

INK SLINGS.

Everybody is getting a ride in the stock market except the fellows who are holding the oils and coppers.

Soviet Russia's professions of peace gets a jolt in the brief time given to China to "toe the mark" or fight.

Still Secretary Davis will have some trouble in making the people believe that he is being forced to run for Governor.

There seems to be unusual mid-summer activity in politics in this State. The Republican machine "sees the handwriting on the wall."

Possibly it is because President Hoover isn't a good fisherman that he meets with so many disappointments on his week-end trips.

Mr. Vare proposes to make a political spectacle of the wedding of his daughter next week but then Vare needs a good deal of boosting.

The philanthropists of New York needn't worry. They couldn't keep Mayor Walker out of the race for re-election with a battering ram.

What wonderful harvest weather the farmers have had. Dry enough to season the hay and grain well and not too hot for comfort in the fields and in the mows.

Endurance flight records scarcely pay. Those Cleveland fliers suffered terrible discomfort to establish a new record and the very next week two Californians took to the air and stayed up so long that it looked as though they would never come down. Such glory is too short lived to be worth the hazard taken.

The new Federal Farm Board met and organized on Monday and, presto, wheat shot up nine cents a bushel. We can't see why, but it did. There were no unfavorable crop reports and no unusual foreign buying so that the only reason for the bulge must have been that speculators figure that it is a good buy up to the time the new Board announces its plan for stabilizing the price.

The party from Bigler, Clearfield county, is advised that neither the county commissioners, the trustees of the Catholic church, nor the trustees of the Union cemetery have set a price on the properties they control and which he or she last week made an offer to buy. Why not make a bid for the snow plow that the borough didn't buy or the exclusive franchise to supply the meat to feed the fish in Spring creek?

We have heard that Herman Cruse has announced that he will be a candidate for council in the West ward. Herman probably meant that he would be a candidate for the nomination. Be that as it may, West ward politics is looking up. G. Washington Rees is a candidate for nomination for assessor in the ward and overseer of the poor Tom Fleming is reported as favoring his son-in-law's candidacy for the same plum. If these rumors are true Reynolds Ave is likely to put off a lot of political pyrotechnics before the September primaries.

We note that the government is going to start at least six distilleries because the medicinal supply of liquor is getting low. Sick people are consuming the stuff at the rate of a million and a half gallons a year. Assuming that the population of the country is now one hundred and twenty-five million people; also assuming that one-twenty-fifth of that number is constantly sick and going far enough to assume that one-tenth of the number that is constantly sick is sick for hard liquor it would then appear that they are getting about a gallon a day. If that be so we admit doubt as to the efficacy of liquor. For we know of no other panacea where such dosage is prescribed.

We have discovered a new use for the radio. When the reception is good conditions are favorable for fishing. That is, a thunder storm is not likely to come up and cause the trout to stop jumping. Do you know that trout sense an electrical storm long before the fisherman who is whipping a stream has any idea that one is brewing? Many years of observation convince us that they do. The radio knows when a storm is brewing, too. Electricity in the air causes the static and when there is much static in the early evening there is not likely to be favorable fishing conditions later. At least, that's the way we dope it. On Tuesday afternoon reception was fine. We had an engagement for a dinner on our favorite trout stream that evening so we reased up and, at the last moment, decided to put the rod in its accustomed cradle, throw the boots and asket into the tonneau. When we arrived within hailing distance of our expected host and his party the rod and the boots began to talk to us; talk so persuasively that we drove right past the turn in place and forgot all about the dinner until it was too late to return. We came home with thirteen beautiful trout, not one of them under seven inches long and the largest eleven. We got them all between four-thirty and seven o'clock and everyone on a sixteen whirling in and a sixteen royal coachman. Our "bobber" was a cahill, but we didn't take a fish on it. Moral: When you're invited to a party when radio reception is good go fishing.

Democratic Watchman

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President Hoover's Favorite Sport.

President Hoover is considering the question of calling a conference or creating a commission to study the problem of unemployment. That seems to be his favorite method of "passing the buck." In answer to the demand for prohibition enforcement he named a commission to investigate the entire system of judicial procedure. In response to the urge for farm relief he has created a commission to devise means for serving the purpose. Recently a call came from a labor organization in Iowa to do something for the unemployed and he replied, "I believe it is desirable that an exhaustive inquiry should be made into the subject," and he expresses the hope that it will be taken up in the future.

