

## INK SLINGS.

—The size of the wicker furniture on the sun porch doesn't reflect the importance of those who loiter in it.

—Connie Mack doesn't give the public a hopeful view of the future achievements of the Athletics. Probably he is only preparing for an agreeable surprise next fall.

—Of course it is none of our business but we would just love to know what was in the bottle Mrs. Pinchot thought she had in hand when she started drinking that hair tonic.

—The attempt to "bomb" Governor Roosevelt and the burning of his son-in-law's home indicates that somebody has a real grievance against that superb Democratic statesman.

—The two Congressmen accused of smuggling liquor into the United States deny "the soft impeachment." A judicial investigation may determine whether they "are sinners" against or sinning.

—Edward E. Beidleman, Republican leader of Dauphin county, a clever lawyer and a mighty likable fellow, is dead. He didn't tarry long after his friend Harry Baker went on the great adventure and we hope that both of them have found an eternity of happy days.

—A new spirit has edged into the group around the Republican campaign on the Styx. We can almost see Quay, Cooper, Penrose, Elkins, Crow, Lane and Baker edging up to make room for "Eddie" Beidleman and how the old fellows will twit him for permitting himself to be counted out of that gubernatorial nomination in 1926.

—E. J. A. writes from Cleveland, Ohio, that "when I settle myself in my easy chair, Friday nights, with my Watchman I am happy because it is a man I can always trust." Of course we don't want to shatter the lady's faith in her gentleman friend, but we do feel it our duty to advise caution, because the Watchman knows a lot about forms and how to press them just right.

—Harry F. Sinclair, oil magnate, has lost his last appeal and must go to jail for three months. Harry is said to be worth a hundred million. Men who accumulate much money invariably do so because they love the game of getting it. The zest for accumulating makes a loss more serious to some of them than it is to one who hasn't the competitive spirit in the game of riches. We know some to whom Sinclair's five hundred dollar fine would be more punishment than his three months' in jail.

—In New York Jimmy Walker had to get Grover Whalen to do the "glad to see you" act for the city. Our ubiquitous Mayor needs no pinch hitter when celebrities arrive. He is right on the job tendering the keys to the community and effervescing pleasantries—and they must be some pleasantries for, on Monday night, Amelia Earhart, trans-Atlantic flier, passed up a dozen or more invitations of consequence to go motoring with our Mayor. She didn't do that for Grover when she arrived in New York.

—On pages 6 and 7 of this issue the auditors' statement of the business of Centre county for the year 1928 will be found. Every tax payer in the county should be interested in the details set forth therein. While we have not had time to analyze it a glance at the total expenditures, as compared with those of 1927, shows that the cost of our county government has increased about sixty thousand dollars during the year. Several factors have contributed to this advance, some of them necessitated by new laws and others are items of doubtful necessity. The steadily mounting cost of conducting the county's business is a matter that should be given the serious thought of those who have the bills to pay, for it is a certainty that taxes, instead of being reduced, must be increased if expenses continue to grow as they have during 1928.

—Several weeks ago we advised those opposed to the extra cent gasoline tax to write to our Senator and Representative in Harrisburg and urge them to vote against the bill authorizing it. Mr. Holmes voted for the bill in the House, so we infer that not enough of his constituents advised him of their opposition to make him feel that there is any considerable opposition to it. There is another bill that might get out of the committee to which it was referred that is far more dangerous than any that has been before the Legislature in years. It is Senate bill, No. 537, granting the right of eminent domain to telegraph and telephone companies. Any property owner in Centre county who is not opposed to such legislation needs a lunacy commission. Senator Scott or the Hon. Holmes might vote for it, should it be brought out of committee. So we would advise you to let them know that you are not in favor of legislation that would permit the erection of wire lines all over your premises and permit others to say what damages had been done on your property. We have sounded the warning, so don't say that the Watchman wasn't on the look out for your interests if this piece of usurping legislation becomes law.

