

INK SLINGS.

—The present Mexican revolution appears to be "just another one of them things".

—If you are not in the market, get in. That's the advice of the "Come ons" for they know that the spring is the time for shearing sheep.

—The robins are hopping about on the trees, the children are on the streets roller skating, onion sets are being displayed in the store windows and our feet feel too big for our shoes, so we opine that spring is either here or not very far off.

—If Clinton W. Gilbert keeps on explaining why President Hoover finally decided that Col. Donovan could not have a place in his cabinet he will have the world convinced that there was no other reason than that the distinguished lawyer and soldier happens to be a Catholic.

—Having been held up by a traffic cop on Tuesday night we want to say that he went about doing what he was sent out to do so courteously that our respect for the unit of which he is a member was heightened and our reaction to the mandate of the laws he was enforcing was not antagonistic.

—A bill has been introduced in the Legislature authorizing cities, boroughs or townships to lay a special tax, not to exceed two mills, for the support of a community band. Being a bit "hipped" on brass bands we hacten to register our approval of the measure that the Senator from Delaware county has had the temerity to father.

—Many bills are before the sitting Legislature that would annul the "Blue Laws" of 1794 and make Sunday wide open in Pennsylvania. We observe that Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, and Eddie Beidleman, of Harrisburg, are opposed to all of them. They say politics make strange bedfellows. We can't understand how morals can do the same, but, if they do, we're in the hay with Mackey and Beidleman on this issue.

—Rattlesnakes are said to be becoming scarce in Pennsylvania and a movement is afoot to protect them. Golly, how compassionate people are becoming. "Moonshine" is not quite as deadly as rattlesnakes, but no one seems to make a move to protect it. Ere long we'll be hearing of a proposed act of Assembly making it unlawful to take a rattler with less than ten buttons and limiting the season to the week between Christmas and New Year's.

—Calvin Coolidge, occupant of a forty dollar a month house in Northampton, Mass., is far happier man than was President Coolidge, occupant of the mansion most unobtainable in this country. We have on file a severely critical letter that was received three years ago, a few days after we had stated in this column that Mr. Coolidge was not a person to be defied because he happened to be chosen President of our United States. We said that there were thousands of other men in the country just as capable as he was and that the only reason he attained the exalted position that was his was because he got the break. The trouble with most people is that they don't understand that while political preferment changes the official status of a man it has no effect, whatever, on the man himself.

—State Treasurer Sam Lewis is the fly in the Republican organization ointment. And Sam, like Banquo's ghost, won't down. He wants to be the next Republican nominee for Governor and while we are not in a position to state it as a fact we have hope to the effect that that's what the powers that be want Sam to be everything but. It's their nut to crack, however, and we should worry. We've always had a soft spot for Sam. Not that he's ever done anything for us that we know of, but he's the one and only Republican political potentate we have ever heard of in Pennsylvania who has consistently pleaded for mercy on the bending backs of the tax payers of the State. In all probability Mr. Grundy will name the next candidate of his party, but before doing so the gentleman from Bristol would do well to look before he leaps too far away from Sam.

—We are glad to read that the revival of "the Black Crook," that is now showing in New York, is being received with enthusiasm. In its day "The Black Crook" was the kind of a show for the big cities that "Lille Clay's Burlesquers" was for the one night towns. Making it perfectly plain they were "leg shows," the machinations of the devil and the stolen sweets of sensuality and flaming youth—We don't think they called us "flaming youth" in those days—no such considerate designation was applied to the supposedly hellward bound boys then. "The Black Crook" the finished "leg show" of the last decade of the last century is impressing its audiences of today as a stage production clothed with ideal modesty. The world moves on, view points change and every day some old "class meetin' hypocrite" discovers that his sinful (?) brothers know that there is a God in heaven just a bit better than he does himself.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 74.

BELLEFONTE, PA., MARCH 15, 1929.

NO. 11.

Real Reason for Gas Tax.

It appears that the differences that have arisen between factions of the Republican party in Harrisburg are more political than economic. In other words, the question of increasing the tax on gasoline has more to do with the selection of the party candidate for Governor next year than increasing the revenues of the State. The leaders of the party are committed irrevocably to Mr. Grundy's pledge that no tax will be levied on industrial corporations, and to an extent stand pledged to a repeal of the anthracite coal tax. These commitments justify the demand for an increase of the gas tax as the only available means of maintaining the existing revenue balance. But at that it is only a transparent subterfuge.

