

INK SLINGS.

Crushed by the most overwhelming defeat it has ever suffered the Democratic party is far from being the cadaver some probably imagine it to be.

We are not going to search the returns for any crumbs of comfort. It would take a microscope to find them.

We're licked. Licked worse than we've ever been before and we know it, but don't you think for a minute that there are not a few good fights left in us yet.

You remember that Tunney was down a little longer than he had ever been before in that seventh round, out in Chicago. You remember, also, what he did when he got up and at the Manassa Mauler again.

While it really wasn't necessary to make a slaughter house out of a field of battle, they did and we're not the kind to squeal. To us a political lickin', more or less, means about as much as a wilted cabbage leaf to a blind cow.

If it was a fight between Democrats and Republicans (which it wasn't) we hope Mr. Hoover's promised prosperity will greatly stimulate the infant industry in our party, for more Democrats will have to be made some how.

If it was a fight between the "wets" and "drys" (which it was more or less something of) it is apparent that the bootlegging industry is assured of four more years of prosperity.

If it was a fight against the Catholic church (which candor compels us to admit had something to do with it) then the fellow who spread the story that Col. Boal is buying all those farms over in Harris township so the Pope can come over here and run things need have no further concern.

As a matter of fact it wasn't a fight at all. It was partisanship stampeding fanaticism and prejudice into an unreasoning avalanche that rolled all before it.

If partisanship wasn't exploiting the guileless let them ponder over the fact that down in Philadelphia the machine elected Matt Patterson to the Legislature again, notwithstanding he has just been sentenced to five years in prison for accepting bribes from saloon keepers?

If partisanship wasn't exploiting fanaticism and prejudice how in the world could such a worthy christian gentleman as Andrew Curtin Thompson have been overwhelmingly defeated by a third term in a county that has never before given any public official more than two terms?

It's all over and done now. All carried only three precincts in Centre county and eight States in the Union. They took about everything they could from him but his brown derby and his self respect. Certainly he has the latter to comfort him, for he was as fearless and frank as any man who has ever submitted his cause to the electorate of the United States.

We have nothing to regret. We supported Smith not only because he was the nominee of our party but because we believed that he offered what our country needs most—a change of governmental affairs. Perhaps we were a bit too forward looking. However that may have been it's going to come and that certainly is the quickening spirit that will revive prostrate Democracy.

As we have said: We're a bit more disfigured than we've ever been before, but we're still in the ring. Appropriating a bit of Irving Berlin's campaign song "We Will be happy with Hoover," but we would have been "happier with Smith." Perhaps it's better as it is because Charles Potter Miller doesn't have to come clear in from California to make us post-master and the lady who gave us hel out of Lake Helen and seems to have knocked it out of the Democrats of Florida, as well, is due to send us a box of oranges.

Somewhere above these lines we made reference to the disaster that befell Andrew Curtin Thompson. We neglected making obeisance to the thirteen hundred voters who did stop to think that he was a candidate. Congressman Chase had a majority of 7251 in the county, but the Hon. Holmes had 2615 less, so there must have been thirteen hundred odd who weren't stamped into loss of all sense of justice.

Again let us say that it is all over and we're going to forget it. But don't believe a word of that. We'll never forget. We haven't the forgetting habit. We'll always remember that our candidate and the perigrinating library proposition ran neck and neck in Centre county in 1928—they each carried three precincts. At that they carried three more than we've ever carried, but they ain't got no box of oranges comin'.



Laugh, Clown, Laugh!

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Infamous System Revived.

The election is over and within a few days anybody who meet on the street will be able and willing to tell you how and why it happened. But the sun will rise and set in the future very much as it did in the past and most of us will have to struggle along to earn a living after the manner we have been accustomed to. Some expectations have been fulfilled and some hopes disappointed by the result but "the government at Washington still lives," the prudent will prosper and the profligate suffer after the fashion of the world since "time out of mind." But methods of the campaign will disturb the minds of thoughtful and fair-minded men and women of Pennsylvania for many years to come.

Under a pernicious system established in this State many years ago, the dominant party machine annually but clandestinely levied a tax on the public officials to create a slush fund for campaign purposes. It was so repugnant to the sense of decency that the utmost secrecy was observed in imposing it. Several efforts were made to forbid it by legislation, but the potency of the machine prevented its passage. When Mr. Pinchot became Governor he publicly prohibited such a levy upon the servants of the people and was rewarded by the cordial approval of every self-respecting man and woman in the Commonwealth. But in the campaign just ended the despicable larcenous system was revived.