## Democratic Watchman

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## Mr. Wilson is Confident.

William B. Wilson, who was the Democratic candidate for Senator in Congress in 1926, approaches the final stage of his contest for that seat in full confidence of success. He is now in Washington for the purpose of presenting the final argument before the sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. "We have completed the collection of evidence," he said to a reporter for the Associated Press the other day, "and it shows conclusively that fraud was so widespread in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh that the legal votes cannot be separated from the illegal. Therefore we contend that the entire vote of those cities should be thrown out."

It is a well-established principle of law that deliberate fraud vitiates everything it touches. The evidence to which Mr. Wilson refers is that obtained in the investigations of the Slush Fund committee of the Senate and that revealed before the sub-committee of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. In both cases the most startling frauds were exposed by witnesses who supported Mr. Vare, and it is practically certain that if Mr. Cunningham had answered relevant questions put to him it would have been shown that a considerable portion of the vast fund collected and expended in the interest of Vare was acquired by levies on the criminals of Philadelphia under pledge of protection.

If the entire vote of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia is thrown out Mr. Wilson will have a majority of more than 100,000. If it were possible to separate the fraudulent from the honest votes in those cities and give to Vare all that belonged to him, Wilson would still have the Vare majority in Allegheny county Wilson had a majority of approximately 100,000 outside of Philadelphia and including the Allegheny county vote, but excluding that of Philadelphia Wilson's majority would be close to 50,000. But even in the face of these facts it requires a good deal of optimism to hope for a favorable report from the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The fact has been revealed that the Pittsburgh Plate Glass corporation is offering to sell its products in Canada at a good deal less price than it exacts from American consumers, while Uncle Andy Mellon, who controls the Pittsburgh corporation, is demanding increased tariff taxes on plate glass.

## Social War in Washington.

President Hoover may be able to solve the farm relief problem in a fashion which will fool the farmers of the corn belt and he may possibly satisfy the bootleggers and the Anti-Saloon League in the matter of law enforcement. But he has a problem on hands now that will tax his ingenuity to the limit. It is the question of precedence at social functions at the National capital. This question involves the pride and prejudices of the women of the official social set, and however it may be settled there will be created irreconcilable enmities. Former Secretary of State Kellogg tried to assume the burden of disposing of it but, as usual, he made a muddle of the job.

Vice President Curtis is a widower and his sister, Mrs. Edward E. Gann, is mistress of his social establishment. The question is as to her place at the table. If his wife were living she would rank next to the wife of the President. But Mr. Kellogg decided that the wives of Ambassadors are entitled to precedence over Mrs. Gann, and hence the social disturbance. The Vice President has appealed from the decision of Kellogg and asked his successor in office, Mr. Stimson, who is investigating the subject, to issue a reverse order. Meantime all the hosts and hostesses in the city are in a state of terror. One authority on the subject declares that the penalty of an error is "social death."

Charlie Curtis makes no claim to be an expert on social etiquette. Out in Kansas, where he was born and bred, such questions are not given much consideration. During his many years in official life in Washington he was entirely satisfied to be called a fairly good poker player in Congress. But his sister is of a different mind on the subject, and as she is a half Indian, objects to seeing her scalp dangling at the belt of a social rival no better qualified to reign as queen of the feast than herself. The discussion of the subject has created great interest among the social leaders in Washington and it is to be hoped will be settled without bloodshed.

## Ballot Reform Bills Stifled?

The present session of the General Assembly will adjourn finally next Thursday. That is, there are only three legislative days between the assembling on Monday evening and the end of the session. During that brief period confusion will be the "order of the day." Pet measures of the machine will be forced to the front and log-rolling and jockeying for place will absorb the energies of the Legislature, and measures which have no recommendation except merit will be lost in the shuffle. The closing days of a legislative session are more like the excesses of a frenzied mob than the proceedings of a deliberative body. This is especially true of the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Within a week from the time fixed for presenting bills in the present session twelve or fifteen bills in the interest of electoral reform were presented. These measures were the fruits of careful investigation, made by men and women of high character and lofty purposes, covering a period of six years. They were recommended to prompt consideration as essential to honest elections and just government. The leaders of the dominant party which controlled the deliberations of the session made false pretense of favoring all, or nearly all, these measures. But only one, the voting machine enabling act, was considered and it was so mutilated as to make its value questionable.

