

INK SLINGS.

It is safe to predict that Mayor Mackey, who managed the Vare primary campaign in 1926, will not be invited to that service for the impending campaign.

The hunter who sat on a deer that he had knocked down must have decided that he wasn't much of a heavy weight after the deer jumped from under him and escaped.

When one drags a deer, single-handed, through a mile of mountain brush and loads it on his automobile it is not surprising that he should think the butcher, who weighed it for him and made it only one hundred and ten pounds, was not using the same scales that he weighs the meat he sells on.

The Supreme Court of Colorado, has disbarred former Judge Ben B. Lindsey from the practice of law in that State. It appears that the Judge took money for doing something he ought not to have done. That's bad, of course, but it is as bad as taking money for doing nothing, as so many are prone to do.

One thing is certain, now that Governor Fisher has appointed Mr. Grundy to Pennsylvania's vacant seat in the U. S. Senate, Mr. Vare must either be persuaded to retire from his intention to run again or here is going to be a whale of a fight at the primary next year. If he Senate admits Mr. Grundy he will like his job and want to be returned and he can't go back unless he gets the nomination and Mr. Vare wants it too.

An effort is being made to induce former President Coolidge to run for the Senate as successor of Senator Gillett, of Massachusetts. Mr. Vare apparently smells some breaks bearing gifts in the proposition. And, as we have often told you, his pictures indicate that a good smell is his most alert organ. He knows that if he is buried at the Senate end of Pennsylvania, he will never see the White House end again.

The Bureau of Vital Statistics tells the prediction that 1929 will show the lowest birth rate on record in Pennsylvania. In fact it looks as if it will fall lower than twenty for every thousand of population. What, with the automobile death rate constantly mounting, are we going to do about this? It seems to us that some sort of conference of best minds should be called to discuss ways and means of stimulating human replacements in Pennsylvania.

Miss Gertrude Ely, president of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, was the principal speaker at a dinner of the Centre County League last Friday night. Miss Ely outlined a rather interesting comprehensive study course planned for the League next year. All the while she was so fluently getting her program across we were wondering whether the authorities political economy, civil government, the tariff and other subjects will be quoted as much the ladies next year as will Work and Whitehouse.

If Vare sticks to his decision to run for the Senate again and can persuade Sam Lewis to become his best candidate for Governor that should say, would be smart politics. So smart that any Mellon-Grundy-Fisher combination that could be formed would have its work cut out for it. To our way of thinking Lewis is stronger in Pennsylvania than the late Eddie Beidleman was and Eddie actually won two years ago on the Vare slate when the Philadelphia boss didn't have the element that sympathy has led to him since his rejection by the Senate.

We are still groping for a good way to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Watchman's birth. Someone has suggested that do it by publishing the picture of our greatest delinquent. That applied to us as a good idea until rolled it round far enough to cover that it might prove a merger. If they should all pay for fear of having their pictures published we'd be in exactly the same position that a Methodist sister would be were his congregation all paid up on all church collections: We'd have nothing to do about.

The official demise of "Jack" U. S. Marshall for the middle district of Pennsylvania, is a tragedy in his life, of course, but if it is true that he was thrown down and he refused to desert his friend Eddie Beidleman and go into Fisher camp three years ago, "Jack" has nothing to feel badly about. He has lost a desirable publication, but he has shown that friendship means something to rednecked men. We know a man in the county who took exactly the same stand that Glass did. When he was approached by Eric Fisher Wood, he was "nothing doing" so far as dropping Beidleman was concerned.

He owed Beidleman nothing enough friendship, but he felt that he had been responsible for the shot's election and he was—and that reason Cool Wood's blandishments fell on deaf ears. We love with the guts to stand up for what they believe to be right. That's why we dedicate this paragraph to "Jack" Glass and an unnamed Centurion.



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Palpable Injustice to Wilson

The strongest argument presented during the debate in the Senate, last Friday, on the resolution denying William S. Vare's claim to a seat in that body, was that of Senator Pittman, of Nevada. He protested against the denial of the disputed seat to William B. Wilson with a force and logic that deserved greater consideration than it received. His contention was that the adoption of the Norris resolution did not dispose of the Wilson-Vare contest. It simply eliminated Vare from the equation and left for the Senate to decide which of the other candidates voted for at the election received a majority of the legal vote. Of a total of 1,470,867 votes returned Vare had 922,187, Wilson 648,680 and all other candidates 100,000.

