

INK SLINGS.

"Dead men tell no tales," so it is perfectly safe to blame the Vestris tragedy on Captain Carey.

If Al Smith is alive in 1932 and is not drafted by the Democratic party for its standard bearer his next best friend, Franklin D. Roosevelt, will probably have developed into potential presidential timber.

Farmers are hauling water in Centre county while out in the mid-west they are fleeing from it. If our party was in power our Republican friends would be blaming it for the scarcity here and the floods there, but we're going to heap coals of fire on their heads by going so far as to admit the possibility that neither Mr. Coolidge nor Mr. Hoover has anything to do with the vagaries of precipitation.

Come easy, go easy. A College township farmer who is supposed to have cleaned up ten thousand dollars by opening a toll road-way through his farm while a highway bridge was in course of construction, knows the truth of the old epigram. The other day his farm hand gave a calf he had paid two hundred dollars for to the butcher who called for a "dunghill" that had been sold to him by telephone.

The correspondent with whom we offered to share our political comfort last week comes back with the charge that we are a socialist: One of those fellows who wants to divide up everything he hasn't any of. And that reminds us of a plaint that the departed Al Roberts habitually voiced. In speaking of a certain distinguished citizen of the town, also departed, Al said: "He never has anything for you when you need it and is always wanting to give you something when you don't want it."

An eminent and fearless Judge of the Courts of Philadelphia county says that the Director of Public Safety down there ought to resign. The Director in question is responsible for the police of that city and the whole world knows what has been found out about police and crime in Philadelphia. Mr. Vare, however, steps into the controversy and says, in substance: Director Davis will not resign and the Mayor dare not remove him. In Philadelphia, evidently, government is of the people, for the people and by Vare.

It is possible for a free people to vote themselves completely into the power of those whom they chose to govern them. While the office holding class in this country has not yet reached proportions that could organize to perpetually perpetuate itself who can say that the future holds no such possibility. With the spirit of development and the idea of paternalism rampant government dependents are multiplying by the thousands, annually. Each one of them controls a few votes and it is not mere fancy to say that the time might come when the constantly widening circle will reach out far enough to completely control elections under the present system in this country.

A rumor that intrigues us is one to the effect that recently a boot-legger, with a thirty-six thousand dollar cargo, was held up just outside of Bellefonte and had to give up twelve hundred to get on with his contraband. Not having that amount in ready cash he is said to have come in to town, put up a handful of loose diamonds as collateral, procured the money, paid the agents who held him up and went on his way. If you can imagine a boot-legger with a caravan of three Cadillac cars and thirty-six grand in liquor without twelve hundred in cash then you might well believe the story and start nosing around to find out who held him up, who loaned him the twelve hundred and who got it.

The proposal presented to council Monday evening that a milk inspector be employed by the borough should be of utmost interest to every resident of the town. In bacterial count milk is probably far and away the dirtiest commodity offered for daily consumption. There is no such thing as perfectly clean milk. Even the high grade products of the extra-fancy dairies that produce certified milk contain enough bacteria to scare the life out of the lay consumer, were he to know the count and believe that every bacillus spells infection of some sort. Everybody wants milk as reasonably free from contamination as possible. Some will approve the proposal, others will protest it and still others will wonder why it is necessary to add another official to the borough payroll. We must admit that some ground can be found for this latter state of mind. Already there is the State Pure Food Department, with its inspectors constantly on the go. There is a State health officer located within five miles of Bellefonte. And the town has a secretary of health and a health officer, as well, both of whom are drawing salaries regularly for work that probably doesn't take up ten hours of their time monthly. So, while we all agree that clean milk is most desirable, there might be an honest division of opinion as to the means of getting it. Rather than encourage such a multiplicity of officials council might help the property owners who have to pay them by working out a plan that would secure the desired service without any more outlay than is being made now.

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Governor Smith's Valedictory Story.

Governor Smith's address to the American people, delivered in New York last week, was characteristic. It was the expression of a candid, courageous and resourceful leader. It conveyed no feeling of resentment or desire to evade responsibility. Governor Smith accepts the result of the election without complaint and without dismay. He sees in it "that the Democratic party is alive, a vigorous and forceful major minority," and declares "the Democratic party to-day is the great liberal party of the nation. It leads the progressive thought in all the country. It holds out the only hope of return of the fundamental principles on which the country was built and as a result of which it has grown and thrived."