And it was placed on an entirely different basis. There was no secrecy in the operation this year. A member of the Governor's cabinet made the demand with the open endorsement of the Governor and women who scrub floors in the capitol earning probably thirty dollars a month, were notified that unless they paid three per cent. of their meagre wages to the slush fund they would be dismissed from service. Even teachers in the State-controlled schools and nurses in the hospitals were compelled to pay, and some of them dismissed because they failed to comply. Pennsylvania has often been shamed by criminal, or at least immoral, actions of high officials but this infamous action "caps the climax."

If we could hope that "whispering campaigns" passed out forever with the close of the polls on Tuesday what "a grand and glorious" thing it would be.

Success of the Graf Zeppelin.

The achievement of Dr. Eckner in piloting the monster dirigible, the Graf Zeppelin, from its home in Germany to New Jersey and return, is interesting both as a spectacle and as a mark of progress in the art of aviation. It was not the first time the ocean had been crossed through the air currents and the clouds. It was not even the first time that the venture had succeeded with passengers aboard the craft. But it was the first time that a considerable number of passengers were carried and that the enterprise assumed a commercial basis. That difference invested the enterprise with a measure of importance which was absent from the previous achievements.

But the success of Dr. Eckner is not sufficiently marked to inspire confidence in the enterprise, either as a commercial venture or a conquest of the elements. In acknowledging the congratulations of his friends on his return to Friedrichshafen, Dr. Eckner said "we are far from being masters of the ocean. If we have crossed over and back it was only due to the fact that we subjected the airship to the least possible risk. The return flight, especially, gave us the lesson that we are not masters of the ocean yet because 120 miles southeast of Cape Race we headed into a storm of great intensity which would have had enough power to break the ship."

Viewed from the commercial angle the enterprise was even less satisfactory. It is estimated that the cost amounted to \$1,500,000. It carried twenty passengers outward at \$4000 each and the same number back at \$3000 each, making a total of \$140,000, leaving a margin between receipts and expenditures wide enough to repay cautious investors. But these unfavorable conditions may be overcome in time. Bigger and stronger ships will be built. In fact one is approaching completion in England now which will carry 100 passengers and when flying across the ocean becomes a "fad" there will be venturesome men and women who will be willing to pay the price to make the enterprise profitable.

Let us hope that the greatly over worked word "invaded" will get a rest now that the election is over.

It would be a fine thing, too, if the church would make up its mind to keep out of politics hereafter.

Official Conduct Compared.

In his report of the election in Nicaragua, held on Friday last week, Brigadier General Frank R. McCoy of the United States army said: "The American mission is deeply grateful to President Diaz for his fine co-operation in making the election free and impartial. He has acted not as a party leader but as the President of the Nicaragua people and has done everything in his power to insure fairness without regard to interests of either party." That was certainly a fine exhibition of executive discretion and from an unexpected source. The public has not been taught to expect amenities from people of the Latin-American republics. It is commonly believed they are incapable of self-government.

During the past four or five years a considerable force of American marines have been stationed in Nicaragua to maintain a semblance of civilized government. It has cost a good deal of money and a lot of human lives to prevent what we have been led to believe are a bunch of semi-savages from murdering each other and killing all outsiders who happened to come within gun shot of their shores. Brigadier General McCoy was sent there by the administration at Washington to conduct the election just held under the pretense that the natives could not possibly hold a peaceful and honest election. But his report puts a different face on the affair. The President of Nicaragua gets generous praise from the man sent to keep him in restraint.

On the day upon which the Nicaragua election was held the President of the United States who represents the highest standard of civilization availed himself of an opportunity to create a contrast between our own methods and those of the Southern people. Calvin Coolidge President of the United States the most enlightened and progressive Republican in the world, instead of "acting not as a party leader but as the President" of his people joined in with the bigots, the fanatics and the snobs to boost the candidate who was committed to serve the monopolists against his opponent who was the champion of the people. In the matter of official customs we might take pattern from our less cultured neighbors.

In taking Harry Tucker and Captain Collyer, heroes of the Yankee Doodle plane, death has sustained its reputation of "seeking a shining mark."

No Immediate Cause for Alarm.

Viscount Gray of Fallodin, who was a conspicuous figure in British politics and statesmanship at the beginning of the world war, takes the Anglo-Paris pact too seriously. He imagines that it is going to make a grave disturbance in the relation between the United States and Great Britain, which he adds, "is very undesirable in the interest of the British and of the world."

