

INK SLINGS.

We know a fellow who is so wedded to his idols that he won't plant any but bottle onions.

The foes of Secretary Mellon may as well abandon the effort to force him out of the cabinet. No Republican administration will ever consent to humiliate its richest member.

The new farm relief bill will provide a "revolving fund" of \$300,000,000, which is simply another name for the "Haugan-McNary" device that was so repugnant to President Coolidge.

Our good wishes go with the Pinchots on their cruise among the uncharted islands of the South Seas. We hope they catch the giant bat they're after. And what a chance to have one of their own.

Well, the Hon. Holmes voted for the extra cent tax on gasoline. It is estimated that it will cost every car driver in the county three dollars and a half during the year. If you think you have any kick coming about that, you tell him. We won't.

Dads who are discouraged about the utter indifference of their sons to anything more serious than pleasures should remember that the boys have it all over them in one thing at least: They can get more speed out of the old family bus than anyone else can.

A few years ago wind blew the steeple off the Presbyterian church. On Monday old Boreas heaved about a third of the roof off their chapel. We can't understand this recurrent evidence of Nature's wrath. We had been under the impression that our Presbyterian friends have been doing better since their steeple toppled over on them.

If it is at all possible to invoke the drastic Jones law against liquor traffic violators we earnestly hope that it can be made applicable to the two Congressmen who posed as dyes and voted for it and then carried liquor into this country from Cuba under their congressional prerogative of immunity from search. Talk about disrespect for laws. What else can be expected from people who know that such hypocrites make them?

We shall read no more of Calvin Coolidge, the former President. Not that we don't enjoy the occasional news flashes of his meanderings about Northampton but we just don't want to know too much about our former President. When we read that he fished for trout with worms we pitied him. When the news came up from Florida that he was sitting in a blind, with a double barreled shot gun waiting for a doe deer to come in range we couldn't believe it. On Sunday we read that he leaves the bands on his cigars when he smokes them. Lord, how we wish we had missed that paragraph. If anyone were to tell us now that there is always a glass of tooth picks on the Coolidge dinner table we think we'd believe even that.

At the Easter morning service in one of the churches of Bellefonte we saw the pastor baptize ten infants. They ranged from a few months to two years in age. Not one of the tots whimpered when they were taken from their parents arms to be carried to the baptismal font. In fact every one of them seemed to go with expectant joy into the arms of the officiating clergyman. It was an unusual occurrence. In fact we might be warranted in saying that it was unprecedented—and why? We know no other answer than that the clergyman must have that mysterious something that children intuitively divine. That something that inspires confidence and love in the hearts of all of God's creatures before they have come to the age of reasoning, the faulty processes of which too often kill the beautiful nature with which God endows all infants. Show us the person to whom little tots and dogs just naturally turn and we'll show you a person who has something we covet—and it can't be cultivated.

Because we have become convinced that the malady with which we habitually suffer is enlargement of the heart and not "pipp," as we have always thought, we want to offer irrefutable evidence of the accuracy of our diagnosis of our own case. In ten days the opening of the trout season will be here. On Friday we brought our rod home from the shellacking Coxey had given it. In our vest pocket is a celluloid button bearing the number 66204—that's our license. An hour ago we assorted all our left over flies. So we are ready. There's no use of our going out, however. While taking the lunks out of the leaders of those old flies we caught more fish than all the fellows carrying license numbers from 1 up to 66203 will get. Those moments of complete absorption in anticipation are the ones during which we were convinced that we suffer with enlargement of the heart for then we resolved to give to the poor and the sick all the trout we catch in excess of the number we hooked while fondling the old neivilles, the hare's ears, the cowdungs and the greenwell's glories.

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Time for New Borough Financing.

The maturity date of the funded debt of Bellefonte borough seems to have been one of the least of the worries of council. Happily the sinking fund had been properly maintained so that when \$75,000.00 of matured bonds were unexpectedly presented, Monday night, for payment council was not thrown into panic because the money was in bank to redeem them. The balance of outstanding bonds aggregate \$18,000.00. While there is no money in sight for their redemption on presentation the amount is not large enough to cause much trouble in financing.