When Vare was eliminated from the contest by the adoption of the Norris resolution it became the duty of the Senate committee to determine which of the other candidates had a plurality of the legal votes. Nobody questioned the legality of the 648,680 votes polled for Wilson, and as these votes constituted a majority of the legal votes cast for Senator he was entitled to the seat. Said Mr. Pittman, "there is a man who received 648,680 votes out of a total of 1,470,867. Here is a candidate before the people who carried out of 67 counties every one except three; and what are you going to do to him? I tell you you are going to penalize him because of the frauds of his opponent. You say that Vare's vote was tainted with fraud and corruption; that his votes were obtained through intimidation and bribery, and though the hundreds of thousands of votes obtained by Wilson were obtained fairly and honestly, you will ignore those votes just exactly the same as you ignore the votes of Vare."

In that statement the Senator from Nevada expressed the question in issue. The partisan committee which pretended to investigate the vote acknowledged that the Vare vote was saturated with fraud. But it failed to disclose the full extent of the fraud. It recounted the votes in the ballot boxes of the two cities which showed a majority for Vare. But it ignored the frauds perpetrated by false registrations, ballot box stuffing and other expedients with which the Republican machine of Pennsylvania is familiar. If these fraudulent methods had been revealed there would probably have been no majority for Vare in the total poll and if the votes of the two cities had been thrown out as they ought to have been Vare would have had no claim to contest.

President's Plan Not Approved

Mr. Norman Thomas, who was the Socialist candidate for President a year ago and polled nearly 400,000 votes as the Socialist candidate for Mayor of New York a month ago, is not in full sympathy with President Hoover's plan for stabilizing business and industry. In a letter to the Philadelphia Record, published the other day, Mr. Thomas stated that "at a time when the crying need is greater purchasing power for the masses it is absurd to seek to relieve depression by lightening the by no means heavy tax burdens of the rich." That is what President Hoover expects to do by cutting the income tax one per cent on all levies from the highest to the lowest.

Dr. M. T. Copeland, a world famous economist, states that in this country "the richest ten per cent receive one-third of the national income." Any decrease of the rate of income tax, therefore, inures to the benefit of the rich at the ratio of income tax, therefore, inures to the benefit of the rich at the ratio of say ninety to ten. Income tax is the fairest form of taxation. It places the burden where it belongs, that is on shoulders most capable of carrying it. As Mr. Thomas puts it "income and inheritance taxes could be used, among other things, to provide funds for valuable public works, for the relief of old age and unemployment and for otherwise increasing the social and individual incomes of the masses of the workers." That would be a real public service.

Whether the proposed tax reduction is the idea of Mr. Hoover or Mr. Mellon is of little consequence. Whichever of them initiated it, it works for the direct advantage of the wealthy at a time and under conditions when public concern should be centered on benefiting the less fortunate. A tax of thirty to forty per cent on the income of a million dollars or more is less burdensome than a levy of one per cent on that of the income of the head of a family who earns less than two thousand dollars a year. But the tax cut which Congress is showing such eagerness to make, obviously for partisan reasons will afford no practical relief to the families in greatest need of help.

An Unpopular Agreement

The agreement by which the Republican Senators denied to William S. Vare the seat in the Senate to which he made claim and the Democratic Senators consented to abandon the claim of William B. Wilson will not appeal to the public as a correct solution of a somewhat vexed problem. It was entirely within the power of the Senate to refuse the seat to Vare. It had been clearly proved that too much money had been spent in getting the nomination for him, and under a precedent established in the case of Newberry, of Michigan, it was made a cause of disqualification. But there was no reason for refusing the seat to Mr. Wilson. No charge had been made against him of that kind.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, a majority of which are Republicans, unanimously reported to the Senate that the majority returned for Vare was tainted with fraud. It was even stated by the chairman of that committee, a Republican, that there was so much fraud in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh that it was impossible to ascertain which votes were legal and which were fraudulent. There was no question of the legality of the vote in the sixty-five counties that returned majorities for Wilson. In those sixty-five counties his majority totaled approximately 50,000, and they represented the free offerings of confidence in and friendship for Mr. Wilson.

It is a well established principle of law and morals that fraud vitiates everything it touches. If the frauds in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh had been limited to a few voting districts in each city, the returns from such districts could have been thrown out and those of the balance of the cities counted. But in the case in point the frauds were so widely distributed and so universal over the cities that the only expedient would have been to throw out the entire returns. This would have been more or less of a hardship upon the honest voters but a just punishment to a community which not only tolerates but encourages such crimes. William B. Wilson ought to have been awarded the seat.

Reports from Haiti indicate that President Hoover's late good will mission was only a temporary success.

