

INK SLINGS.

In a panic of despair last week we turned to rambling, pointless comment on "hexing" in order to get this column filled up.

From many persons, locally and abroad, we have heard so much about it that we infer that there are more readers with a well developed curiosity about the subject than we had any idea of.

Why is it? Just why should anyone be interested in fortune telling, looking in the Almanac to see the right sign to do gardening, knocking on wood when they want to ward off ill luck, or thousands of the other little house pocuses we all indulge in occasionally.

Call it what you may there's a bit of it in the nature of every human being, rich or poor, high or low, intellectual or moron.

It dates back so far that we shall not attempt to find its genesis. That would be of little interest anyway. However, civilization—which is enlightenment—has advanced by leaps and bounds since they burned witches at the stake up in New England, yet witchcraft, or belief in it, is still inherent in the human mind.

Why did the boys of our generation wear a string of red woolen yarn around the neck to prevent nose bleed?

Why did so many men tie a piece of eel skin around their wrist to keep their muscles from becoming strained?

Why couldn't a hotel keeper, once well known in Bellefonte, sleep if someone accidentally kicked his shoes off a certain spot at the side of his bed where he always placed them before retiring?

Why did a certain young farmer we know grease a wagon tongue with goose grease and pointed it in the direction of a neighbor's barn so that the rats that were eating up everything in his grainary would go to board with his more opulent neighbor for a while?—they did it, too.

We could keep on whying clear down to the end of the column but what's the need. If you are honest with yourself—and we don't care who you are—you'll admit that in some form or other you have some pet superstition. If you won't we'd like to be in a room with you at the time some person start to hoist an umbrella.

To this point we have treated the subject as the offspring of superstition. In the degree in which it is believed in we are inclined to think it is, yet there are so many collateral sides to it that we own to a certain mystification.

We talk about the devil and one of his imps appear. We sit in the rear of a large audience and concentrate on some one sitting in front of us. Invariably he or she will turn and look back in a very short time. That is mental telepathy, you say. Perhaps it is. If it is, what is "hexing"? Hypnotism is accepted by science as a reality. We know its not a fake because once we submitted to the will of a "professor" just far enough to discover that in another moment he might have had us doing all sorts of fool things had we not snapped out of it. And what, if you please, is the difference between the hypnotic suggestion and the "hex" suggestion? If we're ready to swallow hypnotism why strain at "hexing"? Hypnotism or "hexing" isn't it for results with pow-wowing or fire blowing. Hypnotism only makes you believe that the big wart on your nose isn't there. An honest to goodness pow wower will give that old wart such a dose of marasmus that it will fade completely in two weeks. Hypnotism only makes you believe that the burn on your skin isn't painful, but a "fire blower" will make two passes and three puffs at the sore and at once it becomes the most comfortable spot on your epidermis.

Knowing all we have said to be true—which you probably do not—what is your idea of it all?

Laugh your head off at "hexing" if you want to, but if you won't move on Friday because "a Friday flit is a short slit" or if you feel just a little eerie when a black cat runs across the road ahead of you we're right here to say that you laugh only to conceal your own little superstitions.

We've all got a bit of it and the fact that it sticks at all in the mind of the highly educated person is what puzzles us.

We think there isn't, but we are not going to say that there is not something back of it that might someday be revealed.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

V. 74. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 18, 1929. NO. 3.

Vare's Evasion Coming to an End.

In a letter, dated January 14, and addressed to William S. Vare, Senator Reed, of Missouri, briefly summarizes the results of the investigation of the Senatorial election in Pennsylvania in 1926 and gives Mr. Vare ten days in which to prepare and present his defense.

These facts are sufficient to nullify the returns of all the divisions in which the frauds occurred. But they do not complete the case against Mr. Vare. The evidence shows that "in 136 divisions individuals voted two or more times." That in 341 divisions "more than 2000 votes were returned as cast in excess of the number of voters listed and in 527 divisions 4064 more were returned as cast than were checked in the registers."