The mission of the Democratic party is not to win victories but to help the people. It is not unreasonable to say that this has been accomplished in some measure in the campaign just ended. The fourteen and a half million votes cast for Governor Smith for President may admonish the successful party against policies and practices of the past eight years which have brought shame and disgrace to the country. That in itself will be achievement of inestimable value to the people. And that is not the only source of satisfaction in the vote for Governor Smith. It proves that the Democratic party is not only alive but is increasing in strength and steadfast in purpose. Such a force under such leadership cannot be slighted.

Governor Smith is neither a sniper nor a dodger. He may have been disappointed in the result of the election but he cherishes no spite. He appeals for fair treatment of his successful antagonist in the contest. "It will not do," he says, "to let bitterness, rancor or indignation over the result blind us to the one outstanding fact that above everything else we are Americans no matter what party we aligned ourselves with on election day. Our concern should be for the future welfare, happiness, contentment and prosperity of the American people." In pursuance of this sentiment he asks all the people to support the President-elect. "He is entitled to a fair opportunity to develop a programme calculated to promote the welfare and best interests of the country."

Mr. Vare may be boss of Philadelphia but most of his followers are likely to be in prisons or fugitives before he fully recovers.

Beck Fights for Fraud.

James M. Beck, of Washington, is still trying to break into Congress as Representative of the First district of Pennsylvania. On dubious technicalities he occupied the seat during the first session of the Seventieth Congress against a contest which is yet undecided, based upon non-residence of the district. At the spring primary this year he was re-nominated by the Vare machine and by the unofficial returns appeared to have been elected by seventy majority. The official count reduced this figure to fifty and his opponent applied to the courts for the opening of the ballot boxes in several divisions of the Seventh ward upon the ground that substantial errors had been made.

Judge Harry S. McDevitt and Judge Edwin O. Lewis, composing the return court, after hearing arguments of counsel disagreed upon the question at issue. Judge Lewis denied the application and Judge McDevitt handed down a decision granting it and fixed Friday morning for further argument. An appeal was made by counsel for Mr. Beck to the board of judges, but that body refused to interfere. Thereupon Mr. Beck's lawyers announced the purpose to appeal Judge McDevitt's action to the Supreme court of the State. Judge Lewis based his opinion on the inefficiency of the petition and absence of jurisdiction. Judge McDevitt held "that public policy demanded the opening of the boxes."

Mr. Beck, and those whose willing instrument he seems to be, loudly profess to favor honest elections and fair returns of the vote. But their action in resisting the petition to open the boxes in the Seventh ward, where fraud or substantial errors are believed to have defeated the candidate honestly elected, and elected the candidate justly defeated, belies their pretenses. If no fraud has been committed or errors made there can come no harm to Mr. Beck by recounting the votes under the supervision of the courts. The fact that Mr. Beck objects to this "acid test" of the question is substantial evidence that he knows fraud has been committed and hopes to profit by it.

The first real step toward stabilizing aviation has been taken. A conference for the discussion of finances has been held.

Monopoly Moving Forward.

The smoke of the recent political battle had scarcely blown away when the logical results of the election of Herbert Hoover began to reveal themselves. On Saturday last, the daily newspapers carried two significant stories dated New York, Nov. 14. One stated that "bankers, financial promoters and utility managers today sat in sub-committees completing the plans for one of the biggest electrical power mergers in history." The other stated that "negotiations which eventually hope to bring about the combination of four steel companies into a corporation with assets of more than \$250,000,000 are now under way, it was learned today." Big business is in the saddle and is preparing to ride down all opposition.

The electric power merger, according to the programme, "will include practically the entire power resources of up-State New York and Pennsylvania. Ever since the election of Herbert Hoover with his announced policy of private control of power," the narrative continues, "the giant merger which connects the Morgan and Mellon interests, has been a foregone conclusion. Properties worth well over a billion dollars will be brought together by the combination and the interconnection of power lines will make one giant power pool stretching from beyond Niagara Falls to Southern Pennsylvania." Small enterprises will have little chance in competition with this gigantic monopoly.

The proposed steel combination is equally powerful in its field. It includes the Atlas Steel corporation, the Ludlum Steel company, each enjoying a monopoly in certain lines; the Central Steel corporation, the Republic Iron and Steel company, the Trumbull Steel company and the Steel and Tube company, Incorporated. All of these concerns specialize in high class tool steel and in no respect interfere with the business of the United States Steel corporation or the Bethlehem Steel company. But when these giant combinations are effected and these monopolies are established the business of the people will be put under tribute to pay unearned bounties to the conspirators.

Albert Ottinger has finally admitted that he was not elected Governor of New York. He has not only done this, but he has assured Franklin D. Roosevelt that he can carry out all of Ottinger's plans for the government of the Empire State without fear of being charged with plagiarism. Isn't Mr. Ottinger the nice man?

