever will get if he just has his private car shifted off at Tyrone and hauled out along the L. and T. There are miles and miles of "Republicans" there.

—While it has been generally believed that the State administration is not favorable to any of the bond issues to be voted on in November the Highway Department is apparently not in sympathy with such apathy. In fact it is sending out publicity that by indirection, at least, would encourage a "Yes" vote on the proposal to issue more bonds for public roads. When the first bond issue of fifty millions for roads was authorized it was believed that that would take care of all needs and it probably would have had the public, immediately after the first taste of good highways, not set up a clamor for more and more roads. The Highway Department has set up a great organization. Thousands of men are in its employ and much of the nearly fifty million dollars that now flow into the treasury annually from license fees and gas tax is needed to maintain the army. It would be interesting to know, before we vote on Proposal No. 9, how much of each one of these dollars actually gets into old or new roads.

# Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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### Liquor Traffic a Vexed Question.

The use and abuse of intoxicants has long been a vexed question among people. For many years the teetotalers were content with an effort to limit the use of intoxicants to moderate indulgence. Later a more radical element came into control of their organizations and nothing less than prohibition would satisfy them. There were reasons for this change of sentiment and purpose. The saloons had become a menace to the morals of communities in which they existed and to combat their influence for evil the Anti-Saloon League was organized and the fight for absolute prohibition was on. The adoption of the Eighteenth amendment intensified the feeling and the Volstead law made courageous men afraid.

This country is not alone in its troubles with the liquor traffic, though we are the first among major powers to attempt its complete subjugation. England has been trying for centuries to solve the problem and France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain and Imperial as well as Soviet Russia have taken turns in the adventure. But none of them has made as much progress as the Scandinavians. It is proverbial that hard drinking is more prevalent in cold than in warm climates, and a century ago there was, comparatively speaking, more drunkenness on the Scandinavian peninsula than in any other section of the civilized world. The effort to control it has cost much time and labor.

The manufacture and sale of intoxicants was a crown monopoly in Norway and Sweden in those times and the revenue derived from it an incentive to expand the business. But that provoked public discontent. About seventy-five years ago what became known as the Gottenburg system was introduced in Sweden. The feature of that system was the elimination of the element of profit from the business. Limited companies were licensed and allowed five per cent. of the profits, the balance to go to public purposes. It worked improvement but not satisfaction. After several alterations meantime, in 1914 the Bratt system was adopted. Under it all liquors of over 3.6 per cent. alcohol were sold through the "Wine and Spirits Control," a licensed corporation.

This corporation dispenses liquors to local companies and they dispose of it to hotels, restaurants and individuals at limited profit. The buyer must provide himself with a pad of detachable slips which he must sign and detach at every purchase. The quantity that may be bought monthly by each individual is limited and habitual drunkards are not allowed to purchase at all. It is claimed that under this system the consumption of hard liquors has greatly decreased. Norway has always retained control of liquor sales but has followed the Swedish system as a rule. But in 1919 a law was enacted by plebiscite, prohibiting the sale of hard liquor altogether, but permitting the sale of light wine and beer under restrictions.

This law proved so unsatisfactory that in October, 1926, another plebiscite was held. It went wet by 531,425 to 421,292. The vote in 1919 was dry by 483,918 to 311,556. In seven years this great change in public sentiment took place and Norway was ready again to try restrictions. The new law follows the British example in limiting the hours within which liquor may be sold and prohibiting sales on holidays or the day before and the day after holidays. Importation of spirits is a government monopoly and sales are made through official stores as in Canada. Profits are divided between the dealers and the government as in Sweden and the experiment seems to show a diminution of drunkenness.

—The Rev. J. E. Skillington, pastor of an Altoona Methodist church, made a very intolerant speech before a conference of Methodist ministers at Peoria, Ill., recently. Rev. Skillington gave "Tammany" as his reason for urging all Methodists to vote against Smith. We don't believe the preacher was honest in that. We believe he is against Smith because of religious bigotry and so believing we have no respect for Rev. Skillington as a professed messenger of God's word. As a man he has a right to think and vote as he pleases, but when he uses his Holy office to sing the "Hymns of Hate" he brands himself as hypocritical when he sings "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." We are a Methodist. God knows we might be a better one than we are, but if that much to be desired purer state of mind and heart eventually does come to us it won't have been the Skillingtons in our church who have reflected the light that has shown us the way.