In more than 100 boxes ballots were found which had never been folded and in 36 divisions "groups of five or more ballots were found where it was apparent that the lawful mark of the voter had been erased and another mark inserted" and that "in eight divisions the ballot boxes contained no valid ballots whatever."

Coolidge's breakfasts appear to have lost in appealing power. Senator Bingham enjoyed the meal but refused to change his mind.

Extra Session of Congress Certain.

There will be an extra session of Congress next spring, probably in April. President-elect Hoover has reluctantly agreed to this, not as the farm bloc imagine to enact a relief measure, but to satisfy the demands of the tariff mongers.

The revised McNary-Haugen bill could have been passed easily during the present session. Mr. Hoover had agreed to approve it with the "fee" provision eliminated. The farm bloc Senators had practically agreed to cut out the objectionable feature and the new bill had already been placed upon the calendar.

President-elect Hoover has had little experience with practical politics but he is learning "the tricks of the trade" rapidly. He already realizes that money is the potent influence in organizing victories and that those who supply the sinews of war must be recognized in dispensing the spoils.

Logical Successor to Fall and Work.

The appointment of Bascom Slemple, of Virginia, to the office of Secretary of the Interior, now under consideration, would be logical. Since the restoration of the Republican party to control of the government at Washington, in 1921, that department has been an unending fountain of competition and graft.

Bascom Slemple would be a fit successor to this trio of emissaries of greed and graft. For more than a quarter of a century he has been an office broker in Washington and except during the period of the Wilson administration, he was the recognized instrument between the administration and the southern office seekers.

When Mr. Coolidge became President he surprised most of the leaders of his party by appointing Bascom Slemple secretary, which office he held for some time. During the early stages of the investigation of the Fall-Sinclair oil scandal it was revealed that Mr. Slemple had acted as "go-between" in the negotiation between Fall and McLean.

There may be fifty or a hundred people outside of the Philadelphia Municipal court interested in the Presidency of that body, but no more.

Senator Reed Wasted Time.

Senator Reed, of Missouri, takes the Kellogg peace pact much too seriously. But Missourians are proverbially curious. They always want to see everything and in this instance there is nothing to see. Senator Reed likens the Kellogg treaty to a Trojan horse. That is an impossible interpretation.

We take it that Senator Reed is equally wide of the mark in his statement that the ratification of the Kellogg pact may ultimately lead us into the League of Nations. The original purpose of the enterprise was to keep us out of the League of Nations. It was intended as a nostrum which might fool the world into the belief that it is "something just as good" for purposes for which the League was created.

In view of the facts opposing the ratification of the treaty was a willful and useless waste of time. Whether it was ratified or not and whether reservations are made or not preparations for war alike in this and other countries which have adhered to the pact will go forward. The same Senate that ratifies it will direct the construction of fifteen 10,000 ton cruisers so as to be ready to meet any war which any of the other signers of the pact may choose to start.

Important Legislation in Danger.

There is a current of suspicion sweeping over the State that the political machine intends to defeat the legislation necessary to give force to the recently adopted constitutional amendment providing for the optional use of voting machines.

The first step in this sinister enterprise will be directed toward the alienation of the rural Legislators. They will be told that the voting machines will cost immensely and put onerous burdens upon taxpayers in communities where election frauds are never attempted and could not succeed.

The water situation in Centre county is one of extreme seriousness at the present time. Not only are many wells and cisterns throughout the county absolutely dry but the supply of water for many of the villages in the county is lower than ever before.

In addition to being named chairman if the committee on mines and mining State Senator Harry B. Scott drew a place on the following committees: Appropriations, education, finance, forestry, game and fisheries, insurance, municipal affairs, public grounds and buildings, public health and sanitation, public roads and highways, and railroads.

John Pierpont Morgan is increasing his sphere of operations. As member of the German reparations Commission he will be able to control the finance of two or three other countries.

The longest tunnel in the world has been suitably dedicated but the underground means of communication between Wall street and Washington beats it by a couple of hundred miles.

After all the Mellons are not the "whole cheese" in Pittsburgh. Max Leslie put a crimp in their power in the organization of the Legislature.