Vare Reasserts His Leadership.

Mr. Vare's dramatic gesture at Atlantic City, on Sunday, is a matter of more than local significance. His resumption of the leadership of the Vare machine in Philadelphia is quite important. Even with the vastly increased Democratic vote in that city it may mean a reformation of lines and a restoration of control of the municipal government in substantial part the old way. But that is not the purpose Mr. Vare had in mind when he said to a group of politicians "I still am boss." His vision was soaring above and beyond the city limits. He was contemplating State-wide control of the Republican party of Pennsylvania from a seat in the United States Senate.

The defeat of Herbert Hoover, or even a material decrease of the Republican majority in Pennsylvania, would have meant a requiem to Mr. Vare's hope for even an ill-fitting Senatorial toga. But the million majority acquired largely in the rural districts where machine methods are not in practice or popular favor, has planted in his mind a confidence that with the increased party majority in the Senate and the reassertion of leadership in his home State, he may be allowed to qualify and assume the duties of the office which he bought and paid for at an enormously high rating in 1926. To achieve this result the Wilson contest will have to be thrown out.

No doubt that was the thought that influenced Mr. Vare at the Kansas City convention to force the Pennsylvania delegation, in advance of the balloting, to declare for Hoover. It was the turning point in the contest and inevitably left a feeling of gratitude in the heart of Mr. Hoover. The gesture at Atlantic City, on Sunday, was simply "cashing-in" on expectations. The big majority in the State will be appraised as a popular endorsement of the previously discredited political machinist and justify Mr. Hoover, in his own mind, in exercising what power he can command in favor of seating Vare. The bigoted Democrats who voted for Hoover helped Vare amazingly.

Bill Vare declares that he is still boss of Philadelphia. But he got a pretty rude jolt on election day.

Scramble for the Surplus.

The Governor, according to current gossip in Harrisburg, "expects a scramble" for shares of the surplus during the coming session of the General Assembly. State Treasurer Lewis estimates that at the close of the fiscal year, June 1st, 1929, there will be approximately \$25,000,000 in the State treasury. This is an enticing lure for hungry, not to say avaricious, politicians. The failure of the several bond amendments to the constitution will afford excuses for all sorts of demands for appropriations and though the party machine will control the distribution of the favors and place the money "where it will do the most good" for the party, it anticipates a good deal of trouble.

The Highway Department will ask for a considerable slice of the surplus and as Governor Fisher favored the adoption of that amendment it is believed that that department will get about what it wants. It is whispered about the capitol corridors that an increase in automobile licenses and gasoline tax will be necessary unless the Highway Department is well provided for. The Welfare Department also appears to stand in high favor and Governor Fisher estimates that \$10,000,000 ought to go to buildings for that department. The reforestation project has some influential supporters and the State armories are insistent. Last in the favor of politicians, but first in the minds of the people, is State College.

The party bosses have been for some time indulging the hope that in view of the surplus it might be possible to reduce taxes at least a trifle, without impairment of their plans. But in anticipation of the impending "grabfest" that expectation has been abandoned. Economy is a poor campaign argument anyway, as recent incidents have shown. There is more likelihood of a tax increase than decrease. In any event it is a safe bet that there will be no surplus at the end of the next biennium, and the next session of the General Assembly will be a continuous orgy of appropriation grabbing. The machine has the power and the money.

If the recent election was a "wet" and "dry," referendum the dries won. But we can't quite get the idea of the victory celebrants. We have seen an unusual number of drunks on the street since election day and know most of them voted dry.

Doe Hunting Season Will Open in One Week.

The doe hunting season—for doe it is to be according to the latest ruling of the State Game Commission—will open one week from tomorrow and the slaughter of the female of the species will be legal for a period of fifteen days. While there have been many arguments, pro and con, on the advisability of killing off the does, and vigorous protests have been made to the Game Commission against its ruling to do so, there is a strong probability that when the time comes many of the old-time hunters will take a crack at one.

As proof of this fact it can be cited that county treasurer L. L. Smith has issued over eight thousand special doe licenses, which is evidence that a good many men have a doe in mind. Practically all the hunting clubs in Centre county are making their plans to go into camp during the open season for deer, and as it will be against the law to kill bucks the only thing they can shoot is doe, unless they put in their time hunting bear, raccoon and rabbits.

While eight thousand doe licenses have been issued to hunters who expect to go on the trail in Centre county mountains Mr. Smith still has on hand about five thousand, as Centre county's total was a little over thirteen thousand.

The new Premier of Rumania, Julius Maniu, proposes to establish "a government of the people, for the people and by the people," which will be "a noble experiment" in the Balkans.

