

INK SLINGS.

A New Jersey jury acquitted man charged with stealing two pigs because he claimed they were his own and identified them by their squeal. What do you think of that? It's usually the "squeal" that convicts a fellow.

According to the Supreme court of the District of Columbia, a lie isn't a lie unless one tells it to a sufficiently large number of people. Remember this, liars, your reputation is at stake and you'd better use a Mike the next time you want to tell one or you can't claim any credit for it at all.

We have a special concern for the recovery of King George of England. We have long believed that his oldest son would far rather remain what he is than have to ascend the throne of the British Empire and it would be right mean of George V to croak and force Wales to give up what he so evidently prefers to the King business.

Yesterday was Thanksgiving day and while acquaintances might have thought we didn't have much to be grateful for we know, better than they, that we did. And one of the things that we gave thanks for is the endowment of courage that keeps us true to our conscience and true to the ideals of this old paper. During this year more people, than in any other year of the Watchman's history, have discovered that it can't be bought, bullied or cajoled into any other course than the one it believes to be right.

The football season being over what in the world will there be for the school children and the college boys to do until the basketball season opens? We know their parents will enjoy the respite from continuous importunities for contributions to the support of the team and for fares so that the kids can accompany it on trips and thereby escape the unfair accusation that they are not loyal, but what do the parents amount to these days? Youth must have its fling. And it doesn't give a hang about how the old folks have to scrape and pinch as a consequence.

Centre county bankers are discussing the advisability of making a service charge to those of their patrons who do not maintain an average monthly balance of one hundred dollars. Of course they are only discussing it, but you know what that means. Whether it is done now or some time in the future, it is bound to come, for it has long been known that banks have been handling small open accounts at a loss for years. And sixty per cent. of the average bank accounts come under this classification. Gosh, what a kick there'll be when the charge is made. We'll not join the chorus, however. We're too puffed up at learning that there are so many others in our own class that we'll pay without shootin' even a dirty look across the counter. Think of the satisfaction of being with the crowd for once. We rarely get with it politically, but figures prove that we're right in the thick of it financially.

Years ago, in a little church up in Ferguson township, we went to Sunday school during the summer months we spent on the ancestral farm. A saintly, rugged old gentleman named Pennington taught the class we were in and dispensed pink tickets and blue tickets to those of the boys who could recite the "Golden Text" and designated verses from the Bible. So many blue tickets got a pink ticket and so many pink tickets got a Testament. We never heard of anybody getting a Testament. Possibly there were no boys good enough to get enough pink tickets. Possibly we left the neighborhood before the Testaments were awarded. However that may have been the whole scheme had the appearance of a three-shell game to us and we never entered the competition with much fervor. If memory isn't playing tricks with us we never became proprietor of more than one pink ticket. We got something else out of that class, however. It was a pet phrase of dear old Mr. Pennington to the effect that: "the devil finds work for idle hands to do." Years have gone since then and we've been so busy all of the intervening time that we've never been in position, personally, to prove the truth or fallacy of our early day teacher's epigram. There might be something in it. Almost we have reached the conclusion that there is. For last Friday a gentleman from Centre Hall who recently sold out his business, after years of continuous application to it, dropped in for a little chat with us. He hasn't a thing in the world to do—lucky dog—has plenty to live on all the rest of his life—whole pack of lucky dogs—so he just stood looking from our office window at the big trout in Spring creek. He looked and looked. There was no thought of how to meet a note in bank or scrape up enough for the monthly pay roll to detract from the wonder of the sight he was seeing. His mind was unperturbed and his hands idle. Then he turned to us and said: "How easy it would be to throw a line in there any night and pull out a mess of those big fellows." After that can you wonder why we have thought there might have been something in Mr. Pennington's "the devil finds work for idle hands to do"?

Democratic Watchman

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Mayor Mackey Defies Boss Vare.

Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, has finally defied boss Vare. After a long period of dicker and dodging he dismissed Harry C. Davis from his office of Director of Public Safety on Friday last, and appointed assistant district attorney Lemuel B. Schofield to fill the vacancy. During his campaign for election Mr. Mackey publicly declared his purpose to organize an administration of practical politicians. In pursuance of that pledge he named Mr. Davis head of the police force and created police districts that vested in the ward bosses absolute control of police activities. As might have been expected, an orgie of graft set in and continued until an honest judge demanded a check and an honest district attorney began a crusade against vice and crime.