If conditions are favorable the eminent gentlemen who compose the law enforcement commission may be able to come to some agreement and make report within a period of ten or fifteen years. The appropriation for this service is only \$250,000, and though the commissioners are not salaried the operating machinery will exhaust that sum within that time. The farm relief commission will probably function more expeditiously. It has the vast sum of half a billion dollars at its disposal, but if it adopts the method of buying and storing the wheat surplus as a medium of stabilization, the fund will be exhausted in three or four years and the agricultural distress will be quite as acute as at present.

The Iowa Federation of Labor appealed to the President to "call in conference outstanding men and women conversant with the needs of various groups to the end that the growing army of unemployed, due to the encroachments of the machine age, may be given permanent relief." The President's answer is characteristic and significant. "I am in hopes," he writes, "that when some of the momentarily pressing problems of the administration are out of the way we will be able to take it up." He leaves to conjecture what problems he appraises as of more importance than that of fulfilling his campaign pledge to put an end, not only to unemployment, but to poverty in all its hideous forms.

The Senators who are trimming up the tariff bill are having "a hot time" in Washington.

Protests that Should be Considered.

Twenty-five foreign governments, among them some of the leading powers of the commercial world, have filed protests against the proposed preposterous increase of tariff tax rates as expressed in the bill now under consideration by the Senate Committee on Finance. Information from Washington indicates that President Hoover is considerably worried over the matter, but sees no way of averting what might develop into trouble of very grave consequences. Senator Smoot, of Utah, chairman of the committee, pretends to be indifferent concerning it. He probably imagines that conserving the interests of the Mormon church is the paramount duty of the hour and increased sugar tax does that.

Possibly the intimation of reprisals contained in some of these protests would hardly be worth serious attention for the superiority of American made products will command a market in any event. But there are other elements in the equation of greater significance. The most prolific source of danger in the relations between nations lies in commercial competition, and if prohibitive tariff rates and insistence of settlement of war debts should cause industrial prostration in some of the protesting countries the chances of agreement on naval limitation would be greatly diminished. Our industrial adversaries on the other side of the seas might deem it advisable to retain any advantage they now enjoy.

The United States of America is a great and powerful nation but that does not give us license to dispense with the civilities which do, and should, obtain among civilized peoples. A three cents a pound tax on sugar might net a couple of million dollars to the Mormon church through its sugar beet industry. But that does not justify the impoverishment of Cuba or the disturbing of our friendly relations with the leading nations of Europe, and our neighbors north and south of us on this hemisphere. The pending tariff bill, if enacted into law, is quite likely to work this result, and for that reason our sense of justice, not to mention our moral obligations, should give us pause.

Aviation is making progress but it is taking a big toll of life as it moves forward.

Printing Scandal at Harrisburg.

Governor Fisher has been annoyed recently, according to newspaper correspondents in Harrisburg, because of the "imminence of a printing scandal." The printing bill for the several State institutions amounts to approximately \$150,000 for a biennium. For many years this work has been let by the institutions served. This year, under a new law, it is awarded to the lowest bidder by the director of the printing department at Harrisburg. Under a rule made by the director the State is divided into thirteen districts, and the award goes to the lowest bidder in each district, and no bidder can compete outside of his own district. It was expected that would make it safe for the favorites.

Some of the bidders, either because they didn't know of the ruling of the director or didn't care, entered bids for the entire service. Among these was our esteemed contemporary, the Altoona Times-Tribune company, which was \$20,000 lower than the aggregate of the several district bids. It was rejected, not because it annulled the order of the director of printing, John C. Dight, who subsequently offered that if the bid of conflict with the law but because were withdrawn for the other eleven districts the Altoona concern would be given the contract for the eighth and ninth districts. This proposition was rejected and an exposure of the facts in the case followed.

Mr. Dight seems to be a practical politician. His reason for dividing the business was that it would promote party interests. Under the old system, he said, the printing contracts "went to Republican newspapers or Republican printing companies and helped to keep them in line politically," and he didn't want to disturb that system. It would provide a thirteenth part of \$75,000 a year for party propaganda and the fact that it would cost the tax payers \$20,000 a year made no difference to Mr. Dight. But to be caught up in that sort of peanut politics makes a difference to Governor Fisher, and he is not only annoyed but worried about it. Maybe the Dight rule will be revoked.

The four cent gas tax promises to produce a large amount of revenue and it is equally certain to create a vast volume of trouble for the Mellon machine.

No Cause for Surprise.

