

INK SLINGS.

—Let us hope that the powers that be don't decide to can the promised prosperity for use as a campaign fetish in the fall of 1932.

—The more banquets we attend the more convinced we become that Mr. Volstead took a lot of the b.t.u. out of the natural gas supply.

—No, dear, those long web-like contraptions you see displayed in the windows of electrical contrivance stores are not razor strops. They are the new devices that are guaranteed to give the wasp contour to hippopotamus beams.

—Unless the grain fields of Centre county get a blanket of snow pretty soon there is likely to be another failure of the wheat crop. And two years in succession without any wheat is going to put a lot of farmers in a very serious financial condition.

—Another indication that there is not much love lost between President Coolidge and President-elect Hoover is the fact that the latter is in Washington and intends staying there while picking his Cabinet. No other President-elect has ever set up shop in the Capitol to create a "the King is dead, long live the King" atmosphere.

—"Tex" Rickard, fight promoter and millionaire sportsman, is dead. "Tex" never did much that society, as it used to be constituted, would approve of, but society as it is today will think the country has suffered a very great loss. Because "Tex" is gone it will be hard to find another promoter with the nerve to make it pay fifty dollars to see a two dollar fistic encounter. Few men could have done what Rickard accomplished in making Jack Dempsey a millionaire and writing Gene Tunney's name into the social register.

—Dr. Arthur A. Noyes, retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, is of the opinion that the foundation for a new civilization has been laid down by science within the last three decades. He doesn't follow up the startling declaration with any intimation as to what the new civilization is to be. He leaves that all to conjecture. We have no idea what yours might be, nor do we care much, but we're hoping that it won't be one so utterly wedded to Republicanism that we can't pull an occasional Democratic victory to crow over.

—Congress threatens further legislation in control of radio broadcasting. It is a devil of an annoyance when that old gospel tabernacle up in Buffalo keeps buttin' in when we are trying to get a prize fight in New York, but we don't think it's up to Congress to do something about it. We think it a matter for scientists, not law makers. What is needed is a receiver so delicately selective that it will pick out of the air just what one wants and hold it to the exclusion of all other attempts to butt in. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what we believe the radio will eventually do.

—This Blymyer case down in York county interests us a lot. The poor devil is being tried for the murder of D. Rehmyer who is supposed to have been a "hexer." A hexer is a witch doctor, a voodooist, a pow-wower or a nut, whatever you please to call him. With those who still believe in signs and think that chestnut shingles won't lie flat if laid in the up-sign of the moon this hexing business is no laughing matter. And it's not confined alone to such sequestered and benighted districts as York county. We have pow-wowers and fortune tellers right here in sophisticated, erudite and intellectual Bellefonte. We don't think their devotees take them seriously. There are parts of the county, however, in which people can be found who believe that some old crone can cast "a spell" on them that will either keep them from achieving something big that they never could have achieved or make them do some dirty job that they were just naturally cut out for. We've never been in contact with a "hexer." We have talked with an old gentleman who was. He owned a sawmill a short distance above a camp we once frequented. Someone stole an extra engine belt from the mill and he went to the "hexer" for advice as to how to ferret out the thief. The "hexer" told him not to worry, just wait and talk about the belt every time anyone comes down to the mill that you might think stole it. When the thief comes I will have him hexed so that he will freeze stiff on the Fourth of July or sweat drops, as big as tumble bugs, in January. That's what the credulous mill owner told us the "hexer" said. Then he confirmed his belief by vowing to us that a certain man—we shall not name him—came to his mill on a day in January when the thermometer was down to zero and sat down on a log on the mill carriage and when he was told about the missing belt that man, who was all bundled up in a horse-hide coat, "started to sweat, and sweat so much that the sweat ran down onto the log and splattered around on the floor, and froze, and made things so slippery that we couldn't saw anymore that day. Then I shut down the mill and went home and when I came down the next morning there was the belt just where it had always been."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION. VOL. 74. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 11, 1929. NO. 2.

Vare Scored an Unimportant Point.

The managers of Mr. Vare's campaign to legalize the theft of a seat in the United States Senate scored a point, though not a very important one, at the session of the Slush Fund committee of the Senate in Washington last Friday. Dr. Kirby, Mr. Vare's physician, and Mr. Francis Shunk Brown, his lawyer, persuaded the committee that Mr. Vare is a seriously sick man, and secured an indefinite postponement of action. But the temper of the committee, as expressed by chairman Reed, Senator Goff, Senator King, and Senator LaFollette, indicates a determination to make its report within the limit of the present session, and unless the Senate reverses its action in the case of Smith, of Illinois, Vare will be disqualified.