As the work of district attorney Monahan exposed a partnership between the ward bosses, the police officials and the criminal gangs, Mayor Mackey became alarmed, not for the city but for himself, and after suspending a few accused police captains appealed to director Davis to resign. At this stage of the proceedings Boss Vare intervened. Davis is his political and personal friend and must not be sacrificed, he declared. "I am still the boss," he said, and thus created a dilemma. The Mayor secretly visited him in Atlantic City and argued the matter, but the boss was obdurate. Finally the Mayor, driven to desperation by the insistence of an aroused public sentiment, "took the bit in his teeth" and "accepted Davis' resignation."

Altogether it is a curious mix up of crime, fear and friendship. The jurist who has repeatedly stated that "Davis is unfit to hold any public office" qualifies his arraignment by assurances, as the late Mr. Dana would put it, of "his distinguished consideration." The Mayor cheerfully testifies to his integrity, ability and fidelity. The district attorney reveals a bleeding heart because of his separation, officially, from so honest and capable a fellow worker in the cause of righteousness. Only boss Vare protests against the cruelty involved and is willing to face popular indignation to prove his friendship. The interests of the organization are important to him as well as to the others, but friendship is a deeper and finer emotion.

Mr. Vare may still be boss of Philadelphia but since the ousting of director Davis his power is less ponderous than it used to be.

Surprising Interpretation of Liar.

It is small wonder that public confidence in the courts of the country is vanishing. The other day a judge of the Supreme court of the District of Columbia practically ordered the acquittal of a wealthy defendant charged with perjury on an absurd technicality. The perjury was substantially confessed and absolutely proved by the testimony of witnesses and the records of a committee of the Senate. But the court held, because the false statement was made before a tribunal composed of less than a physical quorum, it wasn't perjury at all. In other words, a lie without legal trimmings is simply a harmless indulgence in fancy.

In the United States Circuit court, in Philadelphia, on Monday last, a warrant for the arrest of Thomas W. Cunningham, issued by authority of the United States Senate, was declared invalid. Mr. Cunningham had refused to give the source from which he obtained a large sum of money he had contributed to the Vare slush fund in the Senatorial campaign of 1926. There was a widespread belief, which has been greatly strengthened by recent developments, that the money was contributed by protection criminals and municipal officials, in violation of statute and moral law. But the court held that the Senate committee had no right to ask where the money came from and therefore its warrant was illegal.

For more than a hundred years committees of the United States Senate have exercised the right to function without a physical quorum, and for an equal period of time answers have been exacted from witnesses relative to the violation of law in connection with elections. In the case of Frank Smith, of Illinois, only a year ago, such evidence was made the basis of refusing him a seat in the Senate fraudulently acquired by purchase with funds improperly obtained. But political conditions were different then. Now it is assumed that the people have given the administration a mandate to foster big business and the courts are helping along.

Mayor Mackey is for any measure of reform now. "When the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be."

Another Miscarriage of Justice.

Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the Board of the Standard Oil company of Indiana, has been acquitted of perjury by a jury in the Supreme court of the District of Columbia, practically by the direct order of the presiding judge. Mr. Stewart was one of the participants in a crooked oil transaction with the Continental Trading company, of Canada, and shared in the tainted profits of the operation. In the Teapot Dome investigation he testified under oath that no part of the profits, amounting to \$3,000,000, had come to him and that he had no knowledge of the distribution of the fund. Subsequently one-fourth was traced to him and at a second appearance before the Senate committee he acknowledged the fact and alleged that he had created a trust for use of his company.

At the instance of the Senate committee, before which he had sworn falsely in one statement or the other, he was indicted for perjury. He set up the defense that because there was not a quorum of the committee present when he testified to his first statement no perjury was committed. He substantially acknowledged that he had sworn to a lie and his confession was abundantly supported by the records of the investigation and by other witnesses. But the judge instructed the jury that if it were not proved that eight of the fifteen members of the committee were present "when Stewart gave the alleged false testimony" then "its questioning and actions were invalid as far as perjury proceeding was concerned," and the jury returned a verdict of acquittal.

It was clearly proved that the Senate committee had authorized a subcommittee of less than a physical quorum to act in the premises and that it has long been customary for such sub-committees to act. But the judge, for some unexplained reason, recognized the technicality as valid. Senator Norris, author of the resolution to investigate the transaction, promptly took exception to the verdict and declared "such technicalities make our judicial system a laughing stock." They do much worse than that. They create a shelter for criminals and make a mockery of justice. To give comic effect to the incident some of the jurors "patted the broad-shouldered defendant on the back and commended him after he was formally discharged from custody.

