

INK SLINGS.

Thus far February, with the exception of two days last week, has been continuously cold.

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 demonstration.

The Humane Society for the State of Illinois gets the brown derby for the best example of dampishness 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 fifty dogs and sixty-five children.

It looks very much as though the State is going to add another cent a gallon to the gasoline tax, then it is to be rubbed in by adding another dollar to the cost of a driver's license and another to the charges for a learner's permit.

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 yesterday. When we heard it we thanked God that Edison was too deaf to hear what has become of Kathleen.

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 wonder whether it was worth while.

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 his leg.

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?

Meantime the Secretary of Highways knows what he wants and has the nerve to ask for it.



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The Department of Revenue.

After prolonged deliberation in which Governor Fisher, W. L. Mellon and Joseph R. Grundy dominated, the fiscal code bill was introduced in the General Assembly on Monday evening, Representative Philip Sterling, of Philadelphia, being its sponsor.

The principal function of the new department and the leading purpose of the proposed code is to take from the Auditor General and State Treasurer, officials chosen by the people, certain powers and duties and lodge them in the hands of the Secretary of the Department of Revenue, who will be appointed by the Governor and is responsible only to him.

The code will serve the party managers in another way, moreover, in keeping the organization in trim. Agents will be appointed to collect the revenues accruing from services in the Normal schools and hospitals who will be paid by the State.

After reading the records of the weather in Europe it's hard to 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 ordinance authorizing the appropriation of \$50,000 to relieve distress among poor families brought on by the present unemployment situation."

No man or woman, "with a heart in the right place," will take exceptions to this generous action of the city law makers. It is a matter of record that thousands of children in Philadelphia are suffering for want of proper food and clothing.

It is equally difficult to realize that such distress should have come upon the principal city of Pennsylvania at this time. Only three months ago the numerous millionaires of that city were boasting of the prosperity, not "just around the corner," but everywhere and exhorting the people to continue in power the party which had given them such substantial blessings in the past, as a guarantee of their continuance in the future.

The legislative mill at Harrisburg is grinding with surprising smoothness and celerity.

Tardy on Ballot Reform Legislation.

The session of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania opened two years ago with abundant promise of ballot reform legislation. The Governor had taken pains and incurred expense to formulate a series of bills which were promptly introduced. Senators and Representatives were anxious to cooperate in an effort to make ballot frauds extremely hazardous if not impossible.

The popular approval of the constitutional amendment providing for voting machines justified the expectation of prompt action for enabling legislation. But the indications are that such expectations will be disappointed.

The last session of the General Assembly, probably as an expedient for delaying ballot reform legislation, created a commission to investigate the subject and recommend a ballot reform code to the present session.

The sponsorship of Senator Salus would probably have killed the city manager bill for Philadelphia anyway.

Vare's Lawyers Submit His Case.

Counsel for William 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 is a long drawn out "confession and avoidance." It accuses all the witnesses against Vare of prejudice and charges the Reed committee with unfairness in limiting the time to answer the great number of accusations to eight days.

Notwithstanding these facts we acknowledge that the brief of Mr. Francis Shunk Brown and his legal associates appeals to our sympathies. It is too bad that simple minded gentlemen like Mr. Brown, himself, Sheriff Cunningham, Senator Salus and hundreds of other Philadelphia "rounders" should have been imposed upon by a Senate committee made up mostly of country lawyers and inexperienced or rather unsophisticated statesmen as the brief submitted the other day seems to indicate.

The tariff question will give the new President and the new Congress all the trouble they want during the sultry season of midsummer.

Jockeying for Delay.

Senator Reed, of Missouri, chairman of the Slush Fund committee, hopes to dispose of the Vare case this week. It is a question of "high privilege" and can displace any pending legislation if it can be brought to the floor.

The plain inference is that Senator Goff, of West Virginia, and the other Republican members are being influenced by the Republican machine to prevent a quorum to complete the work.

The present signs indicate that the new administration will be intensely partisan. Nine years ago Herbert Hoover didn't know which party he belonged to. He was an ardent admirer of Woodrow Wilson, an enthusiastic supporter of the League of Nations and opposed to excessive tariff taxation.

The courts in Michigan know how to fix bomb throwers. At Flint, in that State, the other day, such a criminal was sentenced to "not less than ninety-nine years."

1929 an Off Year Politically but Many Local Offices to Fill.

While 1929 will be an off year politically, so far as State, national and county offices are concerned, it will be one of more or less importance locally because of the election of most of the borough and township officials.

In the State the election will be confined to two Judges of the Superior court, owing to the expiration of the term of Judge William H. Keller, of Lancaster, and a successor to Judge Thomas J. Baldridge, recently appointed to the bench by Governor Fisher to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Henderson.

In the county the voters will be called upon to elect a district attorney and two jury commissioners. 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.

Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, has done nearly everything to make the people laugh except stand on his head on top of city hall.

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

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

Senator Salus might find some consolation in a careful reading of the history of Don Quixote.

Grundysm Must Wait for Its Tariff Rewards.

From the Philadelphia Record. Sharper than a serpent's tooth, saith the proverb, it is to have a thankless child.

Is the ingratitude of a political party towards a dutiful son less wounding? What shall be said of the rebuff just administered by the Republican high command to its foremost and most faithful fat-fryer? A lamentable story, this.

Not that these statesmen who opposed the Grundy plan are squeamish about protection. Their dissent was based upon expediency. General revision they urged, would mean not only a prolonged and contentious session, but the furnishing to the Democrats such a supply of ammunition as might enable them to win control of the House at the elections next year.

As for his arguments they were, in his estimation, quite unanswerable. They comprised the facts that through his assiduous efforts the interests he represented had contributed \$700,000 to the Coolidge campaign fund in 1924, \$615,000 to the Fisher campaign fund in 1926 and \$547,000 to the Hoover campaign fund in 1928.

The claims of Grundysm, though not totally rejected, were authoritatively deferred. Is there any wonder that the champion of that cause feels that he and it have been victimized by base ingratitude?

With most Americans party membership may be due to personal sentiment, or family tradition, or environment, or to sincere belief in certain political and economic doctrines.

Grundysm and its blunt demands furnish a striking example of partisanship which is a matter not of principle but of investment—of politics for revenue only.

Rough Sailing Ahead.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. Republican leaders are reported as being of the opinion that there is rough sailing ahead in the Legislature for any general increase of taxes that may be suggested. They are correct in that belief.

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 more roads in return for his vote for higher taxes will hear a powerful plea. He will have to decide whether he would rather face an electorate that is insisting on roads which they will not get in the number desired or those who are sore over a raise in taxes. It will not be an easy choice, and chances are there will be die-hards on both sides.

With Owen D. Young presiding over the deliberations of the Reparations Commission in Paris we are getting closer to membership in the League of Nations.

Senator Reed, of Missouri, is capable and earnest but his Republican colleagues on the Slush Fund committee "got cold feet."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

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 paid.

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 water and tripped, falling 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 3900 "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 1900 slow signs to be used in marking newly designated through-traffic routes.

Because the ashes of Levi Huber, printer and veteran of the Spanish-American 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 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 piling. 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 Downingtown, where he is now employed. He was traced by a local charitable organization.

The Public Service Commission has ordered an additional sum of \$5,253 awarded to Martha Hafer and Sarah McDowell, doing business as Hafer and McDowell, in Oil City, for destruction of an oil well in the abolition of a grade crossing over the tracks of the New York Central railroad and the Nypano Railroad company in Oil City. The county of Venango was ordered to pay the additional award.

A young man eighteen years old is wanted by Sheriff W. H. Printz, of Mifflin county, for the theft of \$10 in bills and a wallet taken from the clothing of a traveling man using the pool at the Y. M. C. A. The man hung his clothes in a locker while he took a shower. He saw the young man walk into the locker room and leave, but paid no attention, thinking he belonged there, he told police.

The dead body of Miss Ida Wagner, 23, was taken from Oduous creek, York county, on Sunday, after the stream had been dragged about three hours by a veteran waterman, Ben Sipe. The women committed suicide on Saturday night about 9 o'clock, she having been seen for the last time shortly before that. In health, from which she had suffered for a long time, caused the act. A note which she left for her parents led to the search in the creek for the body.

Martin J. Wahnou, 23, of Pittsburgh, was despondent over a love affair and decided to end it all. He chose poison as 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 Wahnou 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 Wahnou.

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 Washington county, is felt with the appearance of a supposedly mad dog near Seneca Hill, 10 miles east of Washington, Pa. The dog bit a dog owned by Samuel Wilson and also mangled several chickens at the farm of Ellwood Crumrine. Wilson 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 Guber, 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, Pa., boys fell into the hands of police because of their pranks. The boys had been punning the sides of street cars with eggs secured from a local bake shop. Because of the obnoxious odor which the eggs caused, the affair was reported by officials of the street car company to the police department and the arrests followed. It became necessary to take the street cars off the runs and take them to the barns to clean them. After the boys were reprimanded by Mayor Jacob E. Weaver they were released into the custody of their parents.

This is unseasonable weather for snake stories, but one comes from Smethport, twenty-five miles east of Kane, relative to the discovery of a five-foot box 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 sluggish and was easily dispatched with a half-pound weight. The snake measured five feet in length and three inches in diameter and made the trip from the tropics in a cargo of fruit. A Smethport man, who is described as an expert, because he "has seen lots of snakes," pronounced the reptile a boa constrictor, a species that sometimes attain a length of ten or twelve feet.