With a surplus in the treasury of from \$25,000,000 to \$35,000,000, there is no necessity for continuing the present revenue balance. The elimination of the coal tax would prove a serious matter so long as the other sources of supply continued to function. But an impression has taken possession of the official minds that in is necessary to increase the gas tax to four cents a gallon in order to prevent the nomination of State Treasurer Sam Lewis for Governor at the Republican primary election next year. Mr. Lewis is the original outspoken opponent of the gas tax increase. He is more familiar with the fiscal affairs of the State than any other, and his attitude on the subject has won wide, popular approval.

There has grown up a very bitter antagonism between Governor Fisher and Mr. Lewis, but for what reason has never been explained. Lewis has nearly always been an obedient follower of the machine and in the famous, or infamous, primary campaign of 1926 he was the campaign manager of the Fisher-Pepper combination in the central counties of the State. He opposed all the constitutional amendments that involved appropriations last fall on the ground that the revenues are ample to provide all the money the State needs, or can wisely disburse, and it is widely believed that his effective campaigning compassed their defeat. But the administration managers feel that his nomination would ring the death knell of their hopes.

—The agreement between church and state in Rome, according to Musolini, was a "peace without victory."

A Significant Suggestion.

There is an ominous significance in President Hoover's inaugural statement that "there would be little traffic in illegal liquor if only criminals patronized it. We must awake to the fact that this patronage from law-abiding citizens is supplying the rewards and stimulating crime." It may mean that in his engineering mind there is forming a plan to make the purchase of contraband liquor as reprehensible as selling it. Public opinion has been moving in that direction for some time and it is possible that under the inspiration of so potent a force as the President's influence legislation might be enacted to compass that result. Stranger things have happened.

There is logic in the proposition. If the demand for moonshine were cut down the supply would diminish in about the same ratio and, if only criminals purchased it the demand would soon touch the vanishing point. There are plenty of criminals in the country but few of them are so stupid that they could be enticed to pay the current high prices for "genuine Scotch" that was manufactured the night before in the cellar of an adjacent alley. Only thirsty law-abiding citizens are credulous enough to be thus imposed upon. Eliminating them from the market there would be practically nobody left to victimize and the bootleggers would be compelled to turn their attention to other mediums of acquisition.

It might be difficult to persuade thirty Senators and Representatives in Congress to enact a law that would land them in jail after a visit from their "favorite bootlegger." But the vast patronage at the disposal of a new President has marvelous compelling power an discreetly employed as a great constructive mind might use it, surprising results are possible. It is not certain, however, that the high-salaried officials of the Anti-Saloon League and professional and political prohibitionists would consent to putting the "glorious experiment" into that form. It would, if successful, cut out the salaries of the Leaguers and curtail the importance of the others.

—Grundy and Hoover disagree on the sort of tariff revision required.

A Long Needed Investigation.

Last week, during consideration of pending legislation, Senator Woodward, of Philadelphia, made a serious charge against one of the Public Service Commissioners and promised, upon request, to name the culpable Commissioner. On Monday evening of this week the Public Service Commission, as a body, assumed responsibility for the action complained of and the accusing Senator withdrew his complaint. That settled the controversy for the time being but it doesn't vindicate the action of the service body. As former Governor Pinchot is quoted as saying, "an investigation of relations between Public Service Commission members and utilities is needed in Pennsylvania." Such an inquiry is long over due.

For several years the Public Service Commission has been a willing instrument in the hands of service corporations to extort unearned money from the public. Every application made by corporations for increase of rates within the last dozen years has been allowed, sometimes in advance of evidence on the subject. Because of such action former Governor Pinchot removed two of the present Commissioners and curiously enough the same corporation was concerned. The Philadelphia Rapid Transit had increased its rates and the action was approved by the Public Service Commission, notwithstanding a protest by the people. The Governor construed the action as cause for removal, but the courts decided he had no power to remove.

The purpose for which the office was created was to protect the public from corporate cupidity. It was not the intention to deprive corporations of just rights or in any way impair their legal privileges. But it was wisely reasoned that the purpose of government is to shield the weak against the greed of the strong. But the Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania has not, in recent years, fulfilled that obligation. It has not only permitted but encouraged corporate aggression and injustice and it is time that it should be called to account. The offense in the case in point is both serious and palpable. It would rob the people of Philadelphia of a vast sum of money and leave them without redress.

—That Schuylkill county woman who furnished a condemned murderer a gun with which to shoot his way out of prison seems to have had a mistaken notion of "welfare" service.