Lord Gray has been afflicted with impaired eye-sight for some years which may have affected his mental vision. At least there is nothing perceptible on the horizon to justify a fear of "estrangement between the British people and the United States." As a matter of fact neither the government nor the people of the United States has paid much attention to the Anglo-Paris pact.

That pact tentatively creates an agreement between Great Britain and France limiting naval force and construction to a relative standard. It has nothing to do with the naval strength of the United States or any other power. If Great Britain, under the shelter of it, should undertake to build warships in excess of the ratio agreed upon in the Washington Conference, it might be different.

But the statesmen now in control of the British government are wise old birds who are not likely to do anything that will provoke competition with the United States either in naval construction or military operations. Such action would certainly be "undesirable in the interest of the British and the world." Viscount Gray of Fallodin may safely bet his monacle on that.

Motor accidents in the big cities of the country are decreasing according to reports and it is to be hoped the trend will continue.

It is the consensus of opinion among Philadelphia bankers that confidential relations between bankers and bootleggers is unethical.

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast." The Socialist candidate for President kept up the fight until the last minute.

The vote on the State College loan shows that the people appreciate that great institution even if the politicians do not.

Encouraging Progress of Improvement

On Friday of last week five police officials and one representative in the Legislature were sentenced to prison for terms ranging from five years to eighteen months for grafting, in Philadelphia. Fines ranging from \$10,000 to \$2,500 were also imposed. But that is of little importance. The "rum ring" will take care of the fines and the "hijackers" and racketeer organizations will see to it that the prisoners will be supplied with all the "comforts of home" in so far as that is possible. In Pittsburgh, on the same day, 224 policemen, bootleggers and gamblers were indicted by the Allegheny county grand jury for similar crimes. The same system seems to have obtained in both cities.

The apparent purpose to break up these criminal systems in the two big cities of Pennsylvania is encouraging. In Philadelphia the remedial movement set in two months ago and has been prosecuted with commendable energy and skill, in the face of discouraging conditions, ever since. The Mayor of the city has given little help and the police department absolutely none. But a capable and conscientious district attorney has persisted in his righteous crusade with the result that the beginning of the end seems to be within view. In Pittsburgh the progress has been less rapid for the reason, probably, that it has been pursued with less energy. It might be said that it has been reluctant.

With the jail doors opening for the gang in Philadelphia and the courts in a receptive attitude in Pittsburgh, there is but one "fly in the ointment." That is, there is a suspicion that the reform movement in both cities is a "smoke screen" to serve until after the election. The promise of improvement may have been made to create the belief among disgusted voters that the men who organized the criminal operations may be depended upon to stamp them out. In other words, having prevented a threatened exodus from the party by prosecuting a few of the small-fry offenders the plan is to abandon the movement. So far as Philadelphia is concerned there is little danger. But what about Pittsburgh?

Nobody can truthfully say that Uncle Andy Mellon didn't try to save his job.

Reparations On Freight Rates Reduced Lime Companies.

The Public Service Commission, last Friday, refused to grant reparations on freight rates to the Centre County Lime company and the Chemical Lime company in their action against the Bellefonte Central, the Pennsylvania and other railroads, for what the complainants alleged were excessive charges for the shipment of lime and limestone from their plants in Buffalo Run valley.

It will be recalled that several years ago the two lime companies and a number of shippers at State College joined in petitions to the Public Service Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission for a more equitable adjustment of freight rates to and from points on the Bellefonte Central railroad. Both commissions ordered a reduction in rates effectively almost a year ago, and immediately afterwards the lime companies instituted proceedings to collect reparations under what they termed unjust rates. The amount of reparations claimed was in the neighborhood of fifty thousand dollars.

It is said that while this decision is adverse to the local companies it is by no means final. They will appeal it now to the Superior Court.

The radio has become the leading element in political campaigning.

The standing of the Pennsylvania State College as a high ranking educational institution is further attested in a report just issued by the college examiner which states that 145 students from other colleges and universities entered the State College this fall with advanced standing. While most of these students came from other colleges in Pennsylvania there were some from such widely scattered institutions as the University of Illinois, New York University, Ohio State, Columbia University, San Diego State Teachers College, University of Vermont, Mechanico-Electrical School of Sofia, and the University of Porto Rico.

Pennsylvania poultry farmers carried off the honors in the international egg laying contest at Milford, Del., which recently came to the close of its seventeenth year, according to C. O. Dossin, poultry extension specialist of the Pennsylvania State College. For individual birds, high honors went to a bird from Kerlin's Grand View Poultry farm, Centre Hall, which laid 276 eggs.

