# Democratic Watchman

#### INK SLINGS.

-Thus far February, with the exception of two days last week, has been continuously cold. The new moon is lying far around to the north and that would indicate that there is to be no immediate let up in it.

-Over in Bombay last week the Hindus and the Moslems celebrated the settlement of a feud that had existed between them by killing fifty and wounding four hundred others of the participants in the peace demon stration.

-The Humane Society for the State of Illinois gets the brown derby for the best example of damphoolishness during 1928. It boasts of having given special attention to the comfort and welfare of ten thousand gold fish, forty thousand canary birds, nine hundred and fity hogs and sixty-five children.

-It looks very much as though the is to be rubbed in by adding another roads why don't they tax the hitchhikers?

-As part of the radio celebration of the occasion of Mr. Edison's eighty-second birthday anniversary Prof. B. A. Rolfe's orchestra played "Kathleen" which is said to be the wizard's favorite of the songs of yesteryear. When we heard it we thanked God that Edison was too deaf to hear what has become of Kathleen. That fellow Rolfe rolled down her stockings, pulled up her skirts, shot her in the arms and legs with giggling saxes and cachinnatin' trumpets and the tuneful "Kathleen" that Edison remembers was given a "Black Bottom," daubs of several "Blues" and thrown into the arms of "Old Man River." It was a shame to let the grand old man of electricity hear what a wanton thing his love of half a century ago has turned out to be.

-On Monday evening we watched, for a little while, the county's indefatigable band master work with his small army of juvenile musicians. The patient determination with which he went about it started us to wondering whether it was worth while. Then name after name of accomplished musicians whom Frank Wetzler has produced came into our mind and we realized that certainly a few in that group in the Undine engine house, Monday night, will find at there is something beautiful in their souls that can only find its most perfect expression through the instrument they were struggling with. Mr. Wetzler can hope for no reward for such devoted service unless it be in the gratitude of the many he has helped to a worth-while accomplishment. And we wonder how many of them appraise that as it should be appraised.

-Down in Columbia last week Lynn Gutshall tried to stamp a rat to death with his foot. He missed it, however, and struck the ground so hard that he broke is leg. The incident recalls an accident that happened in the sanctum of the Republican office when it occupied the building at the west end of this block. The late E. T. Tuten, editor, and his general utility man. A. B. Steele. were resting from their labors so quietly that the rats that infested the print shop decided to hold a conference on the floor. Unexpectedly one of them ran up the venerable editor's trouser leg. It hadn't gotten to the knee before he encircled his leg with his hands and called Brittain to the rescue. The only way of disposing of the rambling rodent that occurred to the latter was to smash it with the stove poker that was standing near This he attempted to do but missed the rat and Mr. Tuten hobbled about for weeks after on crutches.

-More and more it is apparent that Pennsylvania is spending millions of dollars to no purpose. For instance, why waste money on a General Assembly of Senators and Representatives? There was a day, perhaps, when their biennial meeting in Harrisburg had something to do with the government of the State, but is that the case today? It seems to us that they are goats rather than Legislators in this highly specialized era of machine domination. Some very important legislation will be enacted during the present session of the Legislature, yet not one piece of numerous millionaires of that city Francis Shunk Brown and his legal it will have originated in the mind of any Senator or member of the House. All that was arranged by Governor Fisher, Joseph Grundy, W. L. Mellon and a few other advisors long before the Assembly convened and there is nothing for those whom the State has chosen to represent them in the law making branch of our government to prosperity "slipped a cog?" There is do but approve the proposed legislation or stand the consequences of their opposition. The Legislator who isn't for the program the bosses prepare doesn't get fair consideration of his claims for road improvements or public institutions in his district and his constituents "ride" him for that. If has the nerve to ask for it. the program of legislation he votes for to secure such concessions proves



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### The Department of Revenue.

After prolonged deliberation in which Governor Fisher, W. L. Melthe General Assembly on Monday evening, Representative Philip Sterling, of Philadelphia, being its sponsor. It provides the machinery for the operation of the Department of a gallon to the gasoline tax, then it government since the Pinchot adminand another to the charges for a the hands of the party bosses com-

> The principal function of the new department and the leading purpose the Auditor General and State Treasurer, officials chosen by the people, be appointed by the Governor and is that the Auditor General's staff expressed at the polls in adopting even passive support of Vare. ought to have performed.

The code will serve the party manin the Normal schools and hospitals reform code to the present session. who will be paid by the State. The This commission, composed largely of will be liberal. Taking one consider- enabling act, but none to spare. ation with another it is a wise party

the weather in Europe it's hard to anyway. find just cause of complaint with the conditions, in this country.