Vare Case Sets a Precedent

Governor Fisher, Senator Reed and other super-patriots within Pennsylvania and outside the boundaries of this great State, are literally heart-broken because in exercising a constitutional right the Senate has violated a principle of State sovereignty by refusing to allow William S. Vare to occupy a seat which he had bought and paid for in part with his own money and in part with money obtained from sources they are ashamed or afraid to acknowledge. The State has been deprived of its constitutional representation in the Senate, they lament, and thus "set a precedent that is dangerous and should give every thoughtful American occasion to pause and think."

Section 3, of the constitution of the United States, declares that "the Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years, and each Senator shall have one vote." If there were no other conditions governing the membership expressed in the constitution any buccaneer who had acquired sufficient money to buy an election might legally claim the right to a seat in the chamber. But fortunately Section 5, of the constitution, provides that "each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members." The obvious purpose of that provision was to prevent such raids as Mr. Vare contemplated.

There can be no doubt that the action of the Senate in the Vare case has set a precedent which "should give every thoughtful American occasion to pause and think." For the first time it has officially served notice on too ambitious rich men that they can't occupy seats in that body that have been acquired by fraud. It has also served notice on the people of the several States that men chosen to that high office must be qualified mentally and morally to maintain the character as well as the dignity of the office. The primary and general election in Pennsylvania in 1926 expressed an orgy of scandal and debauchery without parallel in the history of the country.

The appointment of Grundy will not promote the spirit of amity between Pennsylvania and the corn belt States.

Christmas Lights Will Make Christmas Bright

The snow has come early this year and the first white flakes always bring thoughts of Christmas. Only two short weeks separate us from the happiest of days and now the stores are one by one assuming their holiday attire. It will not be long before the homes of the community too are taking recognition of this festive season. Shortly more and more wreaths and holly will begin to peep from windows and doorways and hard on its heels will follow the lighting that somehow makes Christmas such a distinctive holiday in its recognition.

The sight of a home with its colored bulbs winking across the snow from window and doorway—with perhaps a cheery Christmas tree on the snow covered lawn—diffusing radiance on a little world has something heart-warming about it. The stranger passing up the street says to himself, "There is a home and a family—one would be welcome there. They want to share their Christmas." This is the spirit of Christmas that is expressed by light better than perhaps in any other way. Light has always been associated with this day and somehow light seems the most appropriate of all decorations.

More and more this is coming to be recognized and more and more homes each year are being decorated with light for the candle which was once so dangerous is now cheaply and more beautifully replaced by electricity. So this year each town and city in this section will find itself illuminated as never before.

"It wouldn't be Christmas without light, would it?" said eleven year old Jimmie, as he talked with his mother about the Christmas tree that soon will be placed on the lawn in the front of his house. Who can imagine a dark Christmas. Surely every kiddie in Bellefonte agrees with Jimmie, and it is safe to presume that the fathers and mothers of all the Jimmies and Marys in town are of the same opinion.

After all, was it not a light that guided those Eastern pilgrims toward the little town of Bethlehem on that first Christmas day. Had it not been for the shining of that star they might never have reached that long-looked for place of destiny. How eagerly they scanned the evening sky night by night as, upon their camels, they crossed the desert wastes. Their names have come down to us in story, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, and as they followed the leadership of the light they came with their gifts to present them to the Christ Child. As the world of children and grown-ups looks toward Christmas every year it seems most natural that the high road to the day itself should be made as bright as possible. So it is that increasingly Christmas light with its accompaniment of cheer and good will is being used inside and outside of homes and along the highways and streets of our cities and towns.

We thank the neighbor who sent in the nice mess of venison and hope we won't be accused of looking the gift horse in the mouth by calling his attention to the fact that he forgot to send along the sherry. We have the currant jelly.

Vare's announcement of his intention to run for Senator again has created a good deal of consternation in the Republican machine camp. It is not quite certain whether his purpose is vindication or revenge.

A week from tomorrow will come the shortest day in the year. Then, as the days lengthen we may expect the cold to strengthen. There won't be considerable demand for that, however.

The most regrettable feature of the affair is that Senator Nye's appraisal of the Mellon-Grundy-Fisher machine is generally accepted throughout the country as accurate.

State-aid highway funds for the improvement of township roads was received by three Centre county townships this week, Potter township, \$1300; Union, \$606 and Huston, \$746.

The new Premier of France, M. Tardieu, will endeavor to make over the customs and policies of that country. It will be a difficult enterprise.

