

INK SLINGS.

The making of a Republican ticket ought to be called a trading post transaction.

To say that Mr. Hoover's first year as President was a failure would be a charitable criticism.

The friends of Governor Fisher are invited to eat crow but they are not obliged to relish the feast.

Speaking of contrasts the records of Sedgwick Kistler and Joseph R. Grundy, both manufacturers, is striking.

The meeting of the Democratic Executive committee last week was largely attended and wisely conducted.

The weather has looked threatening enough since last Friday, but up to this moment there have been no lumber or plumbing showers.

A correspondent in San Diego, California, has a new name for the Watchman. She calls it her "weekly astonisher" and we are at a loss to know whether she is damning or praising it.

We always thought that Alexander P. Moore was a pretty decent fellow. Perhaps he was, but when a man leaves one hundred thousand dollars to the Queen of Spain and doesn't give his step-daughter the portrait of her own mother there is reasonable ground for doubt.

W. Meyers, of Boalsburg, writes that we can elect the next President if we nominate Wilson and keep discussion out of our political organization. We are inclined to agree with our eighty year old prophet friend. We can elect the next President, but will we? That's the nub. We Democrats are always blowing bubbles and then sticking pins in them to ourselves. When we get over that habit we'll elect a President and not before.

Two weeks ago the grand inquisition into the house keeping of Centre county revealed that cobwebs are festooning the chandeliers in the Court House, that everything is unkempt, so dirty about the Temple of Justice that the only thing that can save the Judicial Ermine from trailing in the mire is the employment of a woman assistant to the janitor.

What a commentary on the men janitors and what a compliment to woman.

We've never measured the Court House but it can't be more than sixty by one-hundred feet. Relying only on our conception of the interior there are ten rooms and the corridor on the ground floor and six rooms, two corridors and the auditorium on the second floor. In addition to these there are about six vaults. To keep this interior clean men were employed at a cost to the county of \$1115.96 last year.

The average good woman in Centre county keeps a house of from three to fourteen rooms at least so clean that a catty neighbor, dropping in for a call, doesn't detect cobwebs on the ceiling or filigreed about the chandeliers. In addition to doing that she cooks, mends and darns for the old man and his get and finds time on the side to do a little church work, help the children along with their lessons, remodel her last spring's dress and hat, cultivate a few posies and a garden, have an afternoon or so off for bridge and an evening for the movies. Tripping lightly under these trifling little house-hold pleasantries she greets the Lothario, who took her for better or worse, when he arrives home, as if he had actually created Utopia for her.

Things acts that way because the average good woman doesn't know any better and God fend the day when she gets wise.

She doesn't know how lightly her idol tosses the blue chips she has been saving for him into a pot so that he can draw to an inside straight. She doesn't penetrate the cunning of the subterfuge he uses to assure her that the bills she has been worrying about are all paid, when they're not. She's just a patient, loving, creature deceiving herself into thinking that drudgery is a pleasure and that her lot, no matter how humble it may be, is to be envied.

And what does she get for it all? Including board, lodging, clothes and pin money—if she gets any—we are right here to bet that the average good woman in Centre county doesn't cost her partner one-half as much as one of the janitors of the Court House cost Centre county. And we're right here to bet that one good woman would keep the Temple of Justice clean. In less than a week she'd have every man occupant in it trained. One look would be notice that feet have to be wiped before entering its tiled portals, that ashes have to be knocked in the trays instead of on the floor and that waste baskets are for scraps.

She'd not only do that, but she would have time to sit out on the Court House steps sunny afternoons and tell the world everything that goes on within.

And here we have devoted nearly a column to a matter we intended to dispose of in a paragraph. But why should the grand jury worry about cleaning the Court House? The voters will take care of that in 1931.

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Grundy Demands the Nomination of Lewis.

Out of the confusion of the Republican party in Pennsylvania there seems to be one thing certain. That is that Mr. Grundy will force the acceptance of Mr. Samuel S. Lewis as the organization candidate for Governor. It will be a "bitter pill" to Governor Fisher and not an agreeable dose for the Mellons. But it is absolutely essential to the plans of Mr. Grundy. He is not half as much interested in the Senatorship as he is in the executive control of the State. His appointment as Senator came to him as a surprise and without solicitation. It was "a flattering unction to his soul," and may have given him momentary pleasure and a temporary thrill. But it doesn't "click" in his plans.