While the redemption of the last of this issue of bonds will leave the borough without any funded debt we have floating obligations to the amount of \$98,000.00. On this we are paying interest charges at the rate of five to six per cent. It would appear to be the prudent and practicable thing for council now to ask the tax payers to vote on a proposal to make a new bond issue consolidating all the current indebtedness. Such an issue could probably be floated at four or four and one half per cent. Certainly an interest rate to yield not higher than five per cent. would be attractive to investors looking for such high grade securities. Such a funding of the floating indebtedness would be good financing in several ways. It would reduce the annual interest charge. It would relieve the Finance committee and the Borough Treasurer of the annoyance of monthly renewal of notes. It would make it possible to make an assessment for taxes on the borough indebtedness that would be reasonably sure to meet the annual requirements. It would enable council to start with a clean slate and give it opportunity to prove, if it can, that it is competent to run the borough on the sound basis of making each year's taxes meet the expenses planned when they are levied.

We believe that if a bond issue sufficiently large to fund every note outstanding, the balance due on the Phoenix and Gamble mill properties, with an allowance ample to electrify the latter as well as provide a reasonable working capital to tide over the interim just prior to the tax payment date, were floated it would be an economic blessing to Bellefonte. If this were done every taxpayer would know exactly how much interest tax should be raised. And we think it would be materially less than we are paying now. Also it would be good business then to make each department of the borough's activities—borough, street, water and interest, stand on its legs. In other words, let no department spend during the tax year more than had been levied for its maintenance during that year.

This latter tendency explains why there is so much floating indebtedness to care for. Council has failed to properly survey it's possible problems of maintenance, improvements and developments for the year ahead when it fixes the millage. The result has been that every department, with the exception of the Water, runs behind and new notes are negotiated to make up the deficiency. It would be far better if such deficiencies were anticipated in an increased millage rate, for the taxpayers, themselves, would be more concerned and want to know more about why this and that is being done.

The death of Ambassador Herlick, in Paris on Sunday, makes a place for another liberal contributor to the slush fund.

Senator Scott Fathers New Highway Bills.

State Senator Harry B. Scott has introduced seven new State highway bills in the Senate, five of them relating to new stretches of road in Clearfield county and two in Centre county. The latter two are designated as Senate Bills 547 and 548. The first provides for an important link beginning at Runville, thence via Yarnell and Romola to Eagleville. The second would run from Old Fort westward through Linden Hall and Oak Hall to Lemont.

A stretch of highway in Centre county which has already been placed on the primary system is that down Bald Eagle valley from Milesburg to the Clinton county line, which will also be continued to Mill Hall, in Clinton county. Several other stretches of road have been on the secondary system for a year or more but so far no work has been done on any of them. Hon. J Laird Holmes, however, states that the highway situation will be worked out before the Legislature adjourns and he expresses the belief that Centre county will get all that is coming to it.

Improvement but not Perfection.

The special grand jury which investigated the vice conditions in Philadelphia completed its labors and submitted its report to the court last week. It performed a long-drawn out and exceedingly arduous public service. Beginning in August of last year it worked earnestly and efficiently over a period of eight months and revealed conditions which must have shocked every right-minded man and woman in the community. Corruption pervaded every department of the city government and levying graft seems to have been the principal industry of the public officials. A partnership between criminals and politicians was clearly exposed and the people have been victims of a criminal conspiracy for years.

In its final report the jury expresses regret that it was unable to procure indictments against certain leaders in this orgie of crime. The refusal of witnesses to testify the "whole truth" against the "higher-ups" in the conspiracy defeated the purpose. But it accomplished much good. It broke up an unholy alliance between a bank and a body of bootleggers, it drove out of office a compeplacent if not actually corrupt head of the police department, it exposed a lot of grafting policemen and sent some of them to jail, it closed up a large number of speak-easies and compelled a number of party sub-bosses to make a pretense of decent behavior for a time, at least. These achievements were worth the time and expense they cost.

But they give little assurance of a permanent cure of the moral maladies with which Philadelphia is afflicted. The corrupt Vore machine is still functioning and its purposes for the future are no better than its practices in the past. The other day the United States district attorney for that district resigned and the indications are that Mr. Vore's personal attorney will be named to fill the vacancy. To continue the improvement effected by the grand jury it is necessary that the federal and State authorities cooperate in a crusade against vice. With a servile Vore following in the office of United States district attorney there is little hope of such collaboration. The machine doesn't want reform.

Mr. Mitten, Philadelphia traction boss, threatens to defy the Public Service Commission. That's a Mitten merriment. He knows the P. S. C. will not defy him.

Regulating Coal and Iron Police.