It's hardly worth while to worry over the future of Al Smith. A man of his ability, integrity, courage and industry may be depended upon to take care of himself.

Lloyd George says "the nations are sharpening their knives on the stones of the temple of peace." Wonder if the Coolidge speech inspired that metaphor.

European newspapers interpret Coolidge's Armistice day speech as notice that Hoover will follow the same policies as his predecessor.

The President-elect is off on his good-will tour and he carries with him the best wishes of all American citizens.

Bellefonters Should Boom Airmail Celebration.

The committee appointed by the Kiwanis club to arrange for a proper celebration of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of an airmail field in Bellefonte, and of which Geo. T. Bush is chairman, is anxious to have Bellefonte people, and merchants especially, waken up to the fact that it is another good opportunity to advertise the town, and should not be allowed to pass unheeded.

Mr. Bush has already received over four hundred letters from persons and firms away from here to be mailed in Bellefonte that day, and Bellefonte business men should also take advantage of the opportunity to leave the outside world know that they are still alive and kicking. The Postoffice Department has already recognized the steps that have been taken toward a celebration to send Mr. Wadsworth, general superintendent of airmails, here to confer with the committee.

The Kiwanis club will soon have for sale specially designed envelopes and cachets which they will sell practically at cost, and which should be used on the day of the celebration, December 12th. Letters can be written any time and placed in the post-office for mailing that day. Such letters, however, should be dated December 12.

While it may not be generally known it is a fact, nevertheless, that the Department of Commerce is considering taking over the Bellefonte field, if it can be purchased at the right price, and should this be done it will mean a permanent institution for Bellefonte and with the establishment of air passenger traffic may develop into a first-class station.

A Double Significance.

From the San Francisco Chronicle. The appointment of Ambassador Henry P. Fletcher as secretary-general of the Pan-American Conference on Arbitration and Conciliation is significant in two directions. It is evidence of the importance which Secretary Kellogg attaches to the conference opening in Washington next month. On the other hand, the appointment is a deserved tribute to one of the country's diplomats who has won his way from the foot of the ladder by sheer ability.

Ambassador Fletcher is pre-eminently a "career man." Politics has been no factor in his advancement in the service. Republican and Democratic administrations alike have recognized his ability and entrusted him with important and delicate missions. Henry Fletcher was a court stenographer in a little Pennsylvania town when the Spanish War broke out. The manner of his getting into the Roosevelt regiment was typical of his tact and persistence. When he arrived in Washington he saw that the roster of the Rough Riders was filled and that all applicants were being dismissed with a kind word but a firm refusal. He took himself out of the line and went to the very foot. When he got to Roosevelt there was no other applicant waiting. This gave Fletcher a chance to talk to the great man and persuade him to add one more to the roster.

The friendship thus formed got Fletcher an appointment to a legation staff when Roosevelt became President. Fletcher worked his way up through the grades until he was made Minister to China. Later, as American delegate successively to several Latin-American countries, he became an outstanding figure in that field. President Wilson sent him to Mexico at the most tangled and threatening period of our relations with that Republic.

In the Harding administration Fletcher was made under Secretary of State to get the benefit of his tact and knowledge during the Washington disarmament conference. His appointment to Italy was a reward for services rendered. Calling home the Ambassador to a first-class European power to participate in a Pan-American discussion is unusual. It bespeaks our Government's deep interest in the forth-coming conference. It also tells a pleasant story of the development of American standards of permanent diplomatic service.

Last Friday Herbert Beezer drove his new Studebaker coupe up to his home, on east Curtin street, and left it stand on the driveway while he went into the house. A hard gust of wind started the car and, with no brakes on, it ran down the driveway, through the open door of the garage, ploughed through the rear wall and ended up in the lower lot, a badly wrecked car.

A court order was issued during the week requiring all court officers to appear in uniform at the December sessions of court. The uniforms have already been ordered. The West Penn Power company has also decided to uniform its meter readers.

If it is news you are looking for take the Watchman.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Members of the Lock Haven motor club who are arrested for driving while intoxicated will receive no aid from the club. A recent announcement said that while the club was ready to lend assistance in cases of accidents and other difficulties, its stand for safety on the highways precluded a helping hand in the case of a drunken driver.

An explosion of 100 25-pound kegs of black powder in a roll milling steel plant of the Du Pont Powder company at Laurel Run, near Wilkes-Barre, last Friday, destroyed the structure and caused damage estimated at \$30,000. Two men, Lewis Searfoss and William Haven, who were in the building, escaped. Cause of the explosion has not been determined.