Mr. Grundy has one purpose in life. That is to make money for the manufacturers of Pennsylvania. He sees only two ways to accomplish this result. One is through tariff taxation and the other is exemption from other forms of taxes. He realizes that a seat in the Senate is not much help in the tariff project and that control of the Governor is a commanding factor in the scheme of tax exemption. To secure this leverage four years ago he procured the nomination and election of John S. Fisher. It cost him a large sum of money, but he feels that it was worth the price. Mr. Fisher has been not only a willing but an ardent worker in his vineyard. He wants to continue his control in that line.

Francis Shunk Brown is a machine politician but uncertain as to his affiliations. James J. Davis has always been ready to serve the machine in emergencies but he carries the credentials of a labor union and might not follow the Grundy lines in labor or tax legislation. But Sam Lewis is certain and dependable. He will be for anything that Grundy wants. On the gas tax question last year he stepped out, but Grundy had no objections to his course in that case. It put no burden on the manufacturers and added nothing to the cost of their operations. Supporting him for Governor may alienate some of Grundy's friends and might even prevent his election as Senator. But he will take the chance.

After the tariff fight is ended the administration Senators are going to "spruce up" and fight back. Just now they are afraid of their shadows.

Coolidge's Cabinet Accused

The lobby committee is not the only source of sensation in Washington these days, though Senator Caraway continues to dig up startling surprises right along. Senator Couzins, who is investigating the operations of the Power trust, brought out the fact the other day, that three members of the last Coolidge cabinet were responsible for the deletion of important facts in a report made to Congress concerning the capital inflation of the Niagara Falls Power company. The officials so accused were Dwight W. Davis, Secretary of War; William M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture, and Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior. They composed the Federal Power Commission at that time.

The witness who revealed this scandal was O. C. Merrill, executive secretary of the commission. In response to a resolution of Congress Mr. Merrill testified that he prepared a report which showed that the capital account of the Niagara Falls Power company had been padded to the extent of \$32,000,000, and that other power and utility corporations had similarly padded their capitalization. He added that he submitted the report to the commission and that the members first asked him to suppress it, which he refused to do. Then they ordered him to cut out all reference to inflated capital accounts "after they had been approached by representatives of the Niagara Falls Power company."

That this betrayal of faith was not repugnant to the leaders and managers of the Republican party is shown by the subsequent treatment of the delinquent officials. Mr. Davis was continued in office until the expiration of his term and was then appointed to the important office of Governor-General of the Philippines by President Hoover. Mr. Jardine was offered a re-appointment as Secretary of Agriculture by Hoover and Hubert Work was first made chairman of the Republican National committee and subsequently invited by Hoover to take his choice of the cabinet portfolios. It is believed that both Coolidge and Hoover knew what had happened to the Merrill report.

Log-rolling in Full Force.

The "log-rolling" on the tariff is now in full force in the Senate at Washington. Those tariff-mongers who want high rates on shoes are setting up a bargain counter for trading votes with those who want excessive rates on sugar, wool, oil and any other commodity mentioned in the pending and predatory tariff bill. Senator Blaine, of Wisconsin, in a speech on the subject, the other day, exposed the operations of the Senatorial trading post completely. He showed that the lobbyists for a tariff tax on oil had been negotiating with Senators who favored high duties on the several other commodities and in furthering their purpose had been hobnobbing with the President.

Senator Blaine based his accusations on statements made by Wirt Franklin, president of the American Independent Petroleum association. Mr. Franklin was free and frank in his testimony. He said that a group of 225 men interested in the oil industry were engaged in the enterprise of selling their scheme to the Senate; that ten or more of them held a conference with the President and he, more favored than the others, had luncheon at the White House. He had also had a conference with Representative Tilson, Republican floor leader of the House, who had agreed to help him if he would guarantee that certain Senators would vote for the bill when it appeared on final passage. But their efforts were futile. The oil tax was defeated.

Mr. Franklin told the lobby committee that \$50,000 had been raised in Oklahoma and that the lobbyists traveled in a special train, gave dinners to Senators and Congressmen and played golf with those inclined to indulge in that sport. But they didn't offer bribes other than agreements to help those who helped them. That being a well known and long established custom in tariff-making they probably thought it was all right. A suggestion that Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt be employed "because she is a friend of the President and influential in Washington," was not acted upon for some reason unexplained but probably her price, \$5000 or \$10,000, was a trifle too high.

The regular Republicans in the Senate are misnamed conservatives. The right name for them is reactionaries.