Startling Evidence of Fraud.

Some rather startling statements were made on the floor of the State Senate at Harrisburg, the other day. One was to the effect that it is a settled policy of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company to place officials of the Republican organization on its pay roll at high salaries. In support of this statement photostatic copies of letters showing that when Colonel Eric Fisher Wood became chairman of the Republican State Executive committee in 1926, he was put on the pay roll of the Traction company at a salary of \$10,000 a year, and when he resigned the office payment of the salary stopped, notwithstanding the efforts of Albert M. Greenfield to have it continued.

Another surprising exposure was that the originator of the proposition that the city of Philadelphia purchase all the charters of subsidiary corporations operated by the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company at a valuation of \$130,000,000 was at the time, and is now, a member of the State Public Service Commission. The use of buses and the increasing number of automobiles in service are cutting into the revenues of the holding corporation and the purpose of the enterprise was to unload upon the city the obligation to pay rentals for the underliers. A conservative estimate of the value of these properties is \$80,000,000, so that the plan contemplated the larceny of the difference.

The first statement was made by Senator Samuel W. Salus, of Philadelphia, and the other by Senator George Woodward, of the same city. The significance of them is that they reveal a direct and criminal relation between the Republican organization and the corporate interests which are systematically fleecing the people of both the city and the State. Incidentally it strengthens an impression, already current, that the proposed harmony deal which de thrones Vane and fits a crown on Mr. Greenfield is nothing better than dumping the public out of the frying pan into the fire. Greenfield is evidently no better, morally, than Vane, and the substitution of one for the other is a futile gesture.

—Read the Watchman for the news

Victory for Business Morality.

The contest for control of the Standard Oil company, of Indiana, which ended a week ago by the defeat of Colonel Robert W. Stewart for the office of chairman of the Board, was a matter of more than local interest. The dividends of a great service corporation are important to those who share in the profits. But public confidence in the management is a more valuable asset in the long run. Colonel Stewart was a successful manager. He built up a vast business which earned generous rewards. But his standards of business ethics, as recently revealed, were subversive of public confidence and obnoxious to business morals.

For this reason the better element in the organization opposed his election. It had been clearly shown that he had entered into a conspiracy with other corporation executives to buy a large quantity of oil and sell it to their own companies at a great aggregate profit. It is of record that he declared, under oath, that he had received no part of the profit and had no knowledge of the transaction. Investigation subsequently exposed the facts and he then stated that he held his share of the "swag" in trust in secrecy for his company. But he kept the funds, the trust and the purpose in secrecy for six years and gave it the appearance of a subterfuge, when he offered it as a defense against a charge of perjury, in the Supreme court of the District of Columbia.

John D. Rockefeller Jr., a minority stockholder in the corporation, incensed at this duplicity, asked Colonel Stewart to resign his office in the corporation. But the Colonel refused, the fight began and developed into a gigantic struggle between millionaires as well as a conflict between business morals and devious methods. Fortunately the better element prevailed and in its triumph the hope is created that the era of the buccaner in business is brought to an end. The Stewarts, the Sinclairs and the Donneys, veritable commercial bandits, have built up colossal fortunes by sinister practices and it is important that this sort of brigandage be stopped. This may be the "beginning of the end."

—Bellefonte's new milk control ordinance will cost residents of the town at least \$10,000 a year. This is based on a daily consumption of about fifteen hundred quarts daily of milk and cream. Some estimates put the consumption in excess of that amount. At two cents a quart, the increase in price on April 1st, it will mean \$30 a day, and for 365 days in the year \$10,950. Of course the large consumers, like hotels, restaurants, etc., will get their milk for 11 cents the quart, but this will be offset by the increase in the price of cream. Mr. Morris, representative of the State Board of Health, whose insistent persuasion resulted in the enactment of the ordinance, estimated that it would cost the milk dealers from \$150 to \$250 to equip their plants so as to furnish the kind of milk required. As there are ten dealers in Bellefonte the initial outlay will be approximately \$2500. If these figures prove to be correct and the dealers can get a yearly increase of \$10,000, it will be a pretty good business deal for them.

—Cononel Lindberg's last reception in Mexico was less tumultuous than his first, but more satisfactory. The smile of his sweetheart was more agreeable than the shouts of the crowd.

—The State Grangers are threatening to take a hand in the gas tax fight, as they have a right to do. They have been carrying the burdens of corporations a long time.

