

INK SLINGS.

—Well, the box of oranges is on the way, but advance advice is to the effect that it is "a little box." Don't laugh. What else might we have expected but a "little" from Hoover's election.

—Votes of prejudice might keep a man out of office, but they can't keep him from praying to the same God the rest of us do. And if you think Al Smith doesn't have a speaking acquaintance with your Creator all you need do is read the concluding paragraphs of his last message to the people of the United States.

—Just for the pleasure of dropping a little fly in the ointment we want to remind those Democrats in Centre county who voted a straight Republican ticket because Al Smith is a Catholic that they voted for a Catholic, after all. Auditor General-elect, Charles Waters, who ran on the Republican ticket is a member of the same church that Al is.

—The death of Warren Worth Bailey, editor and owner of the Johnstown Democrat, removes from the journalistic ranks of Pennsylvania, one of its most virile writers. Col. Bailey was more or less of a free lance, but he was always frank, fearless and fair—qualities so rarely found in modern journalism now-a-days, that his loss is indeed a real one.

—My, how we would enjoy announcement that James M. Beck has really been defeated for Congress in Philadelphia. He was hanging by an eyelash when we heard last of the count in his District. Mr. Beck is another of those gentlemen who thought the Democratic party was good enough for him after it had given him the chance to find out how good he thought himself to be.

—Centre county polled the third largest favorable majority for the State College bond issue. Lackawanna was first and Blair second. In proportion to the total votes cast, however, Centre led, as was fitting. The few votes that were cast against the proposal in State College borough are supposed to have been polled by persons owning properties there that might depreciate in value should the College enter upon an extensive program of building dormitories on the campus.

—Just now we are thinking about our friend J. C. Dunlap. In September he wrote us to be sure to send his paper out to Indiana, because, he said, "one needs all the Democratic company obtainable in this locality." Indiana is Governor Fisher's town, you know, and they love John so much out there that they were probably starting to make good that million majority prediction of his when brother Dunlap sent us the S. O. S. Imagine a Ferguson township Dunlap in a hot bed of Republicanism, especially in a campaign so intense as was the recent one. He needed comfort then. He needs it now, and the good Lord knows we'd share ours with him now—if we had any.

—A lady has written from State College to remind us of another dereliction. Really, we're becoming alarmed. The old bean doesn't seem to function alertly any more and the will to work might even be envied by a drone bee. All we seem to be good for is to put washers on dripping spigots by day and see how many stations we can tune into at night. Such probably is the price of having run in high too long. And here we are stretching out what was intended to be only a two line paragraph reminding you that it is only thirty-nine days until Christmas. That is what the State College correspondent took all the trouble to write about. She says she missed it.

—Sam Gray writes from West Chester to say nice things about the manner in which we took "the beat-in" up" he helped administer. Remorse seems to be gnawing at his vitals, for he would have us believe that some time he will help us win, just to see how we would react to such a miracle. We have heard so much of this stuff that we can scarcely restrain the urge to prophesy victory for Democracy in 1932. Republicans all about us are getting so sympathetic that if we weren't sophisticated we'd be naming the next President now and betting the only over-coat we own that they will put him in just so we can drag out some roosters. We know them. They're not as sincere as the dear old Republican lady of town who said, when she heard that Hoover had won: "Isn't it too bad, now George Meek won't be able to get any of his roosters out at all."

—Since we have run into a personal vein we shall let our thoughts wander there long enough to tell of a child's expression, made eight years ago, that we have pondered over often since and it struck us with prophetic force early Wednesday morning of last week. We had made an engagement to meet with a few of the untrifled to plan a campaign for the county ticket. As it happened it was our night to stay home with the young hopeful. It was either miss the meeting or take him with us. We did that. On the way home he asked us what the five or six gentlemen who were at the meeting were. Upon being informed that they were Democrats he asked: "Is that our party?" We answered "yes" and to this he replied: "Father, there are not many of us, are there?"

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Results of the Election.

The overwhelming majority of votes cast for Herbert Hoover and the equally preponderant majority for him in the electoral college definitely settles some of the important questions at issue in the campaign. The Eighteenth amendment to the constitution and the Volstead law will continue in present form with all the attendant evils of bootlegging, hijacking, racketeering and moonshining. Farmers' relief as expressed in the McNary-Haugen bill is "dished," and the vast and valuable water powers of the country will pass into the hands of the power trust to be exploited as expert monopolists only know how to do such things. This will be literally continuing the Coolidge policies.