The fight against Mellon is as futile as was the fight against the multilateral treaty. Mellon has a "cinch" on the treasury portfolio.

Joe Grundy having declared opposition to the repeal of the anthracite coal tax the advocates of that improvement may as well quit.

The Senate seems to believe that refund payments of large sums may be all right but insists on a bill of particulars in each case.

The Mayor of Philadelphia appears to be trying to show how many kinds of a fool he can make of himself.

Rockefeller, Stewart and the Ethics of Big Business.

The effort of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to dislodge Robert W. Stewart as chairman of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana signifies much more than an encounter between two individuals.

As such it is not of great moment. If Mr. Rockefeller succeeds he will gain neither in wealth nor power; if Stewart holds his place the company will continue to prosper. Yet the contest is of far-reaching significance and importance, because the fundamental issue is the honor of the oil industry, of big business, of the investment system. It is not Stewart, but these institutions, that are on trial.

The record makes this plain. It shows that Stewart was one of four corporation executives who secretly divided \$3,000,000 of illicit profits on the sale of oil to their own companies. Called as a witness in the Senate investigation of the Fall-Sinclair oil lease scandal he denied, under oath, that he had participated in this shabby deal.

It was upon these facts that Mr. Rockefeller, as a stockholder, demanded that Stewart resign a position in which he had gravely impaired the reputation of the oil industry and of the "whole structure of business." Stewart contemptuously refused to quit. And last March he was re-elected.

It is entirely possible that at the approaching annual meeting he will win again. There are reports, indeed, that he already holds pledges representing more than 50 per cent. of the stock. Mr. Rockefeller, nevertheless, has performed a courageous public service in seeking proxies to be voted against an executive who for six years held three-quarters of a million dollars of the stockholders' money, pouched in an illegitimate deal.

In these days of wide investment, when corporations strive to encourage customer ownership and employee ownership, it is vital that the public be assured of good faith and probity in corporation management. Yet Stewart's conduct has been condoned, his continuance in office privately endorsed, by business men, by financiers and by many of the stockholders he wronged.

What Mr. Rockefeller seeks to discover, and what the public will be interested to learn, is this: How many of these investors and industrial leaders support the curious doctrine that if an executive earns good dividends for his company he may safely intercept a modest percentage of its earnings?

Not Welcome News.

During the week word comes from Washington that Mr. Hoover and Secretary of the Treasury Mellon were in conference for more than two hours at the Hoover headquarters in the Mayflower hotel.

After all the Mellons are not the "whole cheese" in Pittsburgh. Max Leslie put a crimp in their power in the organization of the Legislature. The fight against Mellon is as futile as was the fight against the multilateral treaty. Mellon has a "cinch" on the treasury portfolio.

The Senate seems to believe that refund payments of large sums may be all right but insists on a bill of particulars in each case.

The Mayor of Philadelphia appears to be trying to show how many kinds of a fool he can make of himself before in election.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

A hog which dressed 1109 1/2 pounds was butchered by James Loughner, a farmer of near Jannette, last week. The live weight of the animal was 1225 pounds.

A warrant was served Monday night on Mayor Joseph Cauffel, of Johnstown, charging him with extortion, failure to file election expense accounts and perjury. Bail was fixed at \$8000.

A jury in common pleas court at Pittsburgh, awarded \$150,000 damages to Michael Papson. Homestead, who sued the American Bridge company for injuries suffered while working on a construction job. A steel window sash he averred, fell on him after having been loosened by bridge company workmen employed on the same project.

A few minutes after R. T. Dunning and his family had left their home at Harrisburg Run, near Bradford, on Tuesday night, to visit neighbors, the house was wrecked by an explosion. Gas was believed to have accumulated from a broken pipe. The house, a frame structure, and the furniture were blown to pieces. Loss was estimated at between \$3000 and \$4000.