There is but one inference to be drawn from these facts. That is that the leaders of the Republican party in Pennsylvania don't want honest elections. W. L. Mellon, Joseph R. Grundy and Governor Fisher could have had every one of these bills enacted into law if they had expressed such a desire. Such servility to bosses has never been known, and no bosses have ever before revealed such indifference to moral obligations. The voting machine enabling act will do some good though the purpose of its mutilation was to minimize that result. But the failure to pass the other measures will make ballot box stuffing, vote stealing and other crimes prosperous industries for some time.

The mob which attacked dry agents at Bethlehem, the other day, must have been made up of the bootleggers who carried Northampton county for Hoover last fall.

## Our Partnership in Crime.

The partnership between politics and crime seems to have taken in a new member and increased its working capital. In its original form it was able to protect criminals, debauch elections and exploit the public in various and sinister ways. But it was not all-powerful. It encountered a snag now and then which defeated its purpose. The refusal to admit William S. Vare to a seat in the Senate which the partnership had procured for him by bribery and corruption suggested the necessity of increasing its power. There was something the matter with the machinery. There was a weakness somewhere that required strengthening.

In this predicament the partnership made a survey and found the trouble. The underworld and the machine politicians discovered that it needed more force and more capital and invited the State administration to come in "on the ground floor." The administration had troubles of its own and was willing to take a chance. The machine was threatened with annihilation. The administration was in imminent danger of a rebuke. For some inexplicable reason it wanted to increase the gasoline tax. The underworld wanted a renewal of its license to loot, murder and pillage. They "pooled their issues" and the tax bill was passed while the measure to protect the people from criminals was strangled.

So flagrant an outrage against the people of Pennsylvania was never attempted before. Without the help of the administration the Woodward bill providing for the reorganization of have been defeated. Without the police of Philadelphia could not help of corrupt politicians the increase of the gasoline tax could not have been enacted. The administration knew that public opinion was, and is, overwhelmingly against the increase. It must have known that such an increase was not necessary and that taking money from the people to create treasury surpluses or indulge in profligate enterprises is larceny. But the administration joined the partnership for a sinister purpose.

Professor Dutcher may be correct in his statement that there is no such malady as spring fever, but he has to show us.

## Sinclair and Then Cunningham.

Harry F. Sinclair will have to go to jail. In this case justice "traveled on a leaden heel" and "struck with a velvet hand." In March, 1924, he refused to answer pertinent questions put to him by a Special committee of the Senate and was arraigned in the Supreme court of the District of Columbia for contempt. That court pronounced him guilty and he appealed to the Supreme court of the United States which has now unanimously affirmed the verdict of the lower tribunal. He will now have the right to ask for a rehearing and will avail himself of that time consuming process but with little expectation of success. Such appeals have rarely been granted in the past.

The decision is of great public importance because it demonstrates that even "malefactors of great wealth" may be brought to punishment for violation of law. Mr. Sinclair had openly adopted the opposite view of this subject. He arrogantly paraded his wealth and defied the law. He even invaded the "temples of justice" and established a system of espionage on juries organized to pass upon his conduct. He obtained verdicts in his favor by mysterious methods and almost persuaded many minds that money guarantees immunity from penalties. The decision of the court, handed down on Monday, will in part, at least, remove this mischievous notion. Sinclair, notwithstanding his millions, will go to jail.