It is not easy to measure the relative importance of the various questions discussed during the campaign in determining the result of the vote. It would be a reflection on the intelligence of a real temperance advocate to assume that they preferred Mr. Hoover's plan of treating the prohibition question to that of Governor Smith. The experience of eight years has proved the futility of the Hoover plan, and the practically unanimous support of it by the bootleggers indicated their appreciation of its service to them. Governor Smith's plan was more or less startling but similar systems had accomplished excellent results in other countries, notably in Sweden and Canada.

The prosperity issue was simply an appeal to public credulity. Even President Coolidge admitted, in a public statement a few days before the election, that the choice for President would have no influence on the country in that respect. Only those who wanted to be fooled were influenced by that pretense. But the farmers and the prohibitionists are likely to experience a rude awakening. Mr. Hoover's promises of agricultural aid was a mockery and his pledge to the temperance folk will be disappointing. The power trust and big business will realize their expectations in full measure. After the inauguration of Mr. Hoover the way will be clear for them to perfect their monopolistic organization.

—Those southern recreants who call themselves Constitutional Democrats ought to specify which amendment to the organic law they are concerned about. The first and fourteenth were flouted in the recent election.

Mr. Hoover's Southern Tour.

President-elect Hoover's contemplated "Good-Will" tour of the Latin-American Republics is not entirely a new departure in diplomatic activities. During the administration of President McKinley, Secretary of War Elihu Root toured Central and South American countries, and while Mr. Roosevelt was President Attorney General Philander C. Knox made a similar tour. But both of these enterprises were ostensibly in the interest of trade and the Knox adventure developed what was subsequently known as "Dollar Diplomacy." The more euphemistic title of "good will" tour was invented while Colonel Lindbergh was "gallivanting" through the clouds in various countries.

But it can hardly be claimed that the proposed excursion of Mr. Hoover through some of the Southern Republics is strictly in pursuance of President Coolidge's "policy" with respect to those people and governments. It is true that Mr. Morrow, Ambassador in Mexico, substituted friendly phrases for threatening notes in that country and the President and everybody else approved of Colonel Lindbergh's amiable gestures wherever he appeared. But the previous custom of the administrations was to send marines and battleships with orders to kill and destroy opposition. That system proved a failure and it is gratifying to feel that under the new administration it will not be followed.

Whatever the inspiration it may be hoped that the enterprise will do much good. Mr. Hoover is familiar with affairs of Europe, Asia and it is fit that he should have some understanding of conditions in the South American continent. There has never been close relations, either social or commercial, between the people of North and South America and if the impending tour of the President-elect will serve to establish greater intimacy it will be worth while. It may be assumed that Mr. Hoover had this object in mind when he determined to make the trip, and he will enter upon it with assurance that he has the best wishes of the American people.

—Secretary of State Kellogg imagines that public sentiment will stop wars sooner or later. But fighting the League of Nations will delay the consummation.

Worthy Hope Disappointed.

In the campaign just closed the Democratic party of the country undertook "a noble experiment" and failed. There was a time when bigotry ran so high and intolerance so rabid that men and women were murdered because of their opinions. Gradually this slavery to passion has been abating under the influence of a broader diffusion of intelligence and a better understanding of Christian conduct. The Democratic party undertook to wipe it out finally and forever by nominating a Catholic for President of the United States. Not because he was of that religious faith, but for the reason that Albert E. Smith, by meritorious public service, had earned the admiration of the people throughout the country.

Governor Smith had been in public service for a quarter of a century before he was nominated for President. For nearly one-third of that time he had been Governor in the most populous and wealthy State in the American Union. In no instance during this long period of service had he been influenced in any public act by religious prejudice. It was believed, and with reason, by the leaders of his party, that in view of his merits and achievements, he would command the support of all voters of his political faith and he was nominated unanimously. It was not only a reasonable but a just expectation. It expressed a fundamental principle of the party.

The Democratic leaders and the Democratic people who bestowed upon him the honor of a nomination for President believed that if elected Alfred E. Smith would so wisely and justly administer the government that the fear of foreign or sectarian influences, inimical to religious liberty, would be driven out of the public mind forever. Every fair-minded man and woman will agree that it is "a consummation devoutly to be wished." But the hope of it has been disappointed. Hundreds of thousands of voters, under the pretense of opposing Governor Smith for other reasons, actually voted against him because he is a Catholic. It is a sad ending of a worthy aspiration. It is the penalty of intolerance.

—Mr. Lightfoot, of St. Louis, who voted for Hoover, proposes to reorganize the Democratic party. It's a good idea, all right, but comes from a wrong source. Any reorganization should eliminate the recreants.

Chairman Collins Deserves Praise.