In the history of American politics there has never been a case in which fraud has been protected by audacity as in this. The evidence of excessive use of money for criminal purposes was clearly revealed. By the evidence of his own friends it was shown that nearly a million dollars were expended to procure Mr. Vare's nomination and it is reasonably certain that Tom Cunningham, of Philadelphia, had answered pertinent questions it would have been found that a considerable part of this corruption fund would have been traced to sources repugnant to every principle of morality. But Cunningham refused to give the committee this information and though properly defamed in contempt he has thus far escaped just punishment.

At every stage in the investigation the policy of delay has been revealed. First, Vare demanded a recount of the ballots in every voting district in the State. He knew that in ninety-five per cent of the districts no frauds had been perpetrated or even suspected. But the demand offered a chance for delay. Next came the filibuster at the close of the last session which netted him nearly a year. His infirmity in May of last year, followed by the stroke in August, justified some delay but hardly the eight months that have intervened. If he has any new evidence which might help his cause his very capable and cunning lawyer could present it, and for that reason the committee is right in its purpose to end the matter.

—Mr. Mellon will probably have the legislative programme ready when the House and Senate reassembles on Monday.

Borah Defines the Kellogg Pact.

In presenting his plea for the ratification of the Kellogg multilateral treaty Senator Borah, of Idaho, self-appointed manager of the campaign, simply stated that it is an innocuous gesture intended to fool somebody. He declared that it binds the signatories to nothing, interferes with nobody and accomplishes no result in the direction of peace or anything else. He protests that the reservations made by Great Britain, France and other governments are equally without value and for that reason it wouldn't be worth while for the United States Senate to make reservations. Probably it was the strongest argument that could have been made in favor of ratification.

Each country signing the treaty promises to refrain from war as a medium of adjusting difficulties but enjoys the inherent right to go to war whenever it wants to. In other words every signatory to the treaty may appeal to arms "in self defense," and has the right to interpret the term "self defense" according to its own fancy. In the history of civilization it is doubtful if any country has ever engaged in war that did not set up the claim that it acted in self defense. Napoleon justified all his military operations on the ground that they were in defense of something of vital importance to France. It is only a bogus alibi which the passion for conquest has been able to invent.

The Kellogg compact is a vicious concept of partisan bigotry. It was intended to embarrass the progress of the League of Nations in its efforts to promote peace and prosperity throughout the world. But it is impotent even in that direction. The League of Nations is functioning successfully and will continue to do so notwithstanding the malice of its enemies in the United States. So it would be just as well to ratify the Kellogg treaty. It has cost a lot of money and by the confession of its own friends means nothing. Let Coolidge and Kellogg revel in the absurd notion that they have achieved something. In due time the country will wake up and join the League of Nations.

—Subscribe for the Watchman.

Senator Schantz Proclaims a Policy.

The "declaration of independence" made by Senator Schantz, upon assuming the duties of president pro tem. of the Senate, should not be taken too seriously by the people of the State. "We are the direct representatives of the people, accountable to them and to them alone," he said, "and I favor the repeal of every law empowering boards, bureaus or any agency whatsoever to adopt rules and regulations which may be enforced the same as the penal statutes of Pennsylvania." This policy of legislative sovereignty will go only as far as the party bosses give it approval, and probably no member of the General Assembly will bow more meekly to orders than the very complacent president pro tem.

The confusion caused by a recent order or rule of the State Game Commission with respect to the killing of deer during the season of 1928 may have inspired this expression of indignation and it may be safely predicted that the authority under which that order was issued will be revoked during the present session of the Legislature. But it is shrewdly suspected that the activities of the State alcohol board was also in the mind of the Senator. He is, to use a common expression, "as wet as the ocean," and it is altogether likely that his animadversions against a faulty practice might have been suggested by the fact that the alcohol board is also invested with arbitrary power.

All the game hunters and most of the people are opposed to rule of the Game Commission and Senator Schantz will have little if any trouble in securing the repeal of that provision of the game law. But he will find a less royal road to an achievement which might curtail the power of the alcohol board. That body was created as a medium to be used in the enforcement of prohibition and the political prohibitionists in the General Assembly will not readily yield as important a point as it might be. Still Senator Schantz has both the right and the opportunity to try and if the big bosses are acquiescent or even willing to take a chance, he may succeed. But his movements will be watched.

—The Philadelphia politicians in deadly strife for control of one of the courts of that city is a spectacle to cause alarm all over the State.

Tariff Mongers Already Busy.