Senator Waterman, of Colorado, who is conducting the investigation of frauds in Pittsburgh, at the Senatorial election of 1926, was surprised at evidence brought out at a hearing, held in that city, the other day. Some weeks ago five men who had served on an election board were brought to trial charged with perpetrating frauds. Each of the five confessed this guilt and was fined and given short jail sentences. At the hearing, the other day, they all appeared and testified under oath that they had committed no crimes. Naturally the Senator was perplexed. He couldn't understand why they offered no defense a few weeks ago if they were innocent. Grown men don't usually act that way.

As a matter of fact there is nothing mysterious about the incident. Three women who had served on election boards in the same borough, at the same election, and were also sentenced on their plea of no defense, have since testified before the court, and before the Senate sub-committee, that they were influenced to plead no defense by the promise that the court had been "fixed" to release them without punishment, made to them by the party boss of the community. If the deceived women had quietly "taken their medicine," as they were expected to, by the criminal boss, there would have been no opportunity for the prosecuting officer to place on record the evidence of guilt he had assembled.

There is no system known to the professional party crook so effective in shielding the "higher-ups," the real criminals, from just punishment as that of inducing the unimportant instrument in the fraud to plead nolle contendere. It shuts off all opportunity to get the facts in the case before the court and practically hands to the conspirator responsible for the crime a clean bill of health. No doubt the men whose evidence, the other day, surprised Senator Waterman had been deceived as the women were, but being better informed with respect to the rules in crooked politics complaint. If the women had pursued the same course it would have been better for Vare.

For the first time "within the memory of man" bumper crops are causing mental distress in Washington.

Mr. Ford's Absurd Notion.

Henry Ford, who is becoming rather generous in dispensing advice of doubtful value to the public, has turned his attention to electric power. In an interview published in the Electrical World, several weeks ago he declares: "I only wish that there actually were a power trust, a central, directing organization for the development and use of every power source in the country, tied into one national power system for the service of the whole country; that is, welded into one operating and business unit. It has got to come as the one necessary and economic method of power production." This is clearly an expression of the philosophy of mass production without even a superficial understanding of the subject.

In his superlative appraisal of the merits of monopoly Mr. Ford imagines that a complete control of electrical production and distribution would create a public service similar to the postal system of the country. Possibly that might be true if it were a government monopoly, operated by government agents without purpose or expectation of profits, and the right to draw upon the United States treasury for any deficits in operation. But Mr. Samuel Insull and his associates in the enterprise of creating the monopoly by devious, if not criminal methods, are not built that way. They are not philanthropists nor are they paying out vast sums of money to bribe Legislatures and debauch the public mind in order to make life easy for the people.

Senator Norris, of Nebraska, who has had much wider experience in such things, and it may be added a vastly better understanding of them, says, "human nature is everywhere the same and when a man gets a monopoly on something he uses it for his own profit without regard to public benefit. Such would be the case in the electric business or any business already made up of a few large groups exacting a huge toll from the public pocketbook. Thus the average rate of the United States is around seven cents, while government operated utilities in Ontario can make money for the public while they furnish electrical energy at less than two cents per kilowatt hour." Mr. Ford would help them to increase the extortion.

It seems to us that as long as Chairman Collins is performing excellent service for the Democratic party he ought to be praised rather than abused.

The Farm Board in Action.

In starting the Farm Board on its mission of helplessness to the farmers of the country President Hoover was significantly brief and characteristically cautious. "I have no extended statement to make he said, but called the attention of the members to the wide authority and the splendid resources" at their disposal. "This is very much like 'passing the buck.' The Board has a difficult task before it but it has an abundance of material to work with and if it fails in achievement it is not the President's fault. He has done his part according to his understanding of the matter. It is up to the members of the Board to produce results. It is for them to 'bring home the bacon.'"

It would be a strange thing indeed if a group of experts with, for a while at least, unlimited resources should be unable to provide some help to an industry suffering from inadequate capital. The half billion dollar revolving fund will certainly be able to absorb the crop surplus for two or three years. But that will be only temporary relief and of a character that will leave scars worse than the existing evil. The suggestion to "adjust production to needs" is equally fallacious if not actually absurd. The true remedy is to increase consumption by enlarging the markets rather than by restricting production. But this didn't occur to the President and probably will not appeal to the Board.

The purpose of the expedient, according to the President, is to "establish to the farmer an equal opportunity in our economic system with other industries." But the revolving fund however big it may be made will not achieve this result. The other industries to which he refers get a bonus on production by enlarging their markets, by excluding foreign competition, by tariff taxation on imports. But tariff taxation on imports increases the cost of commodities the farmers have to buy and restricts the markets in which they sell. That is not giving the farmer an equal opportunity. It is making him the helpless victim of the greed of producers of protected products.