### Hoover's Suspicious Contacts.

There is an adage "as old as the hills," that "a man may be judged by the company he keeps." The late President Harding wasn't inherently bad. On the contrary those who knew him intimately and long are persuaded that he was a man of good impulses. But he was what is commonly called "easy going" and somewhat careless in his contacts. In his campaign for nomination and election to the Presidency he, probably inadvertently but none the less certainly, placed himself under obligations to Harry Daugherty and other members of the "Ohio crowd," and they used him to promote their sinister purposes to the day of his death. That was the logical result of an unfortunate misalliance.

Mr. Hoover's Southern campaign manager is "Colonel" Horace A. Mann, of Tennessee, who during the Harding administration was closely related to the "Ohio crowd." With Daugherty, Smith, Forbes and the other conspirators who composed "the gang," he frequented the Little Green House on "K" Street, in Washington, where the late President was entertained at intervals and the looting enterprises concocted. Colonel Mann has already drawn heavily on the campaign treasury, has elaborate offices some distance from the party headquarters, and though he never calls on chairman Work he clandestinely visits Mr. Hoover frequently. According to Washington gossip he is an expensive and mysterious individual.

Charles Michelson, Washington correspondent of the New York World, has been trying to solve the mystery of Colonel Mann but the result of his efforts is only conjecture. It is certain that the Colonel is the source of the absurd hope of breaking the solid South and as they all understand that it is necessary to give Hoover a chance of election he is given free rein and abundance of money for the not too "worthy" experiment. Meantime his surreptitious visits to Mr. Hoover's office create a doubt as to the methods he is pursuing. It recalls the practices of the "Ohio crowd" during the Harding campaign and after his election. "Evil communications corrupt good manners."

—All the while the details of the most shocking political and moral turpitude are being dragged to light in Republican Philadelphia Republican spell-binders are throwing up smoke screens and shouting "Tammany."

### Hoover Campaign Hukum Spreads.

Herbert Hoover is becoming the champion purveyor of hukum. In his acceptance speech, a month ago, he made a good start in the race for this distinction. But in his speech at Newark, New Jersey, on Monday evening, he simply threw the "distance flag" in the face of all competitors. He must have imagined that all who heard his voice were feeble-minded infants or rank idiots. Under no other circumstances could it have been possible for him to utter such preposterous statements as those which composed the burden of his speech.

For example, he said that in 1921, when the Republican party assumed control of the government, "there were five to six million unemployed upon our streets. Wages and salaries were falling and hours of labor increasing. Anxiety for daily bread haunted nearly one-quarter of the 23,000,000 families. \* \* \* Within a year we restored these 5,000,000 workers to employment." In 1921 when the Harding administration assumed control of the government between four and five million men and women had just been released from service of the government as soldiers and employees incident to war, and outside of that force there was no idleness perceptible. The administration had nothing to do with placing those willing to work in employment.

For several years previous to that time there had been no decreases in wages or salaries and no increase in the hours of labor. As a matter of fact one of the achievements of the Wilson administration was the fixing of the eight-hour law in government industries and railroads, and the constant effort of the Wilson administration was to maintain a high standard of wages and a decreasing time schedule of the hours of labor. And there are five million unemployed now instead of 1,800,000 as Mr. Hoover states, while a decrease of wages has been in progress.

It is hardly worth while to continue an analysis of Mr. Hoover's hukum. He has forced Senator Moses and Senator Jim Watson off the map as dispensers of buncombe.

—The Byrd Antarctic expedition starts out auspiciously. It ran ahead of the disastrous Porto Rico storm.