# Relief for Poor in Philadelphia.

The Finance committee, of Philadelphia city council has "unanimously approved an ordiance authorizing the appropriation of \$50,000 to relieve distress among poor families brought on by the present unemployment ty-two pages of manuscript, but mea- most of the borough and township situation." In advocating the measure the president of council made it clear that all the frauds exposed by a prothat this relief measure was in no respect in the nature of a municipal soup-house enterprise. He expressed misunderstandings of the law." The the term of Judge William H. Keller, doubt of the legality of such an ap- brief frankly admits one case of of Lancaster, and a successor to propriation and added, "we can't refuse to take cognizance of the fact avoid that for the reason that the appointed to the bench by Governor that there is genuine distress among perpetrators had pleaded guilty in Fisher to fill the vacancy caused by poor families in this city." In the face of such a situation "red tape" cuts no in jail as just penalties.

tions to this generous action of the dice and charges the Reed committee to the presnt time no opposition to city law makers. It is a matter of re- with unfairness in limiting the time either one has developed in the Record that thousands of children in to answer the great number of ac- publican party and both will proba-Philadelphia are suffering for want of cusations to eight days. It overproper food and clothing. The ami- looks the fact that Mr. Vare and his tion. able purpose of the council was to lawyers have been "jockeying" the alleviate the suffering by providing committee for more than eight same thing has been done in that and other cities in former years, usually by private philanthropy, and in the form of soup houses and bread lines. In view of this fact it is not easy to imagine why the present movement should take on some other name.

such distress should have come upon the principal city of Pennsylvania at "just around the corner," but everyblessings in the past, as a guarantee of their continuance in the future. Has the machinery which produced certainly something the matter. If would have been "soup houses," beyond question.

-Meantime the Secretary of Highways knows what he wants and

The legislative mill at Harrisunpopular they "ride" him for that, burg is grinding with surprising gress all the trouble they want dursmoothness and celerity.

# Tardy on Ballot Reform Legislation.

The session of the General Assembly

awn out discussion. There is time

The sponsorship of Senator Salus would probably have killed the After reading the records of city manager bill for Philadelphia

# Vare's Lawyers Submit His Case.

Counsel for Wiliam S. Vare submitted to the Slush Fund committee of the Senate, the other day, his defense against the twenty-two specific charges of fraud in the primary campaign for Senator in 1926. The brief be one of more or less importance ger in facts. Summed up it asserts officials. longed and searching investigation confined to two Judges of the Superfraud. It would have been hard to Judge Thomas J. Baldridge, recently

The brief is a long drawn out "coninvestigation within the limit of the present Congress, thus improving the chances of miscarriage of justice in the ratio that the strength of the Republican force in the Senate has in-It is equally difficult to realize that | White House will be altered next month.

Notwithstanding these facts we this time. Only three months ago the acknowledge that the brief of Mr. were boasting of the prosperity, not associates appeals to our sympathies. It is too bad that simple minded where and exhorting the people to gentlemen like Mr. Brown, himself, continue in power the party which Sheriff Cunningham, Senator Salus had given them such substantial and hundreds of other Philadelphia "rounders" should have been imposed phia, has done nearly everything to upon by a Senate committee made up | make the people laugh except stand mostly of country lawyers and inex- on his head on top of city hall. perienced or rather unsophisticated statesmen as the brief submitted the Governor Smith had been elected it other day seems to indicate. Jim Reed ought to be ashamed of himself for making the amiable persons who dignity of an insurrection. compose the Vare machine look like crooks to the entire country. Still it can't be helped.

> -The tariff question will give the new President and the new Coning the sultry season of midsummer. the history of Don Quixote.

#### Jockeying for Delay.

Senator Reed, of Missouri, chairof Pennsylvania opened two years ago man of the Slush Fund committee, From the Philadelphia Record. lon and Joseph R. Grundy dominated, with abundant promise of ballot re- hopes to dispose of the Vare case this the fiscal code bill was introduced in form legislation. The Governor had week. It is a question of "high privitaken pains and incurred expense to lege" and can displace any pending formulate a series of bills which were legislation if it can be brought to the promptly introduced. Senators and floor. But thus far the Missouri Sen-Representatives were anxious to co- ator's efforts to get the report, aloperate in an effort to make ballot ready prepared, before the Senate Revenue, which was created by the frauds extremely hazardous if not has failed. Twice last week a time session of 1927, and it is said "makes impossible. But before the Governor's was set for the final meeting of the State is going to add another cent the most radical changes in the State bills emerged from the committee, but because of the abwhich they had been referred the sence of a quorum, no business could istrative code of 1923." Probably its party bosses intervened and so emas- be transacted. The committee is dollar to the cost of a driver's license main purpose is to concentrate in culated them as to make them prac-composed of three Republicans, and that Joseph R. Grundy had organized tically worthless. There is grave dan- two Democrats and the Republican learner's permit. If they've got to plete control of the revenues and ex- ger of a similar result this year. Bal- members have refused, or at least raise more money to keep up the penditures of the State. That it will lot reform legislation is moving "with failed to attend. The finding of the accomplish this result may be relied a leaden heel" in the present Legisla- committee was unanimous, but the order to report requires a quorum.

