

INK SLINGS.

The Mayor of Johnstown is in jail but a bad mayor can do less harm in jail than out.

Senator Borah's demands for stricter enforcement of the prohibition law may cost a lot of lives.

The old year died in a halo of glory so far as the weather was concerned and the new one was born in the gloomiest of atmospheric conditions.

Those Philadelphia Democrats who expect Governor Fisher will appoint a lawyer of their political faith to an existing vacancy on the bench don't know Governor Fisher very well.

The lady who writes from Richmond to hint that she ought to be made the victim of our idea of publishing the picture of our most delinquent subscriber is hereby notified that her scheme to get her picture in the paper won't work. If she thinks two years is far back she has another think coming.

One never gets a chance to live in the atmosphere of the present. When some incident isn't stirring up memories of the past hope is eternally leaping away into the future. Sitting at the desk last Saturday afternoon we were about to concentrate on what was doubtless a very interesting affair that was going on in an automobile parked at the curb outside the window.

When I Was in the "Arn" Bizness.

When I was in the 'Arn' business, said Wesley to us on Christmas eve and he said it as naively as if he had once been master of a mighty last furnace.

Knowing that Mr. Cunningham's selling toward Wesley is exceeding friendly we inquired as to what had been the cause of the trouble. "Well, you see, it was this way: when I was in the 'arn' business I was supplying his foundry with 'arn'.

Wesley became reticent then and insisted that he must finish his story so he went on and told us the use of the trouble. It appears that his grandmother and his mother were ill at the time and he didn't get out long enough to their up iron, so he had gone into a brokerage business.

Senator Borah's recently expressed dissatisfaction with the enforcement of prohibition legislation has created consternation in administration circles in Washington. What the outcome will be remains to be seen.

It might add that rags and ties were side lines in Wesley's "business."

We have told this little story thinking that it might start you on the New Year with a smile on your face.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to every Watchman reader.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 75. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 3, 1930. NO. 1.

Former Congressman Kent Makes Suggestions.

Former Congressman Everett Kent, of Northampton county, on a professional visit to Harrisburg, the other day, was interviewed by the vigilant press correspondents in that city and made public some information that ought to encourage the Democrats of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Kent's services to the Democratic party of Pennsylvania have been varied and valuable and his opinions and recommendations deserve careful consideration.

Mr. Kent offers another suggestion which deserves careful attention. Recalling to mind the fact that the Mellon machine in Pittsburgh, which counted out Beideman and returned Fisher as the Republican nominee, also counted out Judge Samuel E. Shull, of Monroe county, and adds:

Senator Borah is absolutely right in the wording of his complaint that the cause of the failure is the manner of enforcement. The law, fundamental and statutory, is ample if the power of execution is applied.

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But such an organization in accomplishing the result would wreck the Republican party.

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Republican Ticket Practically Chosen

The Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania will be named at a conference to be held in the New York office of W. L. Mellon early in February.

The issue among these aspiring gentlemen will be determined by an equally limited group. According to the indicated programme those who will compose the conference will be Senator Joseph R. Grundy, Governor Fisher, W. L. Mellon and a proxy for William S. Vare, which is probably all the vanishing Philadelphia boss will get out of it.

It is surprising that the rank and file of the Republican party of Pennsylvania so tamely submits to this Mussolini method of politics.

Mr. Grundy's Doylestown newspaper plant was flooded, Sunday night which may be premonitory of a more serious submersion later on.

Davis-Pinchot a Probable Combine

The recent announcement that Secretary of Labor Davis may switch his ambition and become a candidate for United States Senator instead of Governor is susceptible of two interpretations.

For several years Secretary Davis has been fondly cherishing a hope of occupying the executive mansion at Harrisburg and exercising the prerogatives of Governor.

It is well known that former Governor Gifford Pinchot is willing to run for something. He has made two attempts to break into the Senate without success.

Not Yet but Soon.

A member of the Vare family announces Mr. Vare has no intention of retiring from political activity and that he is still in the race "to the finish" for the Republican nomination for Senator next Spring.