All the administration needs now is to give Senator Borah the wink to secure his support of any measure.

Bright Future for Democracy.

It is a hopeful sign of the times that notwithstanding the recent overwhelming defeat of the Democratic National ticket the potential leaders, as well as the rank and file of the party, are courageous and confident of the future. In his statement that "the Democratic party is a live, a vigorous and forceful major minority," Governor Smith expressed the feelings of the nearly fifteen millions of voters who cast ballots for him on the sixth of November. We were defeated but neither conquered nor dismayed. We are a cohesive and courageous force ready and anxious for another battle. The principles of the Democratic party are immortal and will prevail.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Record writes "during the campaign the Democratic party has been purged of the last vestige of intolerance. All that it has ever contained has gone over to the Republican party and has been welcomed there where every good Democrat hopes it will remain permanently. The Democratic party stands forth, as the result of this campaign, as the Liberal party of America and the true interpreter of the spirit of our institutions. . . . The Democratic party thus comes squarely onto its historic ground and becomes the voice of the great, inarticulate mass of American manhood and womanhood and the champion of their interests against the encroachments of the gigantic, cohesive combinations of wealth fostered by the Republican party."

"Intolerance, bigotry and fanaticism are fading out of American life as certainly as education, culture and the true spirit of Christian religion are advancing to a higher level and surer footing, and when the combination of these vices and greed and monopoly now in process of formation is completed, the people of the country will turn to the Democratic party as the only harbor of safety. And it will not be long to wait. The elements are already moving. The monopolists are eager to realize on their expectations and the inevitable crash will soon follow. If the Democrats maintain their courage and steadfastly adhere to their principles the recent defeat will be converted into an enduring victory."

Borah's Right About Face.

When Senator Borah, of Idaho, stultified himself by fulsomely eulogizing Herbert Hoover during the recent campaign, many were surprised and some amazed. His bitter denunciation of Mr. Hoover, on the floor of the Senate a few years ago, was a classic in vituperation. But that is no greater cause for amazement than his more recent conversion to the support of the administration's naval programme and the World Court, which enterprise President Coolidge has declared his purpose to revive during the coming session of Congress. Heretofore Senator Borah has been vehemently opposed to any form of naval construction that implied competition with other powers, and as bitterly against the World Court.

So far as it is possible to go, even by conjecture, there has been no change in conditions with respect to naval construction since Congress flatly condemned the administration programme a year ago. Then Senator Borah eloquently and forcefully opposed the construction plan on the ground, among other reasons, that it indicated a competitive situation, provoked ill will and caused irritation among friendly peoples. He opposed entrance into the World Court for the reason that that tribunal is a creature of the League of Nations, his pet abomination, and was, in fact, something in the nature of a conspiracy to inveigle the government and people of the United States into some sort of a trap.

But a change seems to have come over the dreams, or rather the nightmares, which formerly disturbed his peace of mind. In New York, the other evening, at what was called a "Good Will Conference," he publicly announced that he will "do nothing to block the passage of the bill for fifteen additional cruisers but will vote for it." In Washington, at the President's breakfast table, the other morning, he announced his willingness to favor the pending measure providing for entrance into the World Court. His own explanation is that he desires to promote the ratification of the Kellogg peace pact, but public opinion believes that his purpose is to acquire the favor of the party machine in the future.

Be a Bellefonte booster and use the special envelope and cachet celebrating the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the air mail, in sending out your Christmas greetings and announcements. The extra cost will be only three cents and it will be a good advertisement for the town. The special envelopes, bearing a five cent airmail stamp, have been prepared and are being put out by the Kiwanis club. They are sold four for a quarter and can be purchased at Montgomery & Co's.

After all we honestly believe that Al is happier playing golf down in Biloxi, Mississippi, than Herb is riding a government vessel around South America to shake hands with a lot of people he doesn't care a whoop about.

On the stage and screen John Barrymore is just wonderful in the eyes of the ladies. Now that they know his real name is John Blythe we wonder whether the spell he seems to hold most of them under will be dispelled.

The next Legislature will likely have to wrestle with a new charter for Philadelphia which will provide for a city manager. The Committee of Seventy favors such a movement.

It may be comforting to some curious minded folk to know that John Barrymore was really and truly divorced from his last wife before he married his present spouse.

Centre county experienced several days of real winter weather early in the week, but as this is the last day of November we can't expect much more summer.

The Ford tax case suit having been abandoned by the government it may be assumed that Senator Cuzens will have the laugh on Uncle Andy Mellon.