cial, what combination of strategical The popular approval of the consti- The plain inference is that Senaconsiderations, could withstand the tutional amendment providing for tor Goff, of West Virginia, and the demands of the president of the of the proposed code is to take from voting machines justified the ex- other Republican members are being Pennsylvania Manufacturers' sociation, undisputed master of the pectation of promt action for ena- influenced by the Republican machine art of financing campaigns? bling legislation. But the indications to prevent a quorum to complete the certain powers and duties and lodge are that such expectations will be work. Mr. Vare's friends imagine tra session itself against the urgent them in the hands of the Secretary of disappointed. Two bills have been that if the question is carried over to advice of Secretary Mellon and Senathe Department of Revenue, who will introduced in the Senate, each pos- the next Congress the committee's tor Dave Reed and Speaker Longsessing merit, but differing in meth-report will be rejected and a minorworth, an evidence of his power? It responsible only to him. Possibly some ods. It may be assumed that the au- ity report declaring his election legal seemed only a question of how soon good may come of this. In any event thors of both these measures are sin- will be adopted. This expectation is the schedules he specified would be it will relieve those officials of a good cere in their purposes. But instead based on two ideas. The first is that boosted, and how high. deal of arduous labor, though we of getting together and combining Mr. Hoover, as President, will give posed the Grundy plan are squeamish have never heard any complaints that the best features of both into one, active support to the Vare interests, they were overworked. The Gover- they are entering into a contest and the other that the increased Rebased upon expediency. General renor must have imagined they were, which will probably result in the de- publican majority in the new Senate vision they urged, would mean not however, for he paid nearly half a feat of both, thus nullifying the will be to his advantage. President only a prolonged and contentious sesmillion dollars last year for services of a vast majority of the people as Coolidge could not be dragooned into sion, but the furnishing to the Demo- ordered an additional sum of \$5,253 award-

that amendment to the constitution. The present signs indicate that the might enable them to win control of The last session of the General As- new administration will be intensely agers in another way, moreover, in sembly, probably as an expedient for partisan. Nine years ago Herbert keeping the organization in trim. delaying ballot reform legislation, Hoover didn't know which party he Agents will be appointed to collect created a commission to investigate belonged to. He was an ardent adthe revenues accruing from services the subject and recommend a ballot mirer of Woodrow Wilson, an enthus- tation of goods competing with the dered to pay the additional award. iastic supporter of the League of Nations and opposed to excessive tariff come to that office for charters and tion, though the session is nearly half to nominate him for President comthe present system of collecting in- over. Of course that means there will pletely changed the trend of his poheritance taxes will not be disturbed. be no action as the result of this ges- litical thought and now he is a more could hardly be improved, and most recommendation the commission Moses, and a more bitter opponent terests he represented had contributing he belonged there, he told police. of the legislation is viewed from that might make would provoke long of the League of Nations than Borah. ed \$700,000 to the Coolidge campaign —The dead body of Miss Ida Wagner, We cordially concur in the hope of fund in 1924, \$615,000 to the, Fisher nue will be a highly efficient politica yet for an agreement among those senator Reed that he will get the real manager and his compensation who favor the voting machine, on an port in during the present Congress but have doubts.

The courts in Michigan know in that State, the other day, such a in the upper branch. criminal was sentenced to "not less

1928.

farmers.

by base ingratitude?

## 1929 an Off Year Politically but no general revision—only such Many Local Offices to Fill.

than ninety-nine years."

While 1929 will be an off year politically, so far as State, national and county offices are concerned, it will is ponderous in volume, covering for- locally because of the election of

In the State the election will be were simply "honest mistakes and ior court, owing to the expiration of tations. succeed himself and there is no ques- principle but of investment-of poli-No man or woman, "with a heart fession and avoidance." It accuses all tion but that Judge Baldridge will in the right place," will take except the witnesses against Vare of prejube a candidate for a full term. Up bly be renominated without opposi-

the necessary food and clothing. The months and are still hoping by trick torney and two jury commissioners. correct in that belief. and device to prevent a report of the John G. Love is serving his last year as district attorney and at this early date has not intimated whether he will be a candidate again or not.