Pinchot Points a Way.

Whether Gifford Pinchot is a candidate for Governor or not is a subject of conjecture. But he has a theory concerning the regulation of corporations and public utilities which appeals to reason and may find a friendly contact with popular opinion. In a speech delivered in Philadelphia, the other evening, he proposed that the people of Pennsylvania "abolish the Public Service Commission and all the present commissioners." To accomplish that result he asks all voters "to refuse to support any candidate for the State Senate or State House of Representatives who will not pledge to replace the commission with another body that will give the people a square deal."

The Public Service Commission has certain exercised an evil influence in the affairs of the people of Pennsylvania. It was created for the purpose of conserving the rights and interests of the people against corporate greed, and for a brief period of time it seemed to serve the purpose. Then the corporations seem to have "got under" the commissioners and of late years the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission appears to have degenerated into an agency to legalize the robbery of the people by utility corporations. As Mr. Pinchot stated, "the Public Service Commission authorizes such charges because the utilities and not the people are its boss." Every section of the State has suffered from it.

Mr. Pinchot presents a live issue for the people of Pennsylvania to ponder but not a new one. The Watchman has been sounding the alarm for years and the Democratic platforms, National, State and local, have been protesting against these evils from the moment that the Commission was perverted into a political machine. In the coming campaign it will certainly be a leading issue. In making Senator Grundy the undisputed leader of the Republican party this result is inevitable. He believes in the control of wealth and the servitude of labor, and in the event of the success of his ticket will enforce that policy upon the people. It remains to be seen what Mr. Pinchot will do.

Blame Properly Placed

In a speech delivered in the Senate on Monday Senator Wagner properly charged that President Hoover is largely responsible for the present industrial distress and unemployment. More than a year ago the New York Senator introduced a bill to create a commission to ascertain the extent and, as nearly as possible, the cause of unemployment. But no action has been taken on the measure for the reason that the reports of prosperity "just around the corner," emanating from the White House and other agencies of the government have deceived Congress and the country into the belief that such legislation is unnecessary. This charge is literally true.

Immediately following the Wall street debacle of last fall President Hoover called to Washington a group of so-called "Captains of Industry," who under the influence of his optimism promised industrial activities which would guarantee the restoration of prosperity. Subsequently, at intervals, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor, presumably under instructions, published glowing accounts of improvements in industrial conditions and assurances of future prosperity. But these promises have not been fulfilled and as conditions pass from bad to worse the President goes fishing while millions of willing workers travel the streets in search of employment.

The truth is that the industrial distress throughout the country at this time is greater than it has been within a quarter of a century and the tax upon the benevolence of the people is proportionately heavier. There are not as many soup houses in operation or bread lines in existence as there were in some other periods, but when soup houses and bread lines were the available sources of relief there were no charity organizations collecting and dispensing millions of dollars for the relief of distress. An honest and searching survey of the charitable activities of the country would show that more money has been spent for relief this year than in any previous year within the quarter century.

Mr. Grundy has declared that "he wouldn't sit at a table with a man carrying a labor union card." If all voters carrying such cards would vote against Grundy it would be too bad for Joe.

Again in the Shadow of Scandal.

President Hoover's name has again been brought within the shadow of scandal by evidence brought out by the Lobby investigating committee the other day. Nobody wants to put an aspersion on the character of the President of the United States and the Senate committee wisely as well as courteously "shies" away from the subject when his name is mentioned. But it is unfortunate that he has chosen for his confidential relations men who are directly or indirectly connected with sinister enterprises. First it was his secretary mixing in the sugar lobby activities and now the chairman of the Republican National committee, chosen by Mr. Hoover, is involved in the Muscle Shoals scandal.

The witness who "spilled the beans," in the last instance was E. O. Neal, of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, which had undertaken, for a price, to defeat Senator Norris' resolution for government operation of the Muscle Shoals plant in the interest of a private power company. In one of his reports Mr. O'Neal wrote that he had sent a letter to the White House to obtain a conference with the President for the purpose of discussing with him "the text of the Muscle Shoals paragraph in his message and whatever else I have an opportunity to present." In another letter Mr. O'Neal gives assurance that chairman Claudius Huston, "is okay and is doing all that he dares to do in the position he occupies."