Mayor Mackey is for any measure which will hope for the speedy recovery of King George, of Great Britain. He is a "good sort," as Kings go.

Hope also goes freely to the sick bed of General Booth, the widely known militant evangelist, who is seriously ill at his London home.

It has been estimated that up to last Thursday 74,302 special licenses to shoot doe deer had been issued in Pennsylvania.

Thomas F. Ryan, 'the Great Opportunist,' Passes.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The story of Thomas Fortune Ryan belongs to the Horatio Alger, Jr., school of romance. The barefoot boy, orphaned when 5 years old, rose to position of tremendous financial power through the development of native abilities. Hard work, foresight, opportunism, daring and acumen all entered into the accumulation of the many millions which he leaves behind. It is the kind of story that we like to think of as being typically American, as being impossible in any other country.

But the opportunities which Thomas F. Ryan seized were more circumscribed than that. They belonged to a particular period of America. There are today as magnificent careers open in this country, but the scene is changed. Many doors through which passed the men who rose with Ryan are closed. New ones have been cut.

The qualities that brought this financial giant to the front, however, would have achieved success for him in any country and in any age. At the height of his career he was known among his associates and rivals as the "great opportunist." Time after time he stepped in, when some organization was on the verge of destruction, and straightened things out. He had a genius for bringing order out of disorder, for getting immediately to the heart of things. "He is the most adroit, suave and noiseless man I have ever known," his first partner, William C. Whitney, once said.

In politics he was a Democrat, though he took little interest in party affairs until his meeting with Grover Cleveland, for whom he had great admiration. He was a Tammany man, and fought the nomination of Wilson so bitterly at Baltimore that Bryan, who he remembered, endeavored to have him and Mr. Belmont ejected from the list of delegates. He contributed \$60,000 to the Smith campaign fund in the recent election. Those who knew him best, however, state that politics was merely one of his few forms of recreation, and it is not of record that he ever sought office or favor from national politicians.

He had his hand in practically every great branch of American business. For instance, he entered the Philadelphia field after the electrification of the horse car lines. He had organized the Metropolitan Traction Company, of New Jersey. It united with the Philadelphia traction syndicate headed by P. A. B. Widener and William L. Elkins. The unified organization invaded city after city acquiring street railway lines, gas and electric companies and developing them on an enormous scale.

The man was typical of his times, times of enormous development when this country awoke to its own tremendous resources. He visioned those developments and reaped his harvest.

State Building Program.

From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

The assurance from Governor Fisher that the biggest building program ever contemplated in Pennsylvania will be submitted to the coming session of the Legislature naturally will be received with particular satisfaction by the proponents of the construction bond proposals that were in the recent referendum. It is in accordance with the statement of the fiscal authorities of the Commonwealth that the State is now in a position financially to meet the building needs upon a pay-as-you-go basis.

Of course the appropriations for the single biennium may not in themselves suggest the largest building program ever contemplated for the State but wise planning for such purposes looks far ahead, furnishing a system to be followed toward the ultimate realization of a great construction scheme through year by year building. Governor Fisher early in his administration obtained a survey of the building needs and the 1927 Legislature made what he considered liberal appropriations for the start toward meeting them. The policy of the Executive is to keep this program moving as rapidly as possible. For instance, he is represented as ready to include in the 1929-31 budget a recommendation for an appropriation of more than \$10,000,000 for welfare building purposes alone. State College and armory projects also are scheduled for liberal treatment. It is to be borne in mind by Pennsylvanians that their State government as emphasized by Governor Fisher in his inaugural address has grown into one of the greatest business organizations in the United States and that meeting its needs even upon the most economical basis involves the use of large figures. Its population is now estimated at more than 10,000,000 and its wealth at around \$30,000,000,000.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Three persons were injured and much property was damaged at New Castle on Friday afternoon when an acetylene tank, being used by Pennsylvania Railroad workers blew up near the Pennsylvania Engine Works. Those hurt will recover, doctors said. Damage was estimated at \$350,000.

Awakened early Monday morning by the noise of the crash when the kitchen stove fell through the floor into the cellar, Mr. and Mrs. George Noll, of Easton, just had enough time to escape from their burning home to save their lives, being forced to jump from the second-story porch roof to safety. Mrs. Noll was injured in the jump.

A verdict of \$10,000 damages was returned by a jury in common pleas court in Philadelphia last week, in an allegation of affection suit, after a deliberation of less than a half hour. The suit was brought by Mrs. Ella Schnitzer, mother of two girls, against Mrs. Rita Levy, who was accused of alienating the affections of Mrs. Schnitzer's husband.