Inasmuch as the Federation of Labor and the United Mine Workers of America have approved the bill sponsored by Representative Musmanno, of Allegheny county, amending the coal and iron police law, the rest of us have little cause of complaint. The measure limits the operations of private policemen to the property of their employers, requires a residence in the State of one year, requires corporations employing them to give a bond in the amount of \$2000 for the good behavior of each man and compels them to take prisoners they arrest before a local magistrate or public police station. These provisions mark a great improvement upon the practice of the last-quarter of a century.

In supporting his bill Mr. Musmanno said "the biggest trouble with the coal and iron police was that in many instances they were unprincipled ruffians imported from other States without regard to their previous history or character." As a rule they served as strike breakers and trouble makers rather than as peace officers and their efficiency was measured by their ruthlessness. They assumed the right to go anywhere in the neighborhood of their employment, make arrests, searches and seizures without warrant and exercise all the rights and privileges of the State constabulary, township and borough constables and municipal policemen. It was high time to put a check on their pernicious activities.

It is a dangerous thing to confer police authority upon private corporations and individuals, however worthy they may be of public confidence. The police power of the State should be held within the control of the State. If Pennsylvania were bankrupt and unable to meet the proper expenses of safe-guarding the persons and property of the people there might be some excuse for conferring police power on corporations in emergencies. But fortunately the State is not reduced to such a state of impecuniosity. It is able, and ought to be willing, to fulfill its obligations to the people and discharge its duties to the taxpayers. For that reason the proper thing to do is to abolish the coal and iron police.

Admirable but Futile Action.

The people of Williamsport are not willing to let the recently proposed inquiry into the activities of the Public Service Commission drop out of sight. For some months the people of that city have been trying to take over the Williamsport Water company. Six months ago the question was argued before the Public Service Commission but the decision of the question has not been handed down. Meantime, according to a petition submitted to a committee of the State Senate, the other day, \$100,000 has been added to the original cost of the water company property, which under the process of acquisition will have to be paid by the city if the decision is ultimately in its favor.

The petition of the city was presented to a special committee of Senators named for another but analogous purpose. After stating that the Public Service Commission is "wholly indifferent to the interests of the city of Williamsport and its inhabitants," the petition continues, "your petitioners are further of the opinion that one of the reasons for the delay in handing down a decision in said proceeding is, said Commission is fearful lest as a result of the decision it shall render in said case attacks will be made in the Legislature upon the methods of procedure before said Commission and amendments proposed to the act creating said Commission and procedure before it, which would limit the power of said Commission in such cases and take from it part of the jurisdiction it now holds."

The intentions of the people of Williamsport are admirable but the action will be futile. The Senators to whom the petition was presented promptly replied they could do nothing and that the process should be by resolution instead of petition. A resolution, if offered, will be referred to a committee and pigeon-holed. The Republican machine will permit no legislative action which might embarrass the Public Service Commission. That agent of corporate greed is the instrument with which the Mellons, Grundy and Governor Fisher protect the slush fund contributors from burdens and annoyances and reimburses them for the money invested in politics.

Governor Fisher can't accuse the Legislators of recalcitration. It is the most obedient Legislature in history.

Fatal Weak Spots in Legislation.

Governor Fisher greatly encouraged the mutilation of the voting machine enabling act when he declared that "if there are any weak spots in the measure they can be corrected in the session of 1931." There may have been weak spots in the bill as it was written by the non-partisan association which prepared it. But there was no misunderstanding of the purpose they had in mind. It was to prevent pollution of the ballot, if possible, or to minimize it. The most prolific source of ballot frauds is in the so-called "assistance to voters." To curtail that evil the original bill forbade any one other than a sworn member of the election board to enter the booth with the voter for any purpose.

The weak spot in the measure, as it passed the Senate last week, lies in the amendment which authorizes any voter to call into the booth with him for the purpose of assisting him if he be blind or so crippled as to be unable to understand the process, any "qualified elector" who happens to be present. This is the weakness which Governor Fisher condones for the present because it may be corrected in the future. But it in large measure defeats the purpose of the voting machines. There will always be paid party henchmen available for the service and the orgie of fraud will go on, notwithstanding the voting machine, as it has gone on before.

The Republican machine managers in Pennsylvania are unanimously and unalterably opposed to effective ballot reform legislation. They have made a false pretense of approving the voting machine enabling act for two reasons. First they felt confident that it could be so mutilated that it would be worthless and second because they could use the bill as a buffer to ward off just demands for other equally important ballot reform legislation. Two years ago Governor Fisher made similar pretense of favoring ballot reform legislation and allowed an unimportant improvement to be made. He got a commission for the purpose of delay then as he is using the voting machine bill now.