### Falsehood of a Rich Demagogue.

At a Republican meeting held in Camden, New Jersey, the other day, Hamilton F. Kean, the candidate of that party for the office of United States Senator, said "soup lines and lack of employment will prevail if Governor Smith is elected. There will be no more luxuries for factory workers and there will be conditions like those prevailing in Europe." If this statement had come from some irresponsible pettyfogger or soap box agitator, it would not have surprised any one. But Mr. Kean is a very wealthy and conspicuous party leader, who recently squandered a large sum of money to purchase the nomination for Senator, and escaped prosecution for violating the ballot law by some mysterious compromise.

The inference which this "malefactor of great wealth" aimed to convey was the greatly overworked fallacy that Democratic administrations of the government bring hard times and business distress. Overlooking the obvious ignorance or viciousness of the author, the statement is an insult to the intelligence of his audience. The panic of 1873 and that of 1883 were not caused by Democratic administrative blunders, and that of 1907 could not be charged to Democratic incompetence. In 1873 Grant was President; in 1873 Arthur occupied the office and in 1907 Roosevelt was head of the government. The legislation that has averted panics since was enacted during the Wilson administration as a Democratic measure.

The election of Grover Cleveland, in 1884, was the logical result of an industrial and commercial revolt against the administrative incompetence of the Arthur administration which culminated in the panic of 1883. On assuming the office in March, 1885, Mr. Cleveland inherited the governmental confusion, the industrial paralysis and commercial distress caused by the panic of 1883 and made such progress in the work of recuperation that after one term of Republican administration he was recalled by an overwhelming majority. It isn't soup lines that Mr. Kean is afraid of. It is that a Democratic Senate next year will put him in the class of Vane, of Pennsylvania, and Smith, of Illinois, and for the same reason.

—It is strange that while Chairman Work, of the Republican National committee, deprecates "whispering campaigns" he maintains an expensive Ku Klux contingent that does the whispering.

### Forestalling a Habit.

After the Philadelphia grand jury had exposed considerable frauds and much favoritism in the letting of municipal contracts Mayor Mackey promptly hand-picked a bunch of personal friends, some of them favored contractors, to investigate the scandal. After the same grand jury had uncovered a vast system of graft and corruption in the enforcement of the prohibition law Mayor Mackey began an investigation of his own and ordered an immediate "clean up" of the police force. There was no need for such action on the part of the Mayor. The district attorney and the grand jury were performing the service admirably.

The obvious purpose of Mayor Mackey was to "forestall" the work of the grand jury. He reasoned that an apologetic, or at least modified, report of a group of indifferent rich men who had been for years contributing freely to a slush fund to create the evil conditions complained of might mollify public opinion against the real facts as found by the grand jury. It is an expedient that has frequently been worked and sometimes overworked. If the Mayor had desired to give the people of Philadelphia just and clean government he would have acted in advance and left nothing for the grand jury to expose. He knew all about the vices in advance.

It may be worth while to notice that President Coolidge has adopted the same "eleventh-hour" reform. It having been reported to him on his return from his vacation that there is likely to be a treasury deficit of ninety to a hundred million dollars at the end of the present fiscal year, he promptly assembled the cabinet and ordered economies to the amount of the estimated deficit. If the business of the government can be administered for that much less than the budget the cuts in expenditures ought to have been made sooner. If the cuts now ordered cause impairment of service Mr. Coolidge stands convicted of sacrificing the interests of the public selfishly to "save his face."

—The lady who said she would rather be Tammanyized than Sinclairized revealed a rare and highly commendable sense of proportion.

### Shades of Cameron, Quay and Penrose.

From the New York Times.

For months a fearful accumulation of charges has been piling up against a certain political organization. The climax came last Friday, when members of it were indicted for a long list of crimes, including murder. One of the indicted men is a Judge now on the bench. Previously proof has been amply given of the extraordinary corruption and ruthlessness of this political machine. It lived off protected vice. It debauched the public service. It laid its filthy hands even upon the public schools. In a single transaction, recently brought to a test in the criminal courts, it was found guilty of having robbed the tax-payers of more than \$2,000,000 of which it is now called upon to make restitution. Surely the total is a disgrace to American politics, causing a feeling of outrage in every one who has patriotic civic sense.