Thieves, who evidently craved only "a roof over their heads," stole one from a picnic and dance pavilion on Ridge Pike, Barren Hill, Montgomery county, the property of Thomas Barnhill, who lives a short distance away from the building. The roof was of tarpaulin and comprised about 3000 square feet. It was carefully taken off and the only trace of the thieves is a ladder which they left leaning against the building.

While Mrs. Carrie Hauger and her daughter, of Williamsport, screamed for help, a burglar who entered their room calmly scanned their faces in the rays of his flash light before turning and dropping through a first floor window with a pocketbook which he had picked up from a stand in the house. The pocketbook was emptied and thrown away a short distance from their home. It contained only a few dollars.

Any automobile driver involved in a fatal accident from now on will immediately have his license suspended, according to announcement of James I. Stuart, State Highway Commissioner, yesterday. The law provides that in all accident cases including fatal accidents the driver's license may be suspended and the driver may then be given a hearing on request and if he is found to be not responsible for the accident, his driver's license will be restored.

The New York Central railroad filed an application with the Public Service Commission on Monday for the right to abandon service on trains Numbers 8 and 9 on its branch line between Clearfield, Clearfield county, and Hellwood, Indiana county. This service, according to the application, would be furnished by a daily train, except Sunday, from Arcadia and Dowler junction. A second application was made to discontinue service between Muncion, Clearfield county, and Phillipsburg, Centre county.

The western end of Mount Carmel was shaken Monday morning when the steam boiler in the plant of the Home Baking company exploded. Indications are that the safety valve failed to function. The boiler was blown through the roof and landed in a nearby garage. Workers in the bakery escaped without injury. Windows in nearby homes were broken, while all the furniture on the south side of the home of Russell Mazzari was blown to the north side of the rooms. The loss is estimated at \$8000.

Stanley Yarsavage, a miner of Wilkes-Barre, was taken from a box car after having been sealed in it without food or water for more than seven days. He was able to go to his home. Yarsavage told railroad police he had been in Detroit, but lost his job there and wanted to return to his family. Being without funds, he boarded a freight car. Last Friday, as the train was standing on the Susquehanna and New York Railroad, near Newberry Junction, trainmen heard him call. Police bought Yarsavage a meal and sent him home.

The Bloomsburg and Sullivan Railroad, a short line road between Bloomsburg and Benton, Columbia county, purchased by the Reading company at a public sale October 23, will be operated by the Reading branch line under an application filed with the Public Service Commission. The Bloomsburg and Sullivan company encountered financial difficulties the first of this year and as a result the railroad was bought by the Reading for \$70,000. The Reading company's application said that it believed the road could be operated "economically and advantageously" as a branch line to its system.

A large building in the heart of Hershey, housing a hospital, several auditoriums, a theatre and libraries is the newest gift of Milton S. Hershey, chocolate manufacturer, to the community which he founded and which bears his name. W. F. R. Murrie, general manager of the Hershey Chocolate company, said Mr. Hershey planned to spend approximately \$2,000,000 on this civic improvement. This is his second \$2,000,000 gift to the community this year, the other was two eighteen hole golf courses now under construction, with the Hershey home as the club house. The projected community centre is to be built on the square in the centre of the town. It will be four stories high, with the hospital on the roof. Building is to be started in the spring and structures on the site already are being torn down. The latest benefactions have on connection with the Hershey industrial school for orphan boys to which Mr. Hershey gave the bulk of his fortune at the time of the gifts.

Four orphanage and two religious bequests feature the will of Joseph H. Cassel, owner of a chain of 31 grocery stores in Reading, who died several days ago. Cassel's personality was listed at \$50,000. The bulk of his estate, which may reach \$500,000, is in realty. After bequests of one-third to his widow, \$10,000 to a son, Amos M. Cassel, and \$30,000 to a daughter, Emily C. Smith, are paid, numerous other bequests go to relatives, but the bulk goes to charity. George H. McCandless and Edward Harshaw, of Philadelphia, are given realty in Los Angeles, Calif., to convert into cash and "use in the Lord's work in any manner they see fit," the will states. Plymouth Brethren church, West Reading, is given \$1000. After three years, two of his employees, Howard Rents and Asa Erb, are given the privilege of buying his stores. The residue of his estate, Cassel gives to the Mennonite Children's Home, Millersville, Lancaster county; the Home for Crippled Children, Allentown; Bethany Orphans' Home, Womelsdorf, and Lutheran Orphans Home at Topton, in equal shares.