The people of Pennsylvania have a special interest in this judicial determination. For years the government and policies of the State have been controlled by a group of unscrupulous millionaires who flout the law. One of the emissaries of this group is under indictment in the District of Columbia court for precisely the same offense as that which has brought Harry Sinclair to a jail sentence. During the investigation of the Vare case in the Senate Thomas Cunningham defied the officers of the law and laughed at their failures to apprehend him. He relied upon the potency of Sinclair's money to secure his own immunity and now that Sinclair has failed Cunningham will be brought to justice.

There have been a good many surprises during the present session of the Legislature, and Senator Buckman seems to have developed the last one.

## Cunningham Case Coming to Trial.

The case of Thomas W. Cunningham, sheriff of Philadelphia county, will be argued before the Supreme court in Washington on the 22nd day of April. Briefs were submitted by Attorney General Mitchell and former Attorney General George W. Wickersham a week ago. It is the first step in the reopening of the Vare effort to break into the Senate. In his testimony before the Slush Fund committee, two years ago, Cunningham testified that he had contributed \$50,000 to the Vare slush fund but refused to tell where he got the money. Because of this the Senate committee declared him in contempt. Subsequently the Circuit court, sitting in Philadelphia, decided that the committee had exceeded its authority.

At the time, and for some years previous, Mr. Cunningham was clerk of courts in Philadelphia, earning a salary of \$8000 a year and obviously unable to contribute so liberally from his own resources. The presumption was, therefore, that the money had been obtained by levying on the municipal officials of that city, which was contrary to law, or by exacting contributions from the bootleggers and criminals, which is repugnant to every principle of morality. In the circumstances the questions were entirely relevant and his refusal to answer was contemptuous. The Senate committee accordingly cited him to answer the charge of contempt in the Supreme court of the District of Columbia.

There were abundant reasons and ample precedent for the action of the Senate committee. In a precisely similar situation the Supreme court of the United States compelled Mal Daugherty, of Ohio, brother of the then Attorney General of the United States, to submit the books of a bank of which he was president, and there can be no doubt that following the same line of reasoning Mr. Cunningham will be compelled to reveal the source of his contribution to the Vare slush fund or pay the penalty which is a term in prison. Such an issue of the controversy ought to be welcomed by the people of Pennsylvania because it will teach the arrogant bosses, intoxicated with power, that they are amenable to law.

—Read the Watchman for the news

## THE 'OLE TROUT HOLE.

I don't know what's got over me. It seems I can't sit still. My wife says, "What's the matter John?" You look pale around the gill. I wander down, to the barn yard gate. An' gaze at the meadow green. An' I feel a strange uneasy thrill. As I list, to the murmuring stream.

An' then in the clear, an' silent depth, Of the forest sweet, an' cool. I see a spotted form flash by. Deep down in the Ole Trout Pool. I dash for the house, an' my rod, an' reel. An' slip on my ole' hip boots. I know what's the matter, the time is here.

To go out for the speckled beauts. I get a tin can, an' dig me some worms. An' hunt up the ole' flybook. An' up to the attic, three steps at a time. To get me a line, an' a hook.

I'm goin' a fishin' I says to my wife. Let the work, go. I don't care a hoot. She grinned, as she watched me tug, an' pull.

I was tryin' to get on the wrong boot.

So out to the trout stream, I hurry away. My heart beatin' high with hope. Out fer' the big one, that's fooled me for years.

I'll get him, fer' I've got the right dope. The first cast brings nothing, the second the same.

The third brought a mighty hard strike. The way that boy fought, till I landed him safe.

I never, in all my born days seen the like.

—By C. F. Rothenberger.

## Attention, Messrs Fisher, Grundy and Mellon!

From the Harrisburg Patriot.

Gentlemen: You have assumed responsibility for the leadership of the Republican party in Pennsylvania in shaping the legislative program of the present session. In specific instances you have demonstrated you have the power to determine what legislation shall and shall not pass. One of the major issues, before the Legislature is adequate election reform, which you, Governor, have advocated in your inaugural and other addresses.