Yet we have not noticed Republican newspapers crying out upon this shocking display of effrontery and crime. The organization referred to is not Tammany. It is the Thompson machine in Chicago. But that, as it happens, is a good and useful Republican machine. Its head and director, Mayor Thompson, has just issued an appeal to all of his subordinates who are not under indictment or in jail to stand loyally by the candidacy of Herbert Hoover. This, of course, makes all the difference, and enables pure minded Republican editors like William Allen White to concentrate on Tammany, and to warn the innocent and God-fearing citizens of Chicago that a frightful menace hangs over their heads in the shape of the possible election of Governor Smith.

This whole contrast drips with satire. No words are required to point it. But silence about the Thompson machine, combined with vociferousness about Tammany, would lead even a calm sage like Socrates to exclaim again, "Verily, 'Glaucus, glorious is the power of the art of contradiction!'"

### Religion No Bar.

From the Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

"There remains the fact that Governor Smith is a Roman Catholic. This is a fact which weighs heavily on the minds of many Americans. It is not enough to dismiss this fact upon the ground that it is a mere prejudice and that to proscribe any man upon the score of his church affiliation is a fundamental violation of the Constitution of the United States, as it unquestionably is. The Courier-Journal does not share this prejudice, but stands squarely upon the country's Constitution in this and all other matters; but it respects the opinions and even the prejudices of others. What is the cause of the church connections of nearly all who have any influence in the State? The mere accident of birth. Jew, Catholic, Protestant—why? Because one's parents were Jews, Catholics or Protestants. Why should we despise or reject any man on account of his professed religion? Is it not rather the duty of us all to endeavor to live faithfully to the tenets of the religion we profess, and if we set ourselves up as judges of other men, to judge them by what they profess? In four terms as Governor of New York, always under the closest scrutiny, no one has ever charged that Governor Smith's religion has interfered with the conduct of his office. In a State overwhelmingly Republican, in a State largely non-Catholic, he has been elected four times as Governor as the nominee of the Democratic party, a convincing proof that no form of influence has swayed him from his duty to his State and to his country."

### Spirits in Politics.

From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Conan Doyle wants the British spiritualists to get into politics. If they did, he says, there would not be so many laws against them. Be that as it may, a campaign seldom passes in the United States without rival claims of messages received from the fathers of the republic on how the election should go. Then there are others who take it on themselves to say just how Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln would vote "if they were alive today."

For many years it was more direct in Philadelphia. The registration commission there has a constant drive on against the voting of "phantoms." Some of the latter, indeed, may never have existed, but in hundreds of other cases it has been found that the dead were impersonated at the polls. This reached such a state that the commission had to assign clerks and inspectors to copy the daily files of the bureau of vital statistics to check up the registration lists and remove the names of the dead therefrom. From the voting it appeared that in certain districts no one ever died. At any rate, in an investigation last year it was found that 578 dead persons were duly registered to vote.

So the problem of a number of communities in this country is not how to get spirits into politics, but how to keep them out of it.

### SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Police are investigating the death of Jacob Chichon, 56, whose body was found on Sunday hanging from a tree in the woods near Shamokin. His five sons believe their father was the victim of an enemy with whom he was seen Saturday night.

—J. Halan Landes has been retired as railway postal clerk on the Sunbury-Lewistown route at 62. Mr. Landes was appointed in the railway mail service on the New York-Pittsburgh route July 23, 1901. He served as clerk to the assistant examiner and on the Bellefonte-Sunbury and Altoona-Cumberland routes.

—George, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Yurick, of Mahanoy Plane, underwent an operation at the Fountain Springs hospital, on Monday, for the removal of a 30-cent piece from his intestinal tract. He was on the way to a confectionery store and was carrying the coin in his mouth when he swallowed it.

—Alfred G. Oyler, 28, and Louise Brumbaugh, 21, both of Gettysburg, went auto-mobiling together, fell in love and decided to get married at once. They obtained their license in Lancaster and while stopping at a gasoline station at the edge of that city to have their car filled they were married by another motorist, an Illinois minister.

—Jay Groff, 29 years old, of Quarryville, Lancaster county, received severe body injuries and several fractured bones, when an air compressor in a garage exploded while he was inflating an automobile tire. Heavy iron bands, which encircled the compressor, were ripped loose, knocking Groff several feet. Physicians at the General hospital fear one of Groff's legs must be amputated.