> In Bellefonte borough the voters will be called upon to elect a burgess, creased and the moral influence of the tax collector, one school director and four councilmen. Councilmen whose terms will expire with this year are W. J. Emerick and W. Frederick Reynolds, in the North ward; W. H. Brouse and J. M. Cunningham in the West ward. The six year's term of Dr. M. J. Locke, as school director, will also expire with this year.

-The flareup in the Philadelphia machine didn't last long enough to be a revolution. It hardly attained the

-With four Sundays and two holidays this month bankers will have only twenty-two working days.

Senator Salus might find some

NO. 7.

Grundyism Must Wait for Its Tariff

Sharper than a serpent's tooth,

Is the ingratitude of a political

saith the proverb, it is to have a

party towards a dutiful son less

wounding? What shall be said of the

rebuff just administered by the Re-

seen. When announcement was made

a drive for upward revision of the

gress, only one deduction was plausible—the thing was as good as done.

For what party leader, what offi-

Was not the summoning of the ex-

Not that these statesmen who op-

about protection. Their dissent was

thankless child.

lamentable story, this.

Rewards.

-Ralph Weaver, of Nescopeck, who was sentenced to a year in the Columbia county jail for carrying a pint of liquor, has completed his sentence, but he still remains in jail. Judge Evans has declined to release him until costs of \$88.19 are

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Lillian Dando, 5, of Minersville, died from burns and scalds received when she fell into a tub of hot water last Saturday. The child was on her way upstairs, in her hurry to reach the steps she failed to see the tub of awter and tripped, fall ing into it.

-Applications already have been received from 300 private land owners for almost 7,000,000 forest tree seedlings to be planted this spring, according to a statement issued today by State Forester Joseph S. Illick. These trees will be planted on waste areas throughout Pennsylvania covering an area of 7,000 acres.

-State highway workmen have erected 3800 "Stop" signs at intersections of through- traffic highways since the plan was adopted. Orders have been placed with the prison labor section of the State Welfare Department to furnish 13,000 stop signs and 1300 slow signs to be used in publican high command to its fore- marking newly designated through-traffic most and most faithful fat-fryer? A routes.

-Recause the ashes of Levi Huber. It is the more shocking because printer and veteran of the Spanish-Amerisuch an outcome had not been fore- call war, have been lost in the mails. enroute from the west to his old home in Lebanon, Pa., it was necessary for a second time to postpone the funeral. The tariff at the special session of Con-ashes were expected on Monday from the crematory, and plans had been made for a military funeral.

-Sneak thieves are getting careless out in the western part of the State. After taking a waistcoat from the home of Hugh McCue, of Braddock Friday night, and picking a pocket of a watch, the thief left the sleeveless garment hanging to a fence paling. McCue found it there, and in one pocket found two \$100 bills the thief had overlooked.

-A handsome youth walked into the home of C. C. Poff at Sunbury, on Tuesday. Mrs. Poff stared a minute and recognized him as her son Oliver Mensch, whom she had given to a charitable organization 20 years ago and had not seen since. He was adopted by a Coatesville family, which later went to Downington, where he is now employed. He was traced by a local charitable organization.

-The Public Service Commission has crats such a supply of ammunition as ed to Martha Hafer and Sarah McDowell, doing business as Hafer and McDowell, the House at the elections next year. in Oil City, for destruction of an oil well in the abolition of a grade crossing over But Mr. Grundy was implacable. the tracks of the New York Central rail-He insisted upon what some of the perturbed "old guard' called a road and the Nypano Railroad company in "blanket embargo" on the importa- Oil City. The county of Venango was or-

-A young man eighteen years old is products of his clients. To get that, wanted by Sheriff W. H. Printz, of Mifhe said was his business; to take care Secretary of the Commonwealth will cunning pratical politicians, has not taxation. But the failure of the Demonstrate of the political consequences was the flin county, for the theft of \$10 in bills continue to collect the fees which made either a report or recommenda- ocratic National convention of 1920 business of the party leaders, with and a wallet taken from the clothing of a traveling man using the pool at the Y. M. As for his arguments they were, in C. A. The man hung his clothes in a his estimation, quite unanswerable. locker while he took a shower. He saw They comprised the facts that the young man walk into the locker room Considered from a party angle it ture at this session, for any report or radical protectionist than Smoot or through his assiduous efforts the in- and leave, but paid no attention, think-