Now it is asserted that science destroys human love. This is certainly "the blow that killed father."

APRIL SHOWERS.

Just clouds before the sunshine
Rain, and then the flowers
Momentary wavering
Twixt winter and the spring
Tunes our hearts for all the joys
The coming months may bring.
Smile at clouds, the wind and rains,
Blithe summer comes apace,
For every smile you give away
Two smiles will take its place.
W. B. MEEK MORRIS.

Catholic Churches Join Near East Relief Work.

The diocese of Altoona, in conjunction with other dioceses throughout the United States, will inaugurate the third annual membership roll-call of the Catholic Near East welfare association on Sunday, April 21, according to plans now being formulated in all Catholic churches of the diocese. Bishop John J. McCort has accepted the invitation of the Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S. J., president of the association, to participate in the organization's annual appeal.

Particular interest attaches to this roll-call of the association, which is sponsored by Pope Pius XI, in view of this being the 50th anniversary of the elevation of His Holiness to the priesthood. As in former years funds collected during the appeal will be placed at the disposal of Pope Pius who directs their disbursement throughout the world in accordance with a six-fold program of philanthropic effort. Relief, welfare, education, international peace, religious harmony and worldwide charities are the benefactors of "The Holy Father's Community Chest," through which American Catholic contributions to this cause are distributed.

Since its inception three years ago at the instance of Pope Pius, the Catholic Near East welfare association has constantly tended to widen its scope and multiply its activities. Although its basic work is confined to the Near East and Russian youths in continental Europe exiled from their native country because of political causes, the association has on frequent occasions acted in grave emergencies outside these confines. Last September it assembled a medical unit on twenty-four hours notice, following the Porto Rico hurricane, with the result that two doctors and six nurses were dispatched to the stricken area where they were actually the first on the scene of the disaster. In the same manner the association cabled a substantial sum for the relief of earthquake victims in Bulgaria, and is aiding in the rehabilitation of the destitute families there now.

Young Teddy Again.

Republican politicians always seem to have Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., on their minds; they can't get him placed. Their latest idea is that he should be appointed governor general of the Philippines, succeeding Colonel Henry L. Stimson, the new Secretary of State.

This idea is based on the assumption that the party or the country owes something to him. Just what that debt is we have never been able to discover.

For some reason, however, President Harding made him assistant secretary of the navy as his father had been before him. In that post he won notoriety as "the messenger boy" who carried from the Secretary of the Navy to the President the famous transfer of naval oil reserves to the Secretary of the Interior, which resulted in the Teapot Dome and Elk Hills scandals. He has been a director of the Sinclair Oil and Refining company.

When the people of his own State of New York had a chance to vote on him for Governor, they rejected him. Why then foist him on the Filipinos who have no chance to vote him down?
His friends have yet to show anything in his training or experience which would cancel some of his obvious disqualifications.

Capt. Wilkins, the airplane pilot who flew over the North Pole with the Byrd expedition, was a twenty minute visitor in Bellefonte, on Tuesday though it was not generally known until he had departed. He was a passenger on an airship which made a brief stop at the aviation field.

Congressman Morgan may have fallen a victim to gallantry and then he may be only trying out the Adam act of "hiding behind the woman's skirts."

Al Smith's brown derby pretty nearly broke up the Atlantic City Easter parade. That famous lid can do anything except carry elections.

Read the Watchman for the news

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

After visiting the grave of his wife and placing flowers there, to "make it nice for Easter," Lawrence S. Moyer, 30, went to his home in Bechtelsville, Berks county, and fired a bullet through his head. He was found dead by his father, who heard the pistol report.

One boy was killed and two others injured seriously, by a rock which rolled down a hillside where they were playing Sunday, near Warren, Pa. The rock rolled over Joseph Sigliano, killing him, and mangling Daniel Lucia's leg. The other boy was not seriously hurt.

A. A. McDonald, 65, prominent farmer and road supervisor of Porter township, Jefferson county, was instantly killed late Thursday afternoon when a section of a blasted stump flying a distance of 200 feet landed on him, crushing out his life. With a crew of men he was engaged in blasting stumps along the highway near Phoenix when the accident occurred.