It was hardly necessary for Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, to say that he doesn't want to be Governor. Nobody else wants him to be.

Coal Fights for a Market

From the Pittsburgh Press. A survey by the United Press of heating methods throughout the nation indicates that the coal industry is abandoning its old "take it or leave it" policy, and has come to a realization that it must fight to expand, or even maintain, its markets. Gone is the day when the mine operator could sit on his pile of coal and serenely wait for the country, bucket in hand, to come to him for its fuel.

Oil is the reason. Oil and some past shortsighted policies of both operators and miners, who grew so engrossed in their battles among themselves that they were forced to forego some of the thought which should have been taken for the consumer. In the last protracted anthracite strike New England and Atlantic Coast domestic consumers turned to oil burners, tiring of the uncertainties of anthracite supply which had become so irregular. When peace finally came some coal markets had disappeared. Operators and miners both became concerned, appreciating that victory for either in their wars was empty if buyers were lost.

The State of Pennsylvania helped by agreeing to gradually eliminate the tax on anthracite, thus assisting in a price reduction. The men engaged in mining came to a realization for the time at least—that they had a joint interest, and proceeded in their agreements on that assumption. This year anthracite exports a production only about one-third of one per cent less than last year, indicating the slide has been arrested.

Bituminous looks for a production increase of better than seven per cent. This has been brought about through stimulating the use of gas heaters, bituminous being used for the manufacture of the artificial fuel used in them. Also, blowers have been perfected, so lower grades of coal have gone out to have its market, finally realizing the menace of oil. The latter is expanding its service, but it will not constitute a real threat to coal production and consumption unless the mining industry forgets the lessons just taught.

This thought should be pondered by union officials and mine operators. The salvation lies in realizing the unity of their interest, and not in the determination of either to put on the screws whenever economic conditions give it the upper hand. That system has been tried and found almost suicidal.

Black Walnut Trees Getting Scarce

From the Altoona Tribune. Dr. Illick, chief forester of Pennsylvania, tells us that the supply of black walnut trees in this State is greatly depleted. The wonder is that these trees have lasted so long, with the steady inroads of buyers who have combed the State for them. Dr. Illick says that there is probably less black walnut in Pennsylvania today than in any other commercially important timber tree. It grows locally throughout the State, but is extremely rare in the northern part, where it is often absent over large areas.

During the past month walnut buyers have been particularly active in the valleys adjacent to the Juniata river, and as far north as Nittany valley in Centre and Clinton counties. These buyers seem only to use the straight stem or trunk of the trees, and also grub out the stumps. They leave behind the tops and branches. These buyers are said to be paying record prices for the timber. While most of them are evasive, some of them tell farmers that the wood is being made into "Spanish antiques," for re-shipment to the United States.

Before the World War the destination of most black walnut timber in Pennsylvania was Germany, where it was used for gunstocks. In those days stumps, trunks, tops and branches were used. Small prices were paid, but farmers were often glad to get ready money by the sale of these desirable trees. During the World War black walnut buyers terrorized Pennsylvania farmers by threatening to report them as "German sympathizers" if they did not part with roadside or front yard walnut trees at cheap prices. Path Valley, in Franklin county, was denuded of black walnut trees at that time, but the work was removed or paid for, and several years ago many superb black walnut logs were to be observed rotting along the roadside of historic Path Valley.

It is officially reported that \$126,595,318 have been refunded to income tax payers this year, and that \$339,528,941 have been overpaid. Those figures would indicate slovenly book-keeping somewhere.

The reports are not all in but enough have been received to justify an estimate that this year's hunting season has been successful.

It seems likely that we will get into the world court at last and that may let us into the League of Nations by "the back door."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

Charged by a bull elk he had wounded, Senor A. Rameriz, a rancher of Sonora, Mexico, had a narrow escape from death. With a party hunting in the Sevran mountains, he shot and wounded the elk at a distance of 15 feet. It charged him and he took refuge behind a big tree which the enraged animal rammed, then made off into the woods.

Struck on the head when the shaft of a circular saw broke while he was cutting wood on his farm at Roamsville, Lancaster county, Emmor R. Way, 61 years old, was killed. The Way farm gained prominence several months ago when Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh made a landing there when forced down by a heavy fog while flying from New York to Washington.

Three Perry county girls were elected to membership in the Ellen H. Richards Club at the Pennsylvania State College in the fall elections to this society held last week. The girls are Miss Anne A. D'Olier and Miss Mary K. Bisinger, of Newport, and Miss Hilda V. Bittinger, of Andersonburg. The organization is an honorary home economics society for women students at Penn State.