> campaign fund in 1926 and \$547,000 county, on Sunday, after the stream had to the Hoover campaign fund in been dragged about three hours by a veteran waterman, Ben Sipe. The women "Q. E. D.," said Mr. Grundy.
>
> "Alcommitted suicide on Saturday night about 9 o'clock, she having been seen for sage carried to headquarters by Senather at time shortly before that. Ill how to fix bomb throwers. At Flint, tor Smoot, who handles tariff affairs health, from which she had suffered for a long time, caused the act. A note which But the disconcerting response was she left for her parents led to the search that the program must be radically in the creek for the body. altered. At the extra session, the

-Martin J. Wahnon, 23, of Pittsburgh, was despondent over a love affair and decided to end it all. He chose poison as schedule changes as would satisfy the the way out, and to make the suicide doubly sure, mixed two poisons and drank the mixture. One counteracted the other. with the result that Wahnon did not die, but only got sick and collapsed on a lawn. In police court he was fined \$25 and given the alternative of ten days in jail. Things look brighter now and "I'm glad I'm still alive," says Wahnon.

-Fear that the rabies epidemic in Greene county in the past two weeks, resulting in infection of 2000 sheep and scores of dogs, has spread to Washing-ton county, is felt with the appearance of a supposedly mad dog near Scenery Hill, 10 miles east of Washington, Pa ment, or to sincere belief in certain The dog bit a dog owned by Samuel Wilson and also mangled several chickens at Grundysim and its blunt demands court and are now serving sentences the death of Judge Henderson. Judge furnish a striking example of parti-Keller will likely be a candidate to sanship which is a matter not of shot the dog. The epidemic in Greene county, despite the efforts of specialists. continues to spread.

> -Replacement of teeth lost in an accident are compensable under the Workmen's Compensation act, Commissioner John L. Morrison ruled on Tuesday in the case of Joseph Gober, Kingston, against the Temple Coal company, of Scranton. The defendant admitted liability for dental services for the gums but resisted payment for replacement and crowning of the damaged teeth. An artificial crown or an artificial tooth is just as necessary in dental service as a metal nose bridge or a metallic skull plate are accepted in surgery, he held.

-Trying out a new kind of an omelet for the past several days, three York, Po., boys fell into the hands of police because of their pranks. The boys had been pummeling the sides of street cars with eggs secured from a local bake shop. Because of the obnoxious odor which caused, the affair was reported by officials of the street car company to the would rather face an electorate that police department and the arrests followed. It became necessary to take the street cars not get in the number desired or off the runs and take them to the barns those who are sore over a raise in to clean them. After the boys were reptaxes. It will not be an easy choice, rimanded by Mayor Jacob E. Weaver they were released into the custody of their parents.

-This is unseasonable weather for lature have its head in matters of snake stories, but one comes from Smethport, twenty-five miles east of Kane, relthis kind will only add fuel to the ative to the discovery of a five-foot boa constrictor wrapped around a bunch of bananas, which frightened a grocery store salesman so that he nearly fainted. The snake was alive, but due to the cold was five feet in length and three inches in diameter and made the trip from the tropics in a carge of fruit. A Smethport man, who is described as an expert, because he "has seen lots of snakes." pronounced the reptimes attain a length of ten or twelve feet.

# tics for revenue only. Rough Sailing Ahead.

President-elect ruled, there would be

The claims of Grundyism, though

not totally rejected, were authorita-

tively deferred. Is there any wonder

that the champion of that cause feels

that he and it have been victimized

To the student of pubilc affairs,

however, the episode is interesting

chiefly as a reminder that partisan-

ship has varying causes and manifes-

With most Americans party mem-

bership may be due to personal senti-

ment, or family tradition, or environ-

political and economic doctrines.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. Republican leaders are reported as

being of the opinion that there is rough sailing ahead in the Legisla-In the county the voters will be ture for any general increase of taxes called upon to elect a district at- that may be suggested. They are The best argument those in favor

of increasing the highway funds by added levies have to offer is the demand of Legislators for more improved roads. The farmer is insisting that he be

taken out of the mud, but he is strenuously opposed to increasing his tax burden for that purpose. The Legislator who is promised rore roads in return for his vote for higher taxes will hear a powerful plea. He will have to decide whether he is insisting on roads which they will -Mayor Mackey, of Philadel- and chances are there will be diehards on both sides. The policy of the party leadership to let the Legis-

> -With Owen D. Young presiding over the deliberations of the Reparations Commission in Paris we are sluggish and was easily dispatched with a getting closer to membership in the half-pound weight. The snake measured League of Nations.

-Senator Reed, of Missouri, is capable and earnest but his Republiconsolation in a careful reading of can colleagues on the Slush Fund tile a boa constrictor, a species that somecommittee "got cold feet."