F. W. Gowland, of Burnham, is the owner of a \$4 bill of Continental currency, printed by Holt and Sells' July 22, 1776, authorized by a resolution of Congress and calling for four Spanish milled dollars, either gold or silver. It is of the size of the ordinary "slinplaster" currency, but different as it is printed on paper in which flaked silver has been impressed instead of the usual water lines of silk threads of the present currency.

James Robertson, aged 89, an employee of the New York Central railroad shops at Avis, ended his life at his home in Lock Haven on Friday by means of gas. He attached a crock to the wall of his room, placed a hose attached to a gas jet in the crock, then thrust his head into the crock and turned on the gas. His body was found by his daughter-in-law, who noticed a diminution of the gas pressure and made an investigation.

John Honus Wagner, famous baseball player of two decades ago, has been named an assistant sergeant at arms in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg. The great Pittsburgh shortstop, now a resident of Canegie, will help keep order on the floor of the house in the 1929 session at a salary of \$7 per day. Wagner for years held the National league batting championship in addition to being rated as the best shortstop in the league.

Announcement has been made at Washington, Pa., of the raising of the sum of \$1,000 for the equipping of a memorial room in the new women's dormitory at Pennsylvania State College. The funds were raised by the Pennsylvania Grange as a testimonial to the late Mrs. Louise Taylor Rodgers of near Monacaheana. Mrs. Rodgers was particularly active in the campaign to raise money for the dormitory now being built and was a prominent leader in the Grange.

As restitution for a beating suffered at the hands of two young Kulpmont men, Walter Polack and Alek Demansk, \$1001 has been awarded Sedin and John Pitcock, husband and wife, by the Northumberland county court. On June 17, the wife asserted, the two young men came to the Pitcock homestead and engaged in an argument with her husband. Finally, they began to beat him and, when she tried to interfere, even though she was ill the visitors beat her, too. The wife was awarded \$700, while the husband was given \$301.

The Trevorton Times prints a story of a family in Northumberland county subsisting on acorns during last summer and up to the present time. The father has been out of work and had been idle because of the shutting down of the North Franklin mines, the only industry in the town. He worked only eighteen days of last year. The name of the family was not given. The acorns were cooked and also eaten raw. The children would go to the hills to gather them and bring them home in large baskets.

With the arrival of 125 machines and a corps of experts to install them, Shamokin's new shirt factory, over which Superintendent I. Bernstein will preside, is preparing to begin operations within the next ten days. Over 150 persons have been employed by the company to engage in the process of shirt-making. The product, after being run through a complete laundry and pressing outfit, will be loaded onto trucks and delivered at New York city. An enlargement of the plant and an increase in the number of employees are anticipated within six months.

In the home of J. F. Fagan, Juniata county game protector, is drying one of the most valuable furs to be found in Pennsylvania, at least in a wild State, a beaver pelt. The animal was killed by Brooks L. Kennedy, Port Royal, while driving near Woodward, Mifflin county, where there is a large colony of the animals a short distance from the public road. He picked the beaver up as soon as he was able to stop his car and turned it over at once to the local game protector. When put on the scales the much protected beaver weighed 18 1/2 pounds.

Robert Michael a former State highway motor patrolman, was convicted by a jury in court at York, Pa., for possession and sale of liquor. His arrest followed the expulsion of three students by the Hanover High school authorities because they drank moonshine from pocket flasks at a social function. The jury recommended leniency in Michael's case. Judge Niles made the statement from the bench that the court was impressed that there was something suspicious about the whole case, but on Monday he sentenced Michael to pay a fine of \$500 and two years in jail.

Every county treasurer in the Commonwealth now has been furnished with both the resident and non-resident fisherman's license for the year 1929. The cost of the resident license will remain the same as in 1928—\$1.50, plus 10 cents for the county treasurer's fee. The non-resident license is reciprocal, but in no instance is the fee to be less than \$2.50. The board urges all fishermen to secure their licenses as early a date as possible so that the board will have sufficient funds available for continuing its construction work at the sites for the two new hatcheries, at Tionesta and Reynoldsdale. The total receipts from the sale of licenses for the year 1927 amounted to \$293,397, and for the year 1928, \$329,914.