Miss Vare, who served as spokesman of the family in the matter, is mistaken. Mr. Vare has not withdrawn but he will in ample time to relieve the Grundy mind and assure the "king of the lobby" an unopposed nomination in the coming primary election.

The truth is that Mr. Vare's followers have deserted him with the unanimity and swiftness that "rats flee from a sinking ship."

Elmer T. McCleary, who as president of the Republic Steel Company heads the third largest steel company in the United States, was graduated from the Pennsylvania State College in 1901.

The Wakeful Senate.

Of all our public bodies, the United States Senate has now won the reputation of being the most easily "aroused."

What aroused the Senate recently was the discovery that an advertisement about the tariff had been placed in a hundred or more newspapers in Minnesota and other States.

Probably Mr. Vare is too sick to withdraw now but he will be better after awhile, and meantime negotiations will proceed.

Tax Refunds Show Costly Blundering.

As the Christmas bills come rolling into the households of the land there will be found in some of them, no doubt, stray items that will be disputed.

But considering the millions upon millions of transactions represented by the number of mistakes will be insignificant. Modern merchandising, despite the bewildering detail of the work of sales, delivery and accounting departments, is astonishingly accurate.

Uncle Sam is the most exacting and prepotent of creditors. His rule is "Pay first and argue afterwards."

Business operations in these days are intricate and provisions for their equitable taxation are necessarily complex.

The results, at any rate, are prodigiously costly. Not only must claimants go to great trouble and expense to obtain adjustments, but the public must pay for the laborious processes of investigation and settlement.

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There seems to have been enough money spent by the sugar lobby to sweeten the whole world for a generation.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

Nazareth has \$20,000 worth of bonds on its hands which it must sell to meet paving costs.

The State board of voting machine examiners has announced approval of the Shoop voting machine.

Mrs. Blanche Hay, of Bethlehem, in a suit instituted in the Northampton county courts, seeks \$10,000 heart balm from Florence Fisher, of Bethlehem.

Driving by a piece of woods west of of Lewistown, Clearance Neff saw what he took for a pretty kitten by the roadside.

The Bellefonte Lime company, operating the stone quarry at Salona, has obtained a favorable decision on a protest filed against the freight rates charged the company by the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, the Reading and the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh railroads.

Being suit for divorce on the fact that his wife did not speak to him for seven months, Edward H. Jendricks, of Copley, seeks freedom from matrimony in Lehigh county courts.

A wrecking train was required to remove from under a Pennsylvania Railroad passenger locomotive the body of George W. Levensood, who committed suicide by leaping onto the tracks in front of the depot at Coatesville on Monday.

Informations charging embezzlement, conversion, false entries and omission of entries were made at Greensburg, last week, against Frank D. Peoples, 42, treasurer of the Irwin Savings and Trust company of Irwin.

Referee G. Scott Smith has announced that \$3,827, believed to be the first workmen's compensation award made in Pennsylvania for a death, the result of an airplane accident, has been given Mrs. Bernice M. Michaels, of Bradford, for the death of her husband, Ellis Michaels.

Cooking her own meals, reading her Bible, and taking an occasional automobile ride are among the chief delights of Mrs. Caroline Lewis, of Indiana, Pa., who is 102 years old.

The one hundredth anniversary of the opening of the Philadelphia and Columbia railroad, the oldest line in the United States, occurred last month.

After a delay of ten months, Mifflin county's new almshouse, erected at a cost of \$76,000, is to be occupied by the poor of the county just as soon as the poor directors can bring them back from other institutions in neighboring counties where they have been kept since the old almshouse was condemned.

A call for a convention of the Prohibition party to be held in Pittsburgh, January 29, has been issued by the party's state chairman, Dr. B. E. P. Prugh, of Harrisburg.

Fifty-three persons were killed and 210 injured during the 1929 hunting season in Pennsylvania the State Game Commission announced on Monday.

Johnstown's mayor is in the Cambria county jail as a convict to serve a two-year sentence, but he still maintains he is mayor of Johnstown and will try to exercise functions of that office from his cell.

Read the Watchman for the News