The purpose of the activity of Mr. O'Neal and his associates was to turn the Muscle Shoals plant, which had cost the government approximately \$120,000,000, over to the Cyanamid company, a power corporation, "for a song." The conspirators behind this project had influenced President Coolidge to kill the Norris measure by a "pocket veto" and seemed to have acquired more than an even chance of hooking up Hoover in their tolls. With this purpose in mind they had enlisted the services of chairman Huston, but it may be hoped that the exposure made by the lobby committee will work the defeat of the enterprise. Meantime Mr. Hoover ought to develop better judgment in the selection of his confidants.

Centre County Courts Stuffed With Petty Cases

Every man and woman who attended the various court sessions, last week, was no doubt impressed with the number of trivial cases called up for trial, cases that should never have passed out of the office of the justice of the peace before whom they were originally brought. It is such cases that clog the wheels of justice and at the same time pile up costs to be paid for out of the taxpayer's pocket.

On the quarter sessions docket for the February term, 1930, were a total of 162 entries. That doesn't mean that each entry was a case for trial, as such was not the case. Every appearance or action of any kind in the quarter sessions court is entered as a separate case on the docket. But fifty per cent or more of them were cases for a hearing before the court. In a number of the cases defendants went into court and entered pleas of guilty, a number were heard and disposed of without jury trials, while five cases were ignored by the grand jury.

Out of the entire list of cases there were 49 in which the costs, totaling \$1046.93, were put upon the county, a larger sum than the county will receive in the number and amount of fines imposed.

These cases included fifteen violations of the vehicle code in which the costs saddled onto the county were \$350.52. All of the above were minor violations that should have been settled without being brought into court. In one or two cases the bills were ignored by the grand jury, but the county had to pay the costs. In several cases the defendant was either discharged or acquitted while in others the defendant went to jail for five or ten days in preference to paying the costs, but the county has to settle.

There were four violations of the game laws, and in each case the costs were put upon the county, a total of \$42.45.

One juvenile case added \$27.28 to the county's bill of costs.

There were 28 cases of a miscellaneous character, such as assault and battery, neglect, malicious mischief and various minor misdemeanors, in which the county was sued for a total of \$604.63 in costs.

There were two violations of the liquor laws, one of which added \$21.95 to the county's bill and in the other case the costs, amounting to \$50.75 were ordered paid by the justice returning the case, but so far they haven't been paid.

The costs in dollars and cents tacked onto a case doesn't cover the entire cost by any means. While a nominal charge of \$4.00 as a jury fee is entered against every case that comes before a jury that sum does not cover the actual cost by any means, as the entire panel of forty-eight jurymen are sitting idle while twelve others are yawning over the triviality of the case they have been chosen to sit on.

Zealousness in any official is to be commended, no matter who he is, but there ought to be a line of demarcation in the character of the cases brought into court for trial. The same rule should apply to justices of the peace, some of whom may be inspired to return cases because by so doing they draw down a larger fee than they are entitled to if the case is disposed of by themselves.

Abolishing "Hell Week"

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. State College's Inter-Fraternity Council is to be commended for its movement to abolish what is known to the students of the institution as "Hell Week." During this period the "pledges" of the various fraternities are initiated with all sorts of rough play and high jinks. That the Council already has the volunteer backing of fourteen or these groups indicates the temper of the students themselves.

Many of the initiations are accompanied by stunts designed merely to display the courage and resourcefulness of the candidates, but others are dangerous and approach cruelty. Of course these are followed by the real ceremonies of the "frats," most of them highly dignified and some of them beautiful of exercise and ritual. The proposal of the State College Council that the initiations hereafter be designed entirely along these latter lines, teaching the spirit of the college and the high ideals for which the fraternities stand, no doubt will be followed by concrete action on the part of the several units that have not already abandoned the old practice. State is leading in a really important reform.

Anyway Vare keeps them all guessing and to his mind that may be worthwhile.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

Francis Winters, of Kingston, a laborer in Nottingham colliery at Plymouth, Luzerne county, found a gold nugget the size of a large marble. Winters' find caused other miners in the Plymouth section to be on the lookout for similar bits of gold.

Stripping store racks of 300 suits of clothing, thieves early on Monday escaped with wearing apparel valued at more than \$7000 from the store of Abe Baron, at Plymouth, near Wilkes-Barre. Loot also included overcoats, shoes and other articles. No arrests were made.

A strike of natural gas estimated at 4,000,000 cubic feet daily and the largest in the area was brought in, on Saturday on the C. W. Cox farm in Nicholson township, Fayette county. Local operators dispose of their product to the Victor Pipe Line company, which turns it over to the Monongahela West Penn company.