The tariff mongers in Washington are as eager in pursuit of increased tax rates as the grafters in Harrisburg are to get at that \$25,000,000 treasury surplus. The House committee on Ways and Means began hearings on Monday and more than thirty persons appeared to advocate higher schedules on chemicals. A time limit of ten minutes was fixed for each witness but even at that the committee fell behind its schedule on the first day. The representative of the manufacturing chemists association modestly demanded an increase of fifteen per cent. on the present ad valorem duty of twenty-five per cent. "on chemicals not now enjoying a specific import rate."

In other words, the New England producers of chemicals thus classified feel that no less than a forty per cent. tariff tax will fulfill the pledges of the Republican party to adjust tariff schedules to the satisfaction of campaign contributors. They also suggest the expediency of levying duties on raw materials in order to justify the increased rates on finished products in which such raw materials are used. By such a pyramidal process it would be easy enough to build up a structure that would make the justly celebrated Chinese wall look like an ornamental hedge around a summer garden. Of course there will be other and equally absurd propositions presented as the work progresses.

These tariff mongers feel that they have a right to make such demands upon the incoming administration for they paid their good, and some times tainted, money to create it. But it will be hard on the consumers of the products thus enhanced in price. They derive no benefits from increased tariff taxation. The existing rates range from twenty-five to eighty per cent., and the proposed rates will fix the minimum at about forty and run up to a figure which is, to put it mildly, larcenous. But the people of the country voted for such a policy. Mr. Barnum expressed the truth when he said "we like to be fooled." This operation may be cruel but it is what is coming to us.

—It may be safely predicted that in the distribution of spoils Joe Grundy "will get his."

Governor Fisher's Message.

It would be unfair to Governor Fisher to withhold approval of the tone and language of his message to the General Assembly at the opening of the session the other day. It comprises a fairly accurate review of the activities of the State government since the adjournment of the last session in phraseology which simply radiates contentment. He expresses particular pride in the treasury surplus. "The finances of the Commonwealth are in excellent shape and the credit of Pennsylvania never stood higher," he declares with pride. He attributes this largely to a rigorous observance of budget requirements and relies upon it for a continuance of the "pay-as-you-go" policy.

But he neglects to say that both the budget system and the pay-as-you-go policy were inherited from the Pinchot administration and were accepted reluctantly by his party machine after the adopter of them had been thrown overboard. Nevertheless what he says on the subject is probably true, his satisfaction justified and his admonition against extravagance appropriate. Signs point plainly to a raid upon the surplus which will tax his energies to restrain or even divert into the channels which will reflect equal credit upon the second biennium of his administration. If it is used for the useful purposes the Governor enumerates there will be little cause of complaint.

But Governor Fisher cannot be depended upon as a crusader for reform. At the opening of the last session of the General Assembly he was enthusiastic for ballot reform and subsequently allowed W. L. Mellon to emasculate the measures he had prepared for that purpose. This year he only directs attention "to such revisions and additions to ballot laws as may be suggested" by recent exposures of fraud. He does recommend legislation to provide for the operation of voting machines where the people want to use them, and that "help some. It is not certain that Mr. Mellon favors such legislation but public opinion is so strong on that point that open opposition would be hazardous.

—Mrs. Aida Porter, of Meadville, has sued John Schwartzman, of North East, for five thousand dollars damages because he squeezed her so hard that he fractured one of her ribs and injured two others. We understand that cave-man stuff is passe nowadays and John should have done a little gentle "necking," but Aida will have to show that she wasn't guilty of contributory negligence before any jury will give her five grand for a bear hug.

Prison Commission Opposes Rockview as Separate "Pen."

At the last session of the Legislature there was a general sentiment among the members for passing a bill creating and establishing Rockview penitentiary as a distinct and separate institution. But now, it is said, a recommendation opposing such a move will be made to the 1929 Legislature by the State commission on penal institutions. Members of the commission, meeting in Harrisburg, said they had reached that decision because of the various improvements being carried out at the Centre county "pen." At the present time, and ever since its creation, Rockview has been operated under the jurisdiction of the warden and the trustees of the western penitentiary at Pittsburgh. Long-term prisoners from both the eastern and western prisons, with good behavior records, are sent to Rockview to labor on the farms and nursery conducted there.

—Republican State chairman Martin reports a big balance in the treasury, which vindicates the judgment of the bosses in putting a cabinet officer in charge of the collections.

—Uncle Andy Mellon denies that he bought an "Old Master" in London for something like a million dollars, and we believe him. Uncle Andy has no such expensive habits.

—The Question Mark has broken all flying records and those responsible for its achievements may now have time to explain what it was all about.

—Mr. Hoover is said to have acquired some new ideas on prohibition during his southern tour. Well there is opportunity where booze is plenty.