The voting machine enabling bill, which the voters of the State last November by an overwhelming majority ordered the Legislature to enact, has been weakened seriously. Further emasculation threatens it. It is within the power of you leaders not only to restore this bill to its original vigor but to have enacted the measures to eliminate the "chain ballot," send ballot crooks to jail, impound surplus ballots, restrict assistance to voters physically incapacitated and other bills designed to safeguard the voting booth.

You are asked to do in this case only what you have demonstrated you have been able to do in other cases. Postponement or compromise can be interpreted only as yielding to the enemies of a clean ballot.

Pure elections are fundamentally essential to honest and efficient government. They constitute the keystone of the arch. If the keystone is weakened, the arch falls.

Pennsylvania by its history of election debauchery is pilloried before the Nation. One of its Senators is barred at the door of Congress on that account. Your party and your administration are honor bound to complete the work begun last session and authorized by the voters last November. The people expect you to ally yourselves on the side of civic decency and against the vandals who ravish the polling places of honest citizens.

As leaders of the Republican party and as citizens, the opportunity and the responsibility are yours. The people have a right to expect performance. They will not be satisfied with apology or explanation if the session adjourns without providing adequate election reform.

## AN EDITOR'S LAMENT.

From the Pathfinder.

A Maine editor voices the following dirge: "We have many subscribers who have taken our paper for four years and have paid us nothing. Do such persons think we can live on birch bark, like a Cossack's horse, or grow fat by inhaling the west wind? Do they suppose the Female Charitable Society find us with clothes? Do they suppose that paper, types, ink, and many other costly and necessary articles are sent to us by unknown and invisible hands? Whatever Dr. Faustus might have done, the black art of modern printers has no such magic in it. When hungry, we have no time to fish and hunt, and it would be impious to expect a sheet full of good things to be miraculously let down from the heavens by the four corners, as in the case of Peter; and as to being fed by ravens, it is more likely that the ravens will feed scantily upon us—unless we get some money shortly."

—Senator Capper, of Kansas, magnifies the iniquities of New York but is unable to see the greater iniquities of Philadelphia.

—The House of Representatives, on Monday evening, passed finally the bill appropriating \$345,000 to Rockview penitentiary.

## SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Colonel Jarvis J. Bain, United States engineer, and party who are traveling on Allegheny river in speed boats, arrived at Warren and departed for Olean, N. Y.

—Charles Walker, an employee of the Elk Fire Brick company at Renovo, suffered injuries to his eyes and was burned about the face, neck and chest in an explosion of powder in the clay mines of the company at Drury Run. He was removed to the Renovo hospital.

—The State Council of Education has made a special appropriation of \$18,000 to Burnside borough, Clearfield county, to be used in constructing a new four-room elementary school building. The structure will replace an old one now in use which has been condemned as unfit.

—There will be no licensing of barbers in Pennsylvania during the next two years. The senate committee on public health and sanitation Tuesday killed the bill of Speaker Hess requiring all barbers to take out a State license. The bill, supported by the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, had passed the House of Representatives.

—J. C. "Speed" Brown, Antis township, Blair county, constable who twice escaped from officers who had arrested him, was apprehended in Cumberland, Md., Tuesday, and is being held for Blair county officers. G. E. Fuoss, Bellwood justice of the peace, who had committed Brown to jail in default of \$1,000 bail, last night certified the charges to the district attorney.

—Three persons were electrocuted in the cellars of two houses in Biddle, Westmoreland county, last Thursday. Mrs. Paulina Canella, 34, met death when the globe of an electric light extension broke and her husband, Angelo, 51, was killed when he attempted to pick her up. Mrs. Jeaconda Menegas, 51, was killed when she touched a bare wire in her cellar two blocks away half an hour later.