England Makes Progress Toward Temperance.

From the Philadelphia Record. The consumption of spirits in England today is one-third what it was in 1900. There has also been a steady decline in the amount of beer sold annually. England, without prohibition, without even local option laws, is becoming really temperate.

Various causes contribute to this praiseworthy condition. The first is that drunkenness is no longer fashionable. This, of course, held good in the United States before the Volstead act was passed. It was not until after prohibition that the great demand for ornate pocket flasks, suitable for use as highly fashionable functions, became the thing, and that silver cocktail shakers were made an indispensable article in every smart home. The days when the alcoholic breath was disguised before a man went to a dance passed.

Education also has played a large part in reducing the consumption of strong beverages in England. Dispensing with the tactics of the more spectacular opponents to drink, various societies have quietly emphasized the youth of the country the evil effects of overindulgence. The number of total abstainers has increased, according to the best authorities, from 2,000,000 before the war to 10,000,000 today. In England fewer of the new generation are drinking. In the United States the advocates of prohibition declare that drinking among high school girls and boys is common.

The drink evil which drink is obtainable hours being shortened and the price of all beverages has been greatly increased in England. Prices have gone up here, too, but so have the standards of living and wages. The price the ordinary man pays for his liquor is not much higher, comparatively, than it was before prohibition came. And, while in England the majority of public houses close before 10 p. m., over here the speakeasies, the night clubs and the roadhouses in many places are just beginning to live up to that hour.

The public houses are growing fewer in England. Licenses are lapsing, and exceptional reasons must be presented before the authorities will allow new bars to open. Here, where there is no control, when a speakeasy is closed it opens again just around the corner.

The drink evil has always been a problem in England, a greater problem than it ever was here. Whether, in their own slow, quiet way, they are "muddling through" to a solution, it is still a little early to predict. At least they are making some advance. But they miss a lot. No police graft sensations, no raids, no hi-jacking, no gang shootings, no innocent citizens killed by zealous dry agents. Even though one can get a drink legally, it must be rather a dull place in which to live.

Rising Prices and Living Costs.

From the New York World. Commodity prices and the cost of living are both going up. During the past 12 months wholesale prices, which are more sensitive than retail prices to changing economic conditions, have risen approximately 4 per cent. This in itself does not indicate that we are approaching another period of inflation, inasmuch as the general price level, as measured by the index of the Department of Labor, showed a variation in September of only one-tenth of 1 per cent. from the average for the whole year 1926.

It is true that the trend of commodity prices during the last year and a half has been decidedly upward, but the advance in this period has not yet offset the decline which ran from the middle of 1925 through the first quarter of 1927. It would require another advance about equal to that of the past 12 months to put average prices back to the level of 1925. Commodity price inflation, therefore, is not in evidence, and it does not appear to be an immediate probability so long as our productive capacity remains largely in excess of our capacity to consume. In recent months, as on several previous occasions since the war, the firming up of prices has tended to stimulate production, and expanding output may be counted upon to check the development of runaway markets. Because of this condition in the commercial field speculative activity has been shifted to the more profitable operations in securities.

Justified Sentences.

From the Williamsport Sun. That the courts of Philadelphia mean business in their efforts to assist in ridding the city of the stain of corruption involving the police, politicians and criminals was amply indicated yesterday when the first group of men convicted in connection with the current sensational crime inquiry appeared for sentence.

Judge James Gay Gordon, Jr., revealed a realization of the seriousness of the situation when he imposed sentences ranging from five years in the case of Matthew Patterson, Republican ward leader and member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, to six months in the case of a special policeman who was implicated in the graft system. Terms of four years, three years and eighteen months, respectively, were imposed upon others, and fines ranged from \$10,000 downward.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Dependent over the death of his landlady, Frank L. Wotr, 55, of Lancaster, went to his room and ended his life by shooting himself through the head. Wotr had boarded at the house for twenty years.

Bids for the longest single section road in the last two years will be opened at Harrisburg on November 23 by the State Highway Department. The project is in Warren county on Route 93 and is more than fifteen miles long. The day's letting includes about thirty miles of road and the construction of one bridge.

William Hale, 18, strolled up to Jailers Sellers at Uniontown, on Saturday, and requested that he be put back in jail, from which he escaped October 13. Hale, with three companions, was arrested several weeks ago, charged with robbing a store at Sullivan. After escaping he returned to his home in Alton, Ill., but his mother sent him back to "take his medicine," with the hope he would lead a better life.