Read the Watchman for the news

\$10,000,000 Wasted.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Not so much is heard of efficiency engineers in these days.

A little more than two decades ago they burst into the business world with the announcement that industry and commerce were to be revolutionized. A few stories—such as the one of the expert who, while reorganizing a publishing business destroyed a number of old files, later to learn that they contained letters from famous authors whose autographs were worth thousands—were enough. The boasting had been done by those who had a smattering of the new business theories. They sought other fields, their protests smothered by a gale of laughter and scorn produced by their own inefficiency.

But the real efficiency engineers survived. And they have revolutionized many branches of industry. An example came to light recently in the address of R. H. Ashton, president of the American Railway Association, to the freight claims division of that organization. In 1920 damage claims paid on freight shipments amounted to \$119,833,127. Last year these claims had been reduced to \$37,146,813.

No figures could provide a better illustration of the manner in which efficiency has been replacing carelessness throughout the entire industrial field. Better methods of packing, improved systems of handling, less negligence in all departments contributed to this 70 per cent. reduction in waste.

Scientific surveys have resulted in an estimate of ten billion dollars as the annual price of preventable carelessness in this country. Much of this tremendous waste can be stopped by the adoption of simple changes in manufacturing processes or systems of handling products.

The efficiency engineers have accomplished much in a quiet way. But they are not satisfied. The field has scarcely been touched, they maintain. As long as they receive co-operation the nation as a whole will continue to benefit from their efforts.

Voting Machines.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

The County Commissioners have made it easy for the people to decide whether they desire to assure the integrity of their elections by installing voting machines. The commissioners by unanimous resolution decided to place the voting machines proposition on the ballot issued for the primary election. If the commissioners had not taken this step it would have been necessary for the citizens in the various municipalities to initiate petitions requesting that they be given a chance to declare for or against the machines.

Commissioners Walker, George and Cavanaugh are to be congratulated upon their action. The honest election issue is now squarely up to the people in the various municipalities. The modern voting machine assures an honest count. "The machines cost money. But 'what price an honest election?' Doubtless the people of Cambria county will become greatly interested in the details of electing a couple of judges, a sheriff and a member of the poor board. The voting machine presents an issue more vital than the candidacy of any man. The forces that naturally favor election irregularities can be expected to find a variety of reasons why machines are too expensive, or are unnecessary.

The Farm Board's Task.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

The interest aroused over the selection of the new Federal Farm Board, whose membership may be announced by President Hoover next week, is fully justified. For the board has a bigger and more important task than that of most governmental commissions. It will administer the revolving fund of \$500,000,000 authorized to aid the farmer in marketing his crop surpluses. It will set up stabilizing corporations for each of the major branches of agriculture, and it may lend marketing organizations at its own discretion. In general, the Farm Board has virtually as far-reaching powers in its own field as those of the Interstate Commerce Commission over transportation.

There will be eight members, each receiving \$12,000 a year, besides the Secretary of Agriculture, who will be a member ex-officio without voting power. More than 400 names have been suggested to the President. Mr. Hoover's task is to find the men skilled in marketing, business and finance whose choice is of the utmost importance, for the ability of the Farm Board will largely determine the success or failure of the farm-relief program.

Secretary of Labor Davis thinks "there is a wonderful opportunity for service in the position of Governor of Pennsylvania." Governor Fisher is probably of the same opinion.

What is to be gained by prolonged endurance in the air is a matter of conjecture, but there is a good deal of competition on the subject.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The Kittanning section is excited over the bringing in of a gas well with an initial daily production of 2,000,000 cubic feet. The well, drilled in on the Stouffer farm, at Walk Chalk, has been connected with lines of the Columbia Natural Gas company.

—Finding the kitchen fire out warden John Reese, of the Schuylkill county jail, investigated and discovered that Fred Holtzer, the tender, also was out. Holtzer picked the lock on the gate at one end of the prison yard, it was said. He had escaped once before, but was recaptured.

—Gabriel Lynnman, 8 years old, drowned in Silver Lake, near Tarentum, on Saturday, when he jumped feet-first into the water and became fast in the muddy bottom. His head was submerged with hands barely above the surface. Companions pulled him to shore, but their efforts to revive him failed.

—Lake Wallenpaupack, in the Poconos, gave up the body of Frank Deerk, State College student, who was drowned there June 29. His father was advised at his home at Treverton, Pa., that the body was recovered. Deerk, with a college chum, Samuel Curry, was crossing the lake in a sail-boat when it upset.