—The maximum penalty for illegal trout fishing has been imposed upon Fred Jackson, George Jackson and H. E. McGonigal, all residents of Renovo, following their arrest near Keating by game protector Arthur G. Logue. They were found in possession of 130 brook trout, for which they were assessed \$10 each, plus a \$25 fine against each man for fishing without a license. Their fines totalled \$1,875 or \$625 apiece plus the costs of prosecution.

—Joseph G. Swank, the 84-year-old Columbia county farmer who was trapped in a barbed wire fence last Saturday when he fled before an advancing grass fire, died at the Berwick hospital. Swank, a Civil war veteran who had participated in thirty-two battles, had returned to his Mifflin township farm only a few days before he suffered the burns which caused his death. He had started a grass fire to clear a field in preparation for plowing but the wind shifted suddenly, sweeping the fire toward him.

—Taking her 10-year-old son, Donald Gates, to the Beaver Dam near Plintons, Cambria county, on Sunday evening, Gussie Gates, 35, unmarried, shot and killed the child and then committed suicide. The double tragedy was discovered by the dead woman's brother when a search was started after the two failed to return from church. The two bodies were lying partly in the shallow water. In the woman's right hand was a revolver. Both victims were shot through the head. Disappointment in a love affair is blamed by relatives.

—After having been unconscious for 125 hours, Harvey Wessner, 46, of Mt. Carmel, died in the State hospital at Ashland, on Sunday, from a fractured skull. Early Easter Monday morning Wessner and Lester Lindenmuth, 40, also of Mt. Carmel, were engaged in a form of William Tell sport. Their hats represented the apple, and a baseball bat the bow and arrow. Lindenmuth missed his aim and struck Wessner on the forehead, knocking him down a flight of stairs and fracturing his skull. Lindenmuth is held in the Sunbury jail and will be charged with murder.

—Blair county authorities are investigating an accident which cost the lives of two young women and sent a third to the hospital with severe injuries. Herbert C. Linn, trolley motorman, was held in \$5000 bail on an involuntary manslaughter charge, following the deaths of Miss Sylvia Lommeth, 25, of Schuylkill Haven, and Miss Mary Kessler, 19, of Tyrone. Miss Ruth Kessler, Tyrone, driver of the car, is still in the hospital. The accident occurred in front of the Methodist home, in Tyrone, on Saturday, when a Tyrone trolley car struck the coupe occupied by the three women.

—Warden Reits, of the Northumberland county prison, on Sunday discovered that prisoners have been enjoying smuggled whisky by an ingenious method. Standing outside of the grating of the main entrance to cell wings, visitors would pass a soda water straw through the half-inch steel mesh over the doors and hold the bottle's mouth close to the mesh, the prisoners either drinking the liquor or siphoning it into their own bottles to be used when needed. A sixteenth of inch mesh wire screen has been placed over the top of the present one and all visitors will be searched in the future.

—E. E. Kineman, of York, has been in the poultry business there many years, but not until last week did he ever purchase almost a crate of stones, thinking it was full of eggs. A dealer in Philadelphia in acknowledging receipt of a consignment of eggs from the York dealer, stated that in one shipment he found a crate supposed to contain white eggs, but instead of thirty dozens, nineteen dozens of eggs had been replaced with stones. Kineman bought the crate of eggs locally and shipped it to Philadelphia. While the top and side layers were made up of eggs, the remainder were stones.

—Miss Ruth Sprankle, 48, of Punxsutawney, died in the Punxsutawney hospital last Friday from burns received when her clothes caught fire in the loft of a barn at her home. She went to the loft that morning to get some bed springs. The loft was dark and she lit a match just as she felt a fainting spell coming on and started out of the building. She fell three feet from the stairs, the match igniting straw. When Eugene Geist found her, her clothing was almost all burned away. Miss Sprankle, immediately after the acquittal of Mrs. Bertha Haffner for the murder of State policeman Victor J. Busch, about a month ago, stated she had tied on the witness stand and had understood the dying words of the policeman to be, "She shot me."