—The wild rose is the favorite flower, according to a poll being conducted by women's clubs and schools in thirty-one States. It deserves its popularity.

—The Mexican revolution didn't reach the average length of such things down there but it was more destructive than usual.

—By a newly discovered process we are able to get our steaks, chops and roasts frozen in Chicago and delivered by the postman.

—There are signs of another Mexican expedition and a new source of worry for the government at Washington.

—Who could have imagined there was so much naughtiness in our neighboring counties of Lycoming and Clinton.

Another Appeal For Near East Relief.

Last Spring Centre county failed in the effort to raise the quota of \$8861 assigned as its share of the \$6,000,000 budget necessary for carrying on the Near East relief work five years longer, and so completing the education and training of the orphans in its care without further appeals to America for aid. On July 1st the deficit was \$2700. That has been reduced to about \$2450. Some of the communities raised their allotment of the quota but the majority did not. An effort is now being made to complete the work. The time limit for underwriting is June 30th, 1929.

When we were wrought up emotionally by the horrors of the massacres, the deportations, the Smyrna tragedy, etc., we gladly gave money to save those children from death and starvation. With the establishment of orphanages a splendid work was started which was to culminate in giving the orphans an education that would fit them to make their living and to become useful citizens with high ideals.

The orphans were not coddled. In every orphanage, every child beyond babyhood has an appointed daily task to care for his or her own needs—growing, preparing or serving food, making and repairing everything they wear, etc., as well as performing most of the labor of all kinds in the care of buildings and grounds. For the boys the aim has been to turn them out trained workmen. A careful study showed that some trades were well supplied, but there is a great demand for machinists, plumbers, electricians, sheet-metal workers, auto-mechanics, carpenters and masons. These trades were especially emphasized, and the boys are equipped, not only to make a meagre living, but to make a real contribution to the industrial development of the country. The use of modern machinery depends on technically trained men. In the Near East the supply is notably limited. Athens, for example, has not enough plumbers to make available the projected new water works. Southern Russia is importing thousands of American tractors and needs tractor mechanics. The majority of the orphans will have to make their living from the soil, so special attention has been given to agricultural training. At Stepanaval experts from America and Europe are conducting a regular farm school, in which there are 1000 orphans. For the girls a wide opportunity for the betterment of the Near East, as well as for making their own living, has been opened up by their training in housekeeping, nursing, teaching, etc.

This all sounds very well when we tell of those who have already taken their places as workers, but there are still 20,000 children in the care of the Near East, and it will take four years more of orphanage care, and one year of supervision afterward, to prepare them for a life work. Anything less than one year of post-orphanage oversight would mean great danger for the children and partial failure on the part of Near East relief. The Smyrna tragedy and the exchange of populations brought many children later to the shelter of the orphanages; which accounts for the large number of children still under 'teen age.

It does not seem possible that Centre county people who have given so generously in past years, can falter on the home-stretch and not succeed in winning an honorable discharge from this moral obligation. Charles M. McCurdy, Bellefonte, is treasurer for the county, and any money sent to him will be very gratefully received.

—The workmen's compensation board, at Harrisburg, has allowed the claim for compensation of the widow of Rev. Richard F. Gass, pastor of the Dunning's Creek charge of the Reformed church, in Bedford county, who was killed in an automobile accident on the railroad while out on a trip making pastoral calls. Rev. Gass was for several years pastor on the Howard-Jacksonville charge, in Centre county.

Reserve of Natural Resources.

From the Pittsburgh Press.
A policy of conservation of natural resources has been urged a long time by keen students of conditions in the United States. They are right in protesting against waste though a bulletin of the Department of the Interior reveals how rich is the reserve of such resources.

The bulletin tells us that in the public lands of the United States there remains an untapped coal reserve of more than 200,000,000,000 tons. There are also deposits of 8,000,000,000 tons of phosphates. Oil shale areas will yield 60,000,000,000 barrels of oil.

These, of course, are in addition to the large reserves in private hands.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The resignation of every member of the Public Service commission has been demanded by the United Business Men's association, of Philadelphia.

—An order for 200 steel freight cars for the Lairdhailling railroad in China has been received by the Berwick plant of the American Car and Foundry company. The plant also received an order for heavy repairs to 160 steel freight cars for the Carnegie Steel company.

—Ethel, 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Palmer, of Meadville, who has been suffering from sleeping sickness for more than three weeks, remained in about the same condition tonight. The child has walking spells, it was said, when she is perfectly normal, but these are generally of brief duration.