—Thomas W. Walizer and his wife, Eva R. Walizer, each charged with being a common nuisance, have been held in the sum of \$500 each for court trial in Clinton county by a Lock Haven alderman. Walizer has been arrested twenty-two times since January 1 on similar charges. This is the first time in the history of the county that such a charge has been preferred against a couple.

—Charging that three youths tossed his son to his death in the Monongahela River at Masontown, Fayette county, Nicholas Brackavitch has asked the county officials to arrest the three on a charge of murder. The father claimed that his son, William, aged twelve, was playing with three other lads when he was picked up and thrown into the river, notwithstanding his protests that he could not swim. He was drowned.

—Contracts totaling \$113,340 for construction of a new State tuberculosis cottage and a home for outside female help, at the Danville State hospital have been awarded by the board of trustees. The Berwick Lumber and Supply company will build the tuberculosis cottage for \$61,800, and Thomas H. Evans, of Danville, the home for outside female help for \$34,383. F. P. Edwards, of Bloomsburg, will wire both for \$7895, and Joseph Lechner, of Danville, will do the plumbing on both for \$11,262.

—The "king" of beavers, "Pat Gheritty," so named because it was raised on the mountain stream near the Gheritty place in the Seven Mountains, was captured by Jesse Hassinger, State trapper, on Wolf Creek. The animal weighed 125 pounds and is the thirty-ninth beaver trapped by Mr. Hassinger since he entered the State service as a trapper one year ago. The "king" has been in the trap seven days, but always got away. He will be taken to Jefferson county to be liberated for propagation purposes.

—School teachers in the borough of Dunbar, Fayette county, must wear ample clothing when they appear before their classes. Members of the Board of Education have indicated they think the garb of some of the feminine instructors is insufficient and that steps will be taken to remedy the situation. One director, attending a teachers' meeting, told the pedagogues that lack of clothing had a harmful effect on the students. The board determined just how far from the floor a teacher's dress may be cut.

—Miss Myrtle Stone, 40, whose clothing caught fire while disposing a pan of hot ashes in her yard, was drowned when she jumped into a water-filled mine cave near her home near Hazleton, last Friday. Witnesses saw her race to the creek with her clothing ablaze and then head for the mine cave when she saw the creek bed empty. All her clothing except shoes and stockings was burned from her body. Her sister, Mrs. Guy McCoy, hearing that a woman had been drowned, went to the scene to find her sister the victim.

—Boydton McPherson, aged 56, one of the best known bankers in Clearfield county, committed suicide on Wednesday afternoon of last week, when he armed himself with a revolver, went into a neighbor's garage and shot himself. Despondency caused by failing health is given as the cause of his rash deed. The deceased was born at Woodland and had been an employee of the County National bank at Clearfield since 1882. During the 38 years he served that institution he had advanced to the place where he was in charge of the foreign department of the bank.

—Major John P. McCaskey, Jr., coast artillery corps, has been assigned to the offices of the organized reserve in Harrisburg according to War Department orders and will report for duty October 1. The major, with his wife and children, is spending a month's leave in Lancaster following service in the Philippine Islands. Major McCaskey's father, Colonel Edward McCaskey, retired, now lives in Lancaster while an uncle, Colonel Walter D. McCaskey, is professor of military science and tactics at State College and a younger brother, Lieutenant Douglas McCaskey, tank corps, is in Texas.

—The post office at Strodes Mills, Mifflin county, was closed yesterday, after a service of eighty-eight years. The greater part of that time Joseph Strode was postmaster, and at his death his son, Amer Strode, took charge. Mr. Strode has been notified that rural mail service from Lewistown will cover the territory. The post office was opened in 1839, three years before the United States Postoffice Department issued stamps. The record books in possession of the present postmaster show that the first postage stamps were issued in 1842. Joseph Strode, third, was postmaster from 1839 until 1888 when it was taken over by his son Amer, who was in charge until the office was checked out yesterday. At the time of his retirement Joseph Strode was the oldest postmaster in the United States.