After all there are a few bright spots in the much too dark political horizon. It is encouraging to know that our candidate for President polled nearly twice as many votes in Pennsylvania as were cast for any previous candidate for any office. There is no sign of decay in that record. We see no reason to despair in it. An army a million strong has no reason to surrender unconditionally even though the opposing force is considerably greater. And our army of a million is perfect in morale, admirable in spirit and commanded by competent, courageous and resourceful officers.

In fact the Democratic party of Pennsylvania is particularly fortunate in its organization at this time. Its chairman, Mr. John R. Collins, of Potter county, has amply proved his claim to leadership by his masterly management of the campaign. Against odds which would have appalled a less courageous captain he converted a disorganized force into a strong, militant and efficient organization, able and ready to meet any condition that may arise and fully capable to function whenever called into action. It was a splendid achievement and marks this modest man as a leader who deserves the gratitude of his party.

The Democratic party of Pennsylvania is not dead or even seriously infirm. It made a gallant fight for a righteous cause and increased its strength wherever it concentrated its energies. The break in the "solid South" of Philadelphia and the decrease in the Republican majority in Pittsburgh, are permanent improvements in the political conditions in the State which will be of great advantage in the future. The local organizations in both cities performed their parts well and the rank and file of the party were zealous and effective. But honor and praise are especially due to chairman John R. Collins.

—President Coolidge still believes that the Kellogg-Briand pact is the greatest peace movement ever attempted. President Coolidge has great faith in his own achievements.

—Fascism is "riding for a fall" in Italy, according to Mr. Edward Corsi, a prominent Italian-American, who has completed a survey of conditions in his native country.

Need a New Constitution.

Not only Governor Fisher but a great many other Pennsylvanians have grown weary of the patchwork system of amending the constitution of the State. Since the adoption of the instrument in 1874 at least a third of the provisions have been altered by amendments and some of them have been changed two or three times. The result is such confusion that as a whole it is practically incomprehensible to the lay mind. But the people of the State have not shown a willingness to correct this evil. The expense of a convention and the submission of its work for adoption may have been the influencing cause to this frame of mind, but whatever the cause two attempts to call a convention have failed.

The time for the submission of the amendments this year was impractical and there were too many of them. It is almost inconceivable that a majority of the voters of Pennsylvania are opposed to properly equipping State College to render such service to the educational progress of the people as it might. But the defeat of amendment No. 2 works precisely that result. It is true that for some unexplained reason the political machine was opposed to the adoption of the amendment, but there ought to have been enough independent voters free from control of the machine to put it over. But in the confusion which attends a sharply contested National election it was forgotten.

If disappointment over the failure of the fourteen amendments submitted this year will influence the people to favor a constitutional convention, it will be worth the price. The patchwork instrument under which we are operating causes needless confusion in the operation of the courts and adds materially to the cost of litigation. A constitutional convention will cost considerable and submitting it for approval will add to the expense. But it will be a profitable investment for various reasons. It will enable the people to get provisions into the fundamental law that are greatly needed. The present constitution is archaic as well as confusing.

New Army Project Backed by Business Men.

In conformity with action taken at a meeting of the Associated Business men of Bellefonte, last Friday night, an option was taken, on Saturday evening, on ten acres of land on the Harry Lutz farm, east of Bellefonte, as a site for a new army and drill field for Troop B, of Bellefonte. The site had already been approved by the State armory board, and the offer of the Bellefonte school board to purchase the old armory for \$17,000 has also been accepted by the armory board, and the only thing that now remains is raising the money to take up the option on the new site.

As a start toward the necessary fund Troop B has pledged \$300 and if every business man in Bellefonte will contribute according to his means there will be no difficulty in raising the money. Bellefonte has been the location of a State military organization for half a century and should take a certain degree of pride in retaining the organization. At the present time the upkeep of the troop here means an annual expense of \$20,000. This money is paid by the State for the upkeep of the horses and to the men for attendance at drill. All this money is spent in Bellefonte and Centre county, and because of this fact there should be a willing response to the appeal for contributions to the fund to purchase the new field.

—The Daughters of the American Revolution have expelled Mrs. McFarland, of New Jersey, because she objected to a "black list," but the roots of her family tree are unimpaired.

—If you lose money dabbling in the market your a gambler. If you happen to make some your the wise investor whose advice many seek.

—Some prominent Democrats of Pennsylvania are planning to organize a State-wide Democratic club in Philadelphia.

—Mr. Pinchot has acquired a ship to sail the South sea but meantime he is keeping an eye on Washington.

—If the Ku Klux Klan is just to itself it will demand a seat in the cabinet for Mrs. Mabel Willebrandt.