—No doubt Mr. Vare is a very sick man but that is no reason why he should get an office and honors to which he is not entitled.

Treaty Advocates Should Not Oppose National Defense.

From the Philadelphia Record. The Senate has given priority on its calendar to the Kellogg treaty. Under ordinary circumstances there would be nothing sinister in that action. But the reported purpose is to use ratification of the treaty as a means of defeating the displaced bill providing for the building of 15 cruisers.

As an earnest advocate of international peace and national defense—aims which are not merely consistent but also complimentary—The Record would profoundly deplore such an effort.

If, having procured ratification of the treaty, its supporters then demand crippling of the navy upon the ground that warships are no longer needed, they will gravely injure the cause which they profess to serve.

For by such a course they will tend to divide the country into just two groups—ardent pacifists and fanatical militarists. They will drive those who believe in both peace and national defense into supporting naval expansion at any cost.

Multitudes of Americans, while doubting the efficacy of the Kellogg pact, favor it as a step in the right direction. But if its ratification should be used as a pretext to strip the nation of needed protection these moderates will inevitably distrust and oppose future peace schemes. The truth is that the attempt to substitute the treaty for cruisers is based upon assumptions and conclusions wholly inaccurate.

First, the pretense is that the Kellogg treaty eliminates the possibility of war, and that for the United States to "increase its armament" after renouncing war would be an act of hypocrisy and bad faith.

Such reasoning is wrong in every fact and implication set forth.

The Kellogg treaty does not abolish war. It is merely an international agreement not to resort to war except for reasons which seem adequate to the nations concerned; and the only penalty for violation is the censure of public opinion. It is a verbal "outlawry" of war, but it excludes from renunciation wars of defense; and each nation is to determine for itself whether its use of armed force is defensive.

These are not our interpretations merely. They are the interpretations given by the author. To the Senate committee Secretary Kellogg explained candidly that in the treaty the right to wage defensive war is not renounced, but affirmed.

Senator Borah, as an ardent advocate of the treaty, emphasized the point: "It is perfectly certain that every nation, when the time comes, will construe the treaty in the way it regards as justifying self-defense. It does not make any difference what was said by the negotiators, or what was stated afterward—when the time comes, what a nation regards as self-defense it will construe as self-defense."

The pact, therefore, does not eliminate war. Its signatories merely condemn and renounce aggressive war—which none would ever acknowledge making anyway. The treaty, in fact, no more abolishes war than the statutes outlawing murder abolish homicide.

Nor does it make inconsistent reasonable measures of defensive preparedness. "It does not supersede," says President Coolidge, "our inalienable sovereign right and duty of national defense." Secretary Kellogg has made the same declaration. There is as much justification and as much need for an efficient navy as there is for a police force to apply the laws by which the people of a community renounce and outlaw private warfare.

Finally, the charge that the naval bill means a provocative "increase in armament" is quite baseless. "The program," says the President, "is for necessary replacements and renewals and to meet our needs of defense." The building of the 15 cruisers would leave this country still far below the parity contemplated in the limitation treaty of 1922.

Those who are demanding that the Kellogg treaty be ratified and the cruiser bill killed are engaged in a campaign detrimental to their country and equally injurious to the prospects of future moves toward world peace.

So, Borah Will Be Borah.

From the Kansas City Times.

It is not surprising that Senator Borah would rather be Senator than Secretary of State. The privilege he has enjoyed above all others in his public life is the privilege of being William E. Borah. Sometimes he has rendered great service by exercising this privilege; sometimes he has satisfied few beside himself; but always he has done as he pleased. We can see how he would not like being some one else, as he might needs be even in such an office as that of Secretary of State. We know of no one in public life less disposed to take instructions.

—The death of Tex Rickard will put a crimp in sport life for a time, at least, but somebody will be found to take his place.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Joseph Ricupero, Indiana, Pa., was arrested by State policemen and charged with passing several hundred dollars' worth of counterfeit \$20 bank notes on a dozen merchants in Silkville and Saltsburg. Ricupero was turned over to Federal officers in Pittsburgh.

—Thomas Adamson, 52, of Jeannette, employed by the Tomajko Coal company at Adamsburg, met instant death last Thursday night when a dynamite cap he held in his mouth exploded while he was attempting to tighten it. His face, hands and arms were badly lacerated.

—Mrs. Aida Porter, of Meadville, wants \$5000 damages for a hug which broke a rib. In an action filed in court at Erie, last week, Mrs. Porter said she entered the employ of John Schwartzman, of near North East, on November 22, and that on December 30 Schwartzman seized her and hugged her so tight one rib was fractured and two others injured.