Last year the schools of Pennsylvania made a State-wide search for the white pine blister rust and reported their findings to the State bureau of plant industry. Following this successful project the bureau, with the approval and co-operation of the Department of Public Instruction, has this season issued another call to the schools to search for wheat smut, a disease which causes tremendous losses to wheat growers.

I. Clarence Yeager, 62, of South Danville, was a Democrat and took his politics seriously. He revered his party, his friends say, but did not want to vote for Governor Smith, as he could not square Smith's stand on some issues with his own views. His friends and neighbors teased him about his predicament. Yeager worried and became despondent. Early on Saturday he died from a self-inflicted bullet wound in the right temple.

Samuel Spilling, of Midway, York county, who is in his eighty-first year, believes he has set a record as a corn husker for a man of his age. Mr. Spilling has been assisting Samuel S. Therit on the C. J. Delone farm in the West End to shuck his corn crop. In fourteen days Mr. Spilling threw out 587 bushels of corn and bound all his own fodder, averaging forty-two bushels per day. On no day did he husk less than forty-one bushels.

Vincenzo Loise, 23, of Ambridge, asserted by federal officers to be the head of a gang that had passed counterfeit money in Fayette and other southwestern Pennsylvania counties, is in the Allegheny county jail in default of \$2,000 bail. Vincenzo is charged with possessing spurious Federal Reserve Bank notes. Four other men were committed to jail at Uniontown on similar charges. Loise has not divulged the source of the spurious money, Federal officers say.

Grieving over the fact that he had been left with strangers by his mother, William Palaz, 12 years old, committed suicide by hanging himself in the barn on the farm of Joseph Santee, at Tatum, near Easton. His mother, a widow with four children, had been striving to keep together her brood, but had not been meeting with much success. A few days ago she left William at the Santee farm and departed for parts unknown. The father died a few years ago in a State hospital.

George Gardner, of Blanchard, aged 48, sustained serious injuries to his back and pelvic bone and narrowly escaped with his life when the truck he was driving, struck a stone in the highway between Beech Creek and Monument, about twelve miles from Lock Haven, and turned over the fifteen foot embankment, landing upside down in Beech creek, and plunging him under the car. Mr. Gardner is an employee of the State Highway Department and was assisting a crew of men in reconditioning the highway between Beech Creek and Monument, when the accident occurred.

Samuel E. Toner, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, Lewisstown, was appointed sealer of weights and measures for Mifflin county by the county commissioners. The office has been vacant for the past five years, the commissioners believing it to be about as much use as the "noise of a baby's carriage." In a dozen years that the position was active only two prosecutions were made, these entailed a \$5 fine in each case and the balance of the Sealer's reports invariably contained the information "scales tested and adjusted." The former salary was \$1000 per year and expenses.

A jury in the civil courts of Mifflin county gave a verdict of \$334 damage in favor of Miss Mildred Adams, 16, of Yeagertown, in her suit against Arthur Snook, of the Burnham Auto-Sales company, Burnham, for \$12,000, for an injury to her left knee, sustained March 21, 1927, when struck by an automobile driven by Stewart Hoy, an employee of the company. Witnesses testified that Miss Adams played basket ball with her school team, Yeagertown, the same night, and that she played basketball with the Spring Mills and Mifflintown teams under an assumed name after the accident. Miss Adams received a similar verdict at the hands of a jury several months ago.

A railroad bridge, costing approximately one-half million dollars, is to be constructed across the Susquehanna river near Munby by the Reading company. Work is to start next spring. The War Department at Washington, has approved the plans and the water and power resources board at Harrisburg has also given its approval. The structure is to replace a bridge built in 1835 which has outlived its usefulness on account of the heavier equipment now used by the company. During the 1894 flood the water reached a point three feet over the rails and in the reconstruction at that time the tracks were raised eight feet. The present plans call for an additional raise of approximately seven feet on account of the new design.

W. H. Kepner, 60, of near Newport, Perry county, returning from a hunting trip, was killed on Friday afternoon near New Buffalo, when he stepped in front of a motor car occupied by four Penn State students enroute to the Penn State-Notre Dame game at Philadelphia. According to information obtained from witnesses by Dr. J. E. Book, coroner of Perry county, Kepner came down an embankment to the road, apparently examining his gun. Robert Hamilton, driver of the car, applied the brakes and sounded the horn, at the same time turning to the left to avoid hitting the hunter. Kepner, the witnesses told the coroner, became confused and stepped directly in front of the car. He was knocked to the road and suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. With Hamilton in the car were Charles Christner, Russell Wilkinson and Thomas Anderson, all students at State College.