When Andrew Zitel drove his automobile into his garage at Pittsburgh last Wednesday night, he was met by a reception committee consisting of two bandits. The men took Zitel's car, robbed him of \$75 and a ring valued at \$350, and made their escape. The car was found later abandoned in Homewood.

Rev. Dr. U. Henry Hellman, a retired Reformed minister, on Sunday celebrated his ninety-second birthday by preaching the sermon at the observance of old folks' day in Tabor Reformed church at Lebanon. In the congregation were four members who have passed the 90-year mark and a score more than 80 years old.

State troopers on Sunday were searching for two bandits who held up and robbed Robert G. Fenstermacher, of Scranton, collector for a chain store, of \$2500, after he finished collecting for the day on Saturday evening. He was forced into an auto in South Scranton and after being robbed was dumped out of the car on East Mountain.

What is believed to have been a stone Indian battle axe was found recently by Henry Bossinger while dredging sand from the bed of the Juniata river a few miles west of Lewistown. The stone implement weighs nearly eight pounds, and has a handle nine inches long and three inches wide with a fan shaped blade measuring eleven inches along the edge.

Twenty-five leg fractures in sixteen years is the curious record held by John Martinovich, 18-year old high school student, at Tarentum, who is recovering from the latest injury, received when a spectator at a basketball game. Tom was only 18 months old when he suffered the first fracture, and he has been getting the "breaks" ever since—but they have all been against him. Twenty-two of the fractures were of the right leg.

Bess, a highly prized cow on the farm of Norman E. Hershey, near Marietta, is alive today and Nina, police dog and pet of the Hershey family, has taken a place among canine heroes. Hershey, perplexed by Nina, who paced the floor and barked vigorously, donned his coat and followed the dog to the barn, where he found Bess strangling to death with her head caught in a hay-rack. He ripped loose the bars and liberated the cow.

Diamond, a registered Percheron, said to be the largest horse in the world, will be offered for sale at Willow Brook farm, Lancaster county, on March 12. Diamond was purchased by late Colonel J. W. Fuller, of Catawauque, on his western trip which ended in his death at San Francisco, Calif. Breeding of Percherons will be discontinued at Willow Brook farm. The horse is of enormous size, weighing almost 3000 pounds. He has been at Willow Brook farm, near Catawauque, for a year.

Planning an early start, inspectors of the State Health Department expect to complete inspection of sanitary conditions at wayside stands, lunch counters attached to tourist camps and tourist lodging houses where meals are served. Inspections of 7000 such places are to be finished before the heavy tourist travel starts at beginning of the vacation season. The investigation will start as soon as tourist stands open in the spring. During the winter the inspectors have checked upon sanitary conditions of restaurants in cities and towns.

Robert Drake, 8 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Drake, who reside in Allentown, a suburb of Mount Union, was admitted to the J. C. Blair Memorial hospital, at Huntingdon, last week, suffering from the effects of a rifle shot in his left side. The little fellow was playing back of his home in Allentown while a number of men in the vicinity of the town were shooting mark and it is believed he was struck by a stray bullet. At the hospital it was found that the bullet had not penetrated the abdomen but had lodged back of the lower spine. The child is not thought to be critically injured although he has suffered much pain.

The venerable Josiah W. Thompson, of Uniontown, man of immense financial ups and downs, has been granted further time to make good on trust fund deficits. The romantic old coal land manipulator and one-time banker, who is attempting to stage a comeback from the crash that reduced him from a Midas to a person of poverty, is not yet at the end of his long financial rope. The court on Monday granted him an extension of parole until July 7 from his jail sentence, in order that he may produce the money he owes to the Princess of Thurn and Taxis and to the Emma Messmore estate. The claim of the Princess is for \$131,000.

Work on the construction of the Safe Harbor Water Power corporation's \$30,000,000 dam and hydro-electric power generating plant in Manor township, Lancaster county, and Chaneesford township, York county, cannot be started until the necessary endorsement is given by the Federal Power Commission and Public Service Commission, according to George S. Beal, chief of the bureau of dams and encroachment of the Department of Forests and Waters. Firms and individuals from Lancaster and York are protesting against the construction of a dam, asking the Public Service Commission to withhold its approval until the power corporation agrees to build a road across the breast of the dam. The Public Service Commission indicated it will not act until further hearing.