—Twelve chickens, twelve ducks, five geese, seventy pies, forty loaves of bread, two bushels of potato chips, one and one-half bushels of potatoes, and fourteen cakes, each of three layers, were served at the wedding dinner of Mr. and Mrs. John Peteschelm, a young Amish couple, of Lancaster county. Twenty stewed chickens were also served for supper.

—Cyrus Stauffer, 83, who was found dead in bed, at Columbia, was buried in a grave in the Mountville cemetery, that he had dug for himself twenty years ago while caretaker of the cemetery. When he had about completed walling up the grave he was asked who it was for. "That is for myself," he replied. "I will need it some day and may be soon, there is no telling, life is so uncertain."

—While auditors were checking over his accounts, George Heltzel, 55, station agent for the Western Maryland Railroad at Fairfield, near Gettysburg, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head Friday afternoon. He was found dead in an onrushing train near the station by the auditors, who were hunting him for an explanation for certain alleged discrepancies. Heltzel lived in Hagerstown, Md., commuting daily to and from Fairfield.

—Twelve of the thirteen York county farmers who were sentenced to pay fines of \$100 and costs each after conviction of resisting officers and obstructing legal process in York county's "cattle war" have taken appeals to the Superior Court. Each has furnished bond of \$500 to prosecute the appeal, and in the meantime the sentence of the local court is stayed. Malcolm Miller, one of the defendants, has paid his fine and costs and has not taken an appeal.

—Thirty-three western horses stampeded on the village street at Bellefonte when they were being taken from a car on the Kishacoquillas Valley railroad to the stables of D. C. Peachey, who took them there for a special sale among the Amish farmers. Joseph Peachey, driving an automobile was run down by one of the animals, the horse jumping into the automobile which was badly wrecked and Peachey sustained bruises and lacerations of the head, face and body.

—Nevin Oakes, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan J. Oakes, of Mill Hill, was killed when he jumped from a tractor, which was driven by his father, and fell under the wheels of the hay baler which was drawn by the tractor. The boy and his father were taking the tractor and hay baler to the Snyder farm, near Mill Hill, and on the hill at the Brown schoolhouse the trailer crowded onto the tractor and alarmed the boy, who jumped. His parents and four other children survive.

—A sick man was burned to death in an isolated cottage near Tuscarora, Mifflin county, on Saturday, when his nephew was seeking medical aid for him. When the nephew, P. L. Rohr, of Van Dyke, returned he found the cottage destroyed by fire and the charred body of his uncle, Robert Grub, 65, in the debris. The position of the body led Port Royal firemen to believe Grub was overcome while attempting to escape from the dwelling. Grub and his nephew had rented the cottage for a month from H. S. Kilmer, of Port Royal.

—The Nelson Silk company, Shamokin, and the Shindel Silk corporation, in Mt. Carmel, have merged as the Shindel Silk corporation, with Fred W. Maue, Shamokin, general manager, succeeding Ryan Rosendale, who was bought out of the company; John Brown, general superintendent, and Conrad R. Braeher, Shamokin, have been placed in charge of the sales department in New York City. The corporation has five mills, in Mt. Carmel, Shamokin, Hughesville, Elysburg and Pater-son, N. J. It has about 800 employees who have been working steady time for a long while. The consolidation added the Shamokin mill to a group operated successfully for many years.

—Figures compiled by warden William Wilson, of the Fayette county jail, show that about two per cent. of the population of that county was behind the bars last year. The year's list of prisoners totals 2658, including 544 women. The report shows that not a single abstainer was committed to jail, 2100 of the number being classed as moderate drinkers and 558 intemperate. The married prisoners exceeded the single ones, 1432 to 1154, with fifty-two being widowed. Nine hundred and fifty-three were unable to read or write, 1400 had attended public schools and 758 had not. Not a death occurred in the county jail during the year and not a prisoner escaped.

—Joseph Valotta, slayer of two Pittsburgh policemen, who escaped the electric chair eleven times, died from pneumonia in the western penitentiary at Pittsburgh, on Saturday. Valotta, after gaining eleven respites and carrying his case to the United States Supreme Court, finally received a commuted sentence of life imprisonment. Convicted of killing patrolmen Edward Couch and Thomas Hopkins October 30, 1922, Valotta was sentenced to die in the electric chair June 28, 1923. A long legal fight followed, Valotta contending his constitutional rights were violated when he was tried for both killings at the same time. After the United States Supreme court held against him, a series of stays were given by former Governor Clifford Pinchot and finally his death sentence was commuted. Valotta, an employee of the Pennsylvania railroad, claimed he fired in self-defense during a railroad strike, thinking they were about to attack him.