—The election is over and the Philadelphia grafters are organizing to check the reform movement.

—The Democrats were badly beaten in 1872 and look what happened in 1874.

The Hoover We Know and the One We Don't.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Here's a sobering thought for the American people: They do not yet know the man they elected President of the United States last Tuesday.

And here's one for Mr. Hoover: The most important task confronting him, the biggest opportunity, is to show the American people he is not the man they decided to elect, and not the man he has represented himself to be during the last six months.

Apparently paradoxical, if not absurd, these assertions will be found upon reflection to be quite logical statements of fact.

They would not have applied to Governor Smith. Had he been elected no one would have been in any doubt as to his convictions and purposes. Both were submitted to public scrutiny with a frankness which left no uncertainty in the minds of either his supporters or his opponents. His defeat, in fact, was due in no small degree to his outspoken utterances, which projected his personality and his views with vivid clarity.

Mr. Hoover, on the contrary, pursued a totally different course. He emphasized principles, but was studiously vague upon their application. He carefully framed his declarations to fit the exigencies of the campaign and of the various sections to which he appealed. He was cautious, calculating, always the strategist rather than the crusading leader. It was as if he avoided any definiteness of engagement which might check the currents flowing in his favor.

This interpretation is not necessarily to his discredit, does not impute deception. It simply recognizes that Mr. Hoover, convinced that he and his party could best serve the nation, made his election the supreme objective. In justification he could tell himself, and probably did so, that only in the Presidency would his abilities be fully available to the public.

That was, indeed, his manner of approach from the beginning. His capture of the nomination was manifestly the result of assiduous planning and careful execution. His admirers saw in it a product of his organizing skill and hailed him as a new figure in public affairs—the political engineer. That role he emphasized equally in the party contest. Those who had pictured him as an inspired humanitarian and idealist had to adjust themselves to his exhibition of the most practical kind of politics.

But henceforth he will be under far less compulsion to trim his sails to catch the winds of popularity. As President he will have power to accomplish as well as to suggest; he will be in a position to lead public thought, not merely to follow it.

Altering the State Constitution.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Governor Fisher's criticism of the present "patchwork" method of amending the Pennsylvania Constitution is a reminder that thorough-going revision must eventually be faced. It will substitute the deliberations of a competent convention for the prejudices of a free-for-all. In the end, of course, the handiwork of the experts will still have to meet approval at the polls. But the verdict will be preceded by a campaign of education which was not possible this year in the overshadowing importance of the national election. Moreover, the issue will come before the people in a single, clear-cut proposition to accept the reform as a whole or to reject it. Interest will not be decentralized through fourteen separate channels, as was the case last Tuesday.

The political class of 1928 has been loosely called a battle between city and country. The description has some cogency in its application to the Pennsylvania referendums. Rural districts and urban districts nearly neutralized each other in their respective attitudes. The State College loan, for instance, which the State Grant endorsed, was supported outside the big cities and rejected within. Conversely, projects of metropolitan areas found their native strength more than matched by the external agrarian opposition.

This partisanship based on geography proved an unfortunate mood in which to approach questions requiring a judicial impartiality. As often happens when emotion prevails over reason, the attempt to interpret some of the proposals in terms of sectionalism involved palpable errors of fact, notably in the measure to alter the basis of county debt limits. As these developments become more widely realized, the force of Governor Fisher's remarks will be correspondingly apparent.

A Monument to McCoy.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

His admirers in the United States and the Philippines will read with interest and approval a cable from Managua that both Conservatives and Liberals in Nicaragua have united to raise funds for a monument as a tribute to Brigadier General Frank R. McCoy, who supervised the recent presidential election. "Plaza McCoy" would be established as the site of the monument. Thus American soldiers, marines, sailors, aviators and statesmen carry good will throughout the world. And on top of it all comes the tour of the President-elect to further bind the friendly relations of the two Americas.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Charles Moden, 35, sexton of Sewickley Methodist Episcopal church, ended his life by hanging in the church. He fashioned a noose from the rope with which he had tolled the bell for the last four years. His body was found suspended in the basement.

—Seven armed bandits on Monday morning entered the Delaware Inn, on the outskirts of Easton, and robbed the proprietor and two patrons of more than \$1000 in cash and a diamond pin valued at \$100. Telephone wires were cut and it was several hours after the robbery before the police authorities learned of it.

—Pleading guilty to a charge of breaking into the homes of Judge John E. Fox and Mrs. Charles E. Kunkel, in the Front street residential section of Harrisburg and stealing clothing, jewelry and wine from the Judge's home, Walter A. Carney, alias John A. Savage, of Kingston, was sentenced to five to ten years in the Eastern Penitentiary.