—Because one of their number chewed off the tip of the ring finger of the left hand of Donald Nugent in a fight at Penn Park, York, Pa., four Italian youths, Orlando Scaglione, Pete Alfano, Lewis Dideo and Pete Scaglione, are confined to the York county jail on charges of felonious assault and battery and mayhem.

—When a cabin holder from Lock Haven entered his summer residence in the Tanguis Scotaec region recently, he spent the afternoon killing five blacksnakes, all over four feet in length, which were tenanted the premises. One was stretched out on the mantel in the living room while another was draped over a doorway in the cabin.

—Leonard Edwards, of Bloomsburg, preferred a fire company to his wife and left her to live nearer the fire whistle, she testified in court when her husband was up on charge of non-support. Her testimony as to the preference for a fire company was supported by witnesses. The Court ordered Edwards to pay \$18 a month to his wife, but he preferred to go to jail.

—Flora Carlson, 18, of Granville, died on Monday in the Brownsville General hospital from injuries which police said she received in a fight at a home where she was employed as a domestic. Andris Mustast, formerly of Cokeburg, is under arrest at California, Pa., and two other men are held as witnesses. Police say Mustasta, formerly of Cokeburg, is under his own hand. She died, however, from a fractured skull. Mustasta lived at the home of William Sheban, where the girl was employed.

—Thousands of dead fish, including salmon, bass, perch, trout, suckers, pike and other varieties of fish, have been seen in Bald Eagle creek and the Susquehanna river, between Lock Haven and Jersey Shore, and the matter has been reported to the fish commission and the division headquarters of the State sanitary board at Harrisburg, with the result that the State officials have ordered engineers and portable laboratories to be sent to Lock Haven to make a complete survey of the pollution and its source.

—J. R. Christner, of Maple Glenn, Pa., killed a giant groundhog, which proved too much for his fox terrier. It tipped the scales at 23 pounds. Christner was recently walking over the mountain when he noticed something ahead of him which seemed as large as a cub bear. It took to the woods, the dog overtaking it, grabbing it by the hind quarters, but the groundhog, three times as big, took the dog, which held on, with it. Christner gave chase and finally overtook the pair and dispatched the groundhog.

—"Lucky" Marvin, a prominent citizen of Blossburg, sat on his porch, crushed at his side, ruminating on Fate giving him a stiff leg and bailing gait. His son was to be married on the morrow and he did not want to walk down the aisle on a prop. A thunder shower burst on the scene. Lightning struck the eavespost and hovered over the figure in the easy chair. When he arose, still dazed, he started to walk and to his amazement his malady had been cured. He was good as new, the treatment being as effective as terrifying, it is said.

—A spark caused by a tire striking a steel rail is believed to have been responsible for the explosion of 2500 pounds of powder which Peter Weir was hauling from one building to another at the mills of the DuPont Powder company at Moore, near Pittston, on Monday. Weir was blown to bits as was the wagon he was driving. One of the horses was killed and the other injured so badly it had to be shot. The explosion was heard for several miles and caused reports that the powder plant had been blown up. Weir had been employed by the company for 35 years and on Sunday celebrated his fifty-eighth birthday.

—In a statement issued by Dr. George H. Ashley, State Geologist of the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs, the geologist tells something about Pennsylvania's high spots and how they are measured. As a rule mountain climbers are more interested in the height and steepness of mountains measured from their bases than they are in height above sea level. Thus the highest point in the State is 3,200 feet above tide. On the ground this is only a 150-foot knob that rises above the general upland on the top of Negro Mountain in Somerset county. Measured to the nearest large stream—Casseiman River, four miles away, the height of this mountain is only 1,620 feet, which is exceeded by many other mountains in Pennsylvania.

—Gas jets that dripped something illuminating but not gas, secret panels in stair steps and a hidden wine cellar were found by Lewisburg prohibition agents at the home of Charles Feudale, Shamokin, according to Colonel Wilbur Litzel, Lewisburg enforcement chief. Feudale was held in \$2000 bail for Federal court. According to Litzel, the agents had private information that it would pay them to visit the place. "I am a law-abiding citizen," Feudale said. "Search the house," he urged. This was done, and nothing was found. One of the agents stumbled on a step, and it sprung up like the top of a jack-in-the-box. Quarts of the potent fluid were located. A private wine cellar, decorated to look like the wall, was behind secret panels.