The new state highway between Renovo and Sinnemahoning, U. S. route No. 120 was closed Friday by earth slides, the department of highways announced Saturday night. A portion of the side hill from which the new highway was cut last year collapsed and covered the roadway a mile east of Keating.

—Extensive development is planned for the new Cook forest park in Clarion county. J. M. Hoffman chief of the State bureau of parks, has consulted contractors, woodmen and others so that they can begin work as soon as weather permits. It is planned to build an artificial lake for boating and bathing.

—John D. Pennington, prohibition administrator, announced revocation of the alcohol permit of the Barr Manufacturing Company, makers of perfumes and toilet waters, at Tyrone. Pennington declared investigation disclosed products of the concern easily could be redistilled for use as a beverage. The company is not charged with having distilled its products.

—Catching rattlesnakes, like every other profession, is becoming crowded. Activity of professional hunters already has been noted in Pike county. This activity begins with the first warm days of spring. Perfection of the methods used has so depleted the Pike county annual crop that some residents are considering a petition to the Legislature to declare a closed season with the usual regulations.

—Fire which started in a ground floor store, on Sunday, spread to the upper floors of the old National hotel, at Huntingdon, now an apartment house, and drove several families into the street. Several persons were assisted from the building, among them George W. Black and his wife. A number of firemen were overcome by smoke and explosion and were removed to their homes. Origin of the blaze has not been determined.

—Lock Haven has a force of honest police. The day after George E. Kinley, of Castanea, lost his wallet with thirty dollars in cash in it, he had it returned to him by patrolman O. D. Beck, who picked it up on the street there, and found Mr. Kinley's name inside it. Several weeks ago one of the Lock Haven officers found a wallet containing thirty dollars in a snow drift, and it was returned to the owner within several hours after its loss was discovered.

—Miss Ivy V. Bratton and her pupils had a narrow escape when a wind storm blew down the little brick school house, one mile north of McVeytown. Miss Bratton, seeing the rafters shifting apart, dismissed the children and sent for P. K. Knepp, one of the school directors, who returned the roof was gone and when he entered the building he was buried in falling plaster, later the four walls caved in, making a complete wreck of the building.

—Harry L. Magee has announced that on the completion of improvements being made to a tract between West Main street, Bloomsburg, and Fishing Creek he will present the ground to the town for a park as a memorial to his father, the late James Magee. Curbs, sidewalks, flower beds, shrubbery and trees will be placed this spring. Thousands of dollars already have been expended on the work. The property is located along the main east and west highway through Bloomsburg.

—A youth was found dead and three other persons unconscious, victims of carbon monoxide fumes, in a farm house 10 miles from Bradford on the Rock City road on Sunday. A neighbor entered the house after part of the day had passed without a sign of life at the McCarthy home. The house was filled with fumes from a gas fire. The occupants apparently had been overcome after they had retired for the night. The Cornell boy and his uncle were spending the week-end with the McCarthy's.

—The Philadelphia and Reading Coal & Iron company has announced plans to build a dam across the Susquehanna River and a \$6,000,000 electric power plant at Herndon, twelve miles south of here. This is a part of its plan to electrify all of its anthracite mining operations, according to James A. Welsh, Shamokin, a company representative. All operations above and below ground are to be electrified in all of the company's thirty-seven collieries. Mules are to be done away with and machinery adopted where possible.

—A strange motive for a suicide presented itself to Chester county authorities on Monday afternoon when they investigated the death of George Leuskay, 60, who was discovered hanging to the rafters of his barn at Reeseville. It was found that the farmer had started a fire in an orchard where he was burning off dead grass. The blaze got beyond his control and threatened the buildings of neighbors. After fighting it single-handed for a time, Leuskay apparently gave up in despair and went to the barn where he ended his life. His body was found a short time later by his wife.

—With three bullets in her body since 1896, and totally blind for thirteen years, Mrs. Gertrude Zucosky, 100 years and 5 days old, died at her home in Shenandoah, Pa., last Thursday, following an illness of several months, due to the infirmities of age. She was the oldest resident of Schuylkill county. On June 3, 1896, several men attacked her son, Joseph, in front of the family home here. The mother ran out to protect the son, who was shot dead. Mrs. Zucosky was shot in the right arm and shoulder and in the left hip. For weeks she hovered between life and death, but eventually recovered. She was the last member of her family and made her home here with distant relatives.