—Valiant fighting by students with their campus apparatus saved from destruction the gymnasium at Susquehanna, at Selinsgrove on Monday, when several thousand dollars damage was done. Several collegians were overcome by smoke and cut by broken glass in their successful efforts to hold the fire in check until the fire company arrived.

—The last of the concrete on the William Penn highway was poured Monday between Millintown and Thompsontown, on Route 31, which has been under construction most of the summer. The stretch of new road is 9.4 miles in length, and when thrown open to traffic will provide a stretch of forty-seven miles of concrete road between Harrisburg and Millintown.

—When Mrs. Morris Bucher entered the home of her son-in-law at Columbia, Pa., she did not know that heavy paper on the floor covered the opening from which the large register grate of a pipeless furnace had been removed. Stepping on the paper, the woman plunged into the cellar, landing on top of the furnace. Weighing more than 200 pounds, the strength of three men was required to pull her from the hole.

—When Willard Michael attempted to tighten a bolt on a running machine, after removing the guard, in the Berwick plant of the American Car and Foundry Company, he was painfully injured. He thought that his injury was sufficient punishment for his folly but to his consternation he learned that his act was to cost him a fine. A deputy factory inspector arrested him for removing the guard and he was fined \$25.

—A certificate of incorporation of the Hahn Home, provided for under the will of the late Anna L. Gardner, of York, Pa., the estate now being worth \$400,000, was granted by the court this week. The Hahn Home is to be built in or near York and will be a home for aged unmarried women of good character and habits who by reason of business reverses or diminution of estate do not have the means for living in the manner to which they had been accustomed.

—Mayor Joseph Cauffiel, of Johnstown, announced, Tuesday that beginning next Sunday "and every Sunday thereafter as long as the blue laws are on the Commonwealth statute books," he will force the local street railway company to suspend operations; will close all drug stores, restaurants, news stands, filling stations and will put the lid on everything in town." The mayor's edict countered a demand made by the city council today that he clean up vice conditions.

—Three cases of importance have been decided by jury in the civil courts of Mifflin county. The suits were instituted by the borough of Lewistown against three churches, St. John's Lutheran Church, Methodist church of Lewistown, in which the borough made an effort to collect paving assessments for building of sidewalks about their cemetery properties. The churches showed no profit was being derived from these properties and Judge Thomas F. Bailey instructed the jury that they must find for the churches.

—Ephraim Wirick and Ambrose Berkebile, alderman and constable of the Seventeenth ward in Johnstown, were given jail sentences on Monday when arraigned before the Cambria county court at Ebensburg as the result of their conviction of extortion. Wirick was sentenced to serve from four months to one year in the county jail, and Berkebile was given from nine months to one year. Both defendants were also removed from office. Their arrest and conviction grew out of the illegal collection of fees in liquor and gambling cases.

—Taken from the wild mountain region six miles from Pottsville, where she had built herself a shelter of poles and boughs, Anna Sincosky, 23, of Cumbula, Schuylkill county, told police that she had been forced to flee to the mountains to escape what she termed "the road house gang." The girl, who claimed she had existed in the mountain region for five months, was discovered by a hunter, Martin Gosz, of Seitz City. She was scantily clad and was badly bruised, apparently as a result of an attack she told authorities she had suffered at the hands of two men several days before. She was committed to the Schuylkill county prison on a technical charge.

—A second oil well is being drilled in the vicinity of Mount Union. Pittsburgh capitalists are now drilling a test well in Shavers Creek valley, on lots adjoining the farms of Booher brothers, of Mt. Union, R. D., and ten miles north of Petersburg. Late report of the operations state that the drillers are down nearly 1000 feet. The Juniata Valley Oil and Gas Company, of which Morley Queen, of Mount Union, is the president, and made up mostly of New York capitalists, started drilling on Wednesday for a test well on the farm of T. H. Gates, known as the Vale View farm, near Newton Hamilton. Both companies are enthusiastic over the prospects of success.

—Going to the Pennsylvania Railroad station at Elizabethtown to meet his wife, Harry Weidman, 38, noticed the body of a woman lying across the rails beneath a coach of a train that was just about to move. Weidman heard the signal of the conductor and the hiss of steam from the locomotive as he raced across the platform and dragged the unconscious woman to safety. He carried her to the light and discovered he had saved the life of his wife. Mrs. Weidman had been visiting in New York and her husband had gone to the train to meet her. When the passengers alighted from the coach Weidman failed to find his wife and was puzzled. It is believed the woman tripped after alighting from a coach and fell in the darkness, unassisted by others.