Harry W. Whitney, of Shields, Allegheny county, postponed his honeymoon for at least one year last week. Mrs. Whitney, his bride of one day, returned to her parents after Whitney was sentenced to serve from one to two years in the workhouse for stealing wearing apparel from three homes. Police said Whitney pawned the stolen clothing to get funds for his honeymoon.

Contract for the erection of the new mosque of Jaffa Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, in Altoona, has been awarded to the Columbia Construction company, Altoona. The bid was on an alternate basis and the committee has several decisions to make before the exact price will be determined. It is estimated that the temple will cost between \$600,000 and \$665,000 when completed.

Dr. George M. Sutton, State ornithologist, suffered dislocation of five ribs and a spine injury while on a hunt for raven eggs, in the mountain. While attempting to reach the nest on a bluff near McElhattan he fell when a rock ledge gave away. He dropped fifty feet and rolled down a slope, but was able to walk a mile and a half to an automobile in which he was taken to a hospital in Lock Haven. Sutton was accompanied by Game Warden John B. Ross.

A quarrel over a young woman early on Saturday, brought about the death of Dorwood Heiney, 35, of Washington, Pa., alleged to have been fatally shot by William Loughman, 22, Loughman is in jail without bond. Loughman, according to police, followed Heiney and John Jones as they escorted Miss Gertrude Baer, 15, to her home. A fight resulted, it was said, and Heiney was shot in the abdomen. Heiney and Loughman had both been paying attention to the girl.

Burial of a dog in a human cemetery has directed a shower of protest on members of the Union Cemetery Association at Greensburg. Last week Teddy, a silver terrier, owned by H. H. Kettering, of the New Alexandria road, near Greensburg, was laid to rest in a \$300 metal casket, smothered in flowers, on the Kettering family burial lot in the Union cemetery in Greensburg. Other lot owners indicate action will be taken to have the dog's body removed.

O. J. Coats, 28 years old, of Carnegie, is being held on a charge of stealing a trolley car. Police said he took it from the yards of the Pittsburgh Railways company and went joy-riding. Employees of the company said the car was driven out of the yards before they could halt it. Officers found the trolley car near West View park and Coats wandering about nearby. While Coats denied he had taken the car the police said he was identified as the unauthorized operator.

Mrs. Adam Riddle, of Windsor, York county, is suffering from painful lacerations and bruises to her head and body, the result of being kicked and trampled upon by several cows when she attempted to do the evening milking. The woman had started milking one of the cows when the animal began kicking and knocking Mrs. Riddle under a cow in an adjoining stall. Not until she had sustained numerous bruises was she able to escape the hoofs of the frightened animals.

Fanned by a terrific wind, a three-alarm fire did \$40,000 to \$50,000 damage to the old Guffey mansion in Pittsburgh, late on Monday afternoon. A few minutes after the fire broke out, Col. J. M. Guffey, who has been ill for some time, was assisted from the house by a nurse and a fireman. How the fire started was not clear. The mansion, one of the historic residences in Pittsburgh, has been the home of the Guffey clan for many generations. Colonel Guffey is an outstanding Democratic leader, being a former national committeeman.

Clayton Bender, 20, of Warble, and Elmer Imes, 35, Pleasant View, Juniata county, are in jail at Lewistown accused of firing seven barns worth \$100,000. Bender admitted to five, and planting fires in two more. Imes confessed to the others. Both planted meat-fat and matches in straw. Bender always attended the fires, often offering the owner sympathy. Both worked with thresher outfits. The barns were burned within six weeks in a radius of 10 miles, and in many cases meant ruin for the farmer. Both were held for court without bail.

An 85-year-old farmer lay near death in a hospital at Berwick of burns, suffered when a grass fire he had started set fire to his clothing. Joseph G. Swank, Civil war veteran and former Columbia county commissioner, was burning the grass off a field in preparation for his spring plowing. A change in the wind swept the fire toward him. Swank ran to a barbed wire fence to crawl between the strands and reach safety. His clothing snagged on the barbs. Efforts to free himself served only to ensnare him further in the wire, and he was badly burned by the time rescuers arrived.

Samuel Brillhart, a farmer of near Thomasville, York county, is confined to the West Side sanatorium, in York, suffering from severe lacerations and injuries to his right knee and hip, which he sustained when he was gored by a bull while he was feeding it on his farm. The animal was regarded as a dangerous one and had been penned up. While Mr. Brillhart was preparing a straw bed for the animal in the barn it leaped at him and gored him. He was knocked to the floor and rendered unconscious. His wife heard the noise and his moans and she ran to his rescue.