George M. Wertz, former representative in Congress from the Cambria county district and for the past 30 years a prominent figure in Cambria county politics, died on Monday. Wertz, a Republican, was elected to the State Senate and at the ed as county commissioner. In 1908 he was elected to the State Senate and at the close of the 1911 session was elected president of that body. He also served as county controller and was elected to Congress in 1922.

Activity of a family of beavers is causing residents of Sunbury concern. Unless a halt is called, the town may be flooded. The outlet to a pond was blocked by the beavers, causing the water to rise several feet. Railroad men removed the debris. The beavers made repairs. The war has been going on for weeks, the beavers repairing the dam every time it is destroyed. Since it is against the law to kill the beavers, the officials are in a quandary.

Two more strips of land purchased by agents of the New York Central Railroad company from the Price Estate and the T. B. Bridgens farm west of Lock Haven between the Susquehanna river and the avenue of that name, bring the erection of a low grade line connecting Chicago and New York through Lock Haven and Keating, just a little nearer, and brings the amount of land in that section purchased by the railroad for this purpose last summer to \$25,000.

Tripping over a floor obstruction while engaged in household work, Mrs. Alexander Conton, 80-year-old Trevorsen resident, met death when she stumbled into a huge tub of scalding water. Writhing in pain, but unable to help herself from the vessel, the aged woman lost consciousness and died a few minutes after her husband, who is an employee at the colliery, had returned to the house and found her in her torturous position. Coroner Fisher is conducting an investigation.

Mayor Joseph Cauffman has abandoned his attempt to enforce the closing of all business establishments in Johnstown on Sunday. The mayor on Friday issued a statement renouncing his intention of enforcement of the "blue laws." He also denied having made statements to that effect, notwithstanding that the city police officers, carrying out his orders, had notified proprietors of drug stores, gasoline service stations and others that they must keep their places closed on Sunday.

Hugh Vail, 47, committed suicide at Altoona, last Friday in a dramatic religious setting. Vail, who had been ill since 1921, prepared for bed, fixed a mirror so he could see his face, placed a lighted candle and a crucifix on a chair and, with a Bible in one hand and a revolver in the other, shot himself through the head. Vail's body was found by his wife, Margaret. She and one daughter survive. The family were making preparations to return to their old home in Phillipsburg.

Twelve school teachers who talked too much and too loudly in their balcony seats at a Uniontown theatre during sessions of the Fayette county institute on Friday were ordered from the building by County Superintendent John S. Carroll. The superintendent previously had warned them to be quiet. In addition to ordering the 12 talkative teachers from the building as he pointed them out in the audience Superintendent Carroll informed them they would receive no pay for their week's attendance at the institute.

Houses were unroofed, trees uprooted, wires levelled, and hundreds of windows smashed by a furious wind and rain storm that struck sections of Wilkes-Barre on Monday. On Hazle street, the main artery leading to Ashley and Hazleton and other points to the south, roofs of several buildings were torn off and display windows were smashed in practically every business place from the Jersey Central tracks to Ashley. Heavy damage was also wrought in the Newton section and Ashley. Fanned trees and the heights section of Wilkes-Barre also suffered severely.

Beaten and bruised, the body of Emma Alley, 16-year-old Syrian girl, was found lying in a stream of water, four miles from her home in Shenango township, Lawrence county on Saturday, by a searching party. Her head had been placed beneath the surface of the water. Getting out of her bed and dressing hurriedly the girl left her home Friday night when an automobile drove up in front and sounded the horn. When she did not return in the car after several hours her parents asked neighbors to join them in a search which resulted in the finding of her dead body Saturday morning.

A possibility of solving motorists' gasoline problems by using pulverized coal or even such odd explosives as powdered rice husks, was explained to the second international conference on bituminous coal at Pittsburgh, on Monday, in a paper by Rudolph Pawlikowski, general manager of the Kosmos Company Gorlitz, Germany. Pawlikowski described the success of internal combustion engines built by his company and operated experimentally for several years. The present need for such engines, he thought, is confined to countries with plenty of coal, but lacking the rich oil deposits of the United States.

Trapped in a burning bedroom in her home in Philadelphia, Mrs. Margaret Dugan, 24, was burned to death early last Friday, and her husband and their two small children were injured. The fire, believed to have started from an overturned oil stove, swept to the second floor through a circular hole in the ceiling, cutting off the family's escape before they were aroused. Samuel Dugan, 35, saved the children by dropping them from a second floor window to a cousin of Mrs. Dugan, who is a boarder at their home. He then leaped to the ground, where he believed his wife had already made her way. Mrs. Dugan's body was found beneath a burned mass of blankets and bed clothing.