Paul Griffe, three years old, died in a hospital at Lebanon, on Friday, following the illness of his parents, Sheridan, route 1, on Thursday afternoon. He fell in a kettle of hot grease during home-lard rendering. His entire body except an arm and leg was burned to a crisp. The father, Isaac Griffe, was treated for burns of hands sustained in dragging the youngster from the steaming lard.

Tragedy stalked in the family of Ernest Gouker, seven miles south of Gettysburg, on Monday, when Gouker and his wife were burned to death in a fire that destroyed their home. Two children had gone to school that morning, and said they and their father had eaten breakfast together, but that the mother had not eaten with them. They denied their parents had quarreled before they left.

John Lutessa, 17, is in St. Luke's hospital, Bethlehem, with buckshot wounds in both palms, his chest and right leg, the result of an odd accident. He found a brass shell, about 2 inches long and 1/4 inch in diameter, lying in the road. While reading a paper, Lutessa says, he laid the shell on the floor and later, without looking, threw away a cigarette he was smoking. It fell on the shell, and an explosion followed.

Harry Blaine, who in 1914 was convicted at Uniontown, Pa., of killing his wife, on Monday was sentenced to six months in the York county jail for stealing three ducks. He served seven months for the Uniontown crime. He told the court on Monday he had never before been charged with a crime. When the district attorney informed the court of the prisoner's criminal record, his sentence was increased from four to six months.

Fed by oil and ammunition stored in the building, fire on Monday destroyed the two-story frame garage of Troop B. Motor highway patrol, at Greensburg, and slightly injured one man. Damage was estimated at \$40,000. Walker Adams, a patrolman who discovered the blaze, was slightly burned and suffered from shock when he attempted to save equipment in the structure. He succeeded in wheeling five motorcycles out of the flaming garage. Fifteen other motorcycles and five automobiles were destroyed.

With a .38 calibre revolver clutched in his right hand, the body of Harry Krom, aged about 65, for the last five years gardener at Altoona hospital, was found at 5 p. m. last Friday lying in a wheel barrel in the tool room adjoining the garage with a bullet wound in the heart. He was last seen walking about the grounds about 1:30 p. m. and it is the belief of Chester C. Rothrock, coroner, that he took his life shortly after. He made his home in Pleasant Valley. One brother is said to survive.

Joseph Kopec, 20, one of four youths who escaped from the Morganza Home for Boys, was shot in the abdomen and seriously wounded by Constable Ben W. Smith, of Allegheny county, on Friday, after they had attempted to hold up a barbecue stand near Brightwood. They escaped from the reformatory after intimidating a guard. All but one of the boys were captured. The boys had one pair of shoes among them when they fled the reformatory. They walked wearing the shoes. They walked all night they said, in their bare feet until near Pittsburgh.

For nearly a week a collie dog kept vigil over the grave of its former owner, William Ebert, in Prospect Hill cemetery, at York, Pa. Mr. Ebert died in Wilmington, Del., and was buried in the York cemetery on November 25. The day following burial the dog was seen lying across the grave. It would flee at the approach of any one, but would later return to take up its watch. Dr. E. O. Glatfelter, veterinarian, tried to capture the animal. Failing in his efforts, and fearing that the animal would freeze to death, he fired a shot at it. The bullet grazed the dog's head, and though it was not seriously hurt it has not returned to its master's grave.

Their father killed by a Reading company train Sunday night, their mother seriously ill for several months, seven dependent children of the family of John Camilli, of Berks county, appealed to police to find 92 chickens and two turkeys which disappeared from the family poultry house in Temple Wednesday morning. The children told State troopers and county detectives they fed the fowls Tuesday night and locked the poultry house as usual. Wednesday morning they found the place bare. A neighbor lost 10 chickens the same night. The father, a track walker, was struck by a train Sunday and died early Monday morning.

Dismissal of Dr. Samuel E. Brunner, of Camp Hill, who has been made "the goat" in the \$129,000 cattle indemnity scandal in the State Department of Agriculture, was announced, on Tuesday, by Governor Fisher. The Governor said he had dismissed Brunner, for 12 years chief of the tuberculosis eradication division of the department. Dr. Jordan, in a letter of Rev. Charles G. Jordan, secretary of the department, Dr. Jordan, in a statement a week ago, admitted that six of the tampered vouchers in the \$129,000 cattle indemnity fraud had been discovered by employees of the department last June. He blamed Dr. Brunner for permitting the fraud to run four months longer by not reporting the finding of the doctored vouchers to his superiors at that time.