

INK SLINGS.

Up to May 20th our friends, the Republicans, will fight among themselves. Then, on May 21st, the whole pack of them will turn and start fighting us.

The London naval parley is still parleying. They are doing a lot of talking about "consultative pacts," "automatic sanctions" and "agendas" all of which are about as clear to the average mind as an Einstein theory.

High pressure salesmanship is becoming obsolete. It never was a sound business practice. Installment buying is also on the wane. It takes times like these to show up the folly of trying to build on such a flimsy foundation as mortgaged wage expectancies.

One of the other things that has been assigned to us to dig up is an explanation of why so many of the cases that once went before Justice Kline Woodring are now being run out for a hearing before Justice Tressel, of Spring township. We have no desire to take a single off the roof of anybody's house, but we admit that we are curious to know just what is back of such a noticeable switch. And we shall find out.

We are wondering what those radio church goers who heard Dr. Vanetin preach in Calvary Episcopal church, Pittsburgh, last Sunday night, thought of his sermon. We are wondering, also, what those who heard the Rev. James H. Gillis, preach in the Catholic Cathedral in Philadelphia, the same evening, thought of his. From widely divergent angles both divines discussed the subject of prohibition. They arrived at the same conclusion, that it is what we have always believed it to be; a moral not a political issue.

Fifty years ago Methodist conferences were resolving against "unnecessary funerals." Fifty years ago Methodist preachers were sure anybody who played cards or danced was headed straight for hell. "The sun do move," however, for now no one can be found who is so cussed contrary that he just dies for the sake of making a funeral. We think, also, that the ministerial finger boards have been changed on the route to inferno. If they haven't a lot of traffic cops must be needed there to keep the card playing, dancing Methodists in line so that the sinners of other denominations have a chance to keep their engagements with Mr. devil.

It took the Democracy of Centre county until the eleventh hour to present a candidate for Assemblyman, but when it finally did something it did it well. John G. Miller, of Ferguson township, is assured of our nomination because he has no opposition. And knowing John G., as we do we can assure you that it is not often that any party in Centre county has presented a candidate of his type. He is a native. He is a graduate of Dickinson college. He was admitted to the practice of law in this county. He is a fluent speaker and he is so deeply interested in agriculture and dairying that he has become a real dirt farmer and is proving that brains and application can eke out a very satisfying existence from the soil—no matter how inequable legislation might be. All he wants to go to Harrisburg for is to stand up for a square deal for every person, every industry, every institution in Centre county. If he goes there he might not get far in the realization of his hopes. On the other hand, we know several intelligent, courageous minority members of the House of Representatives who have been of greater service to their constituents than a dozen "straddlers" could possibly be.

Mr. Grundy's recent attack on Mr. Atterbury sounds to us very much as if Joseph is crying "wolf." Granted that the railroads did play a strong hand in the political control of the State some years ago, will our junior Senator please tell us who picked up the torch that they threw down. If it wasn't the big corporations that Mr. Grundy represents—and still fights to represent—then why has he been hanging around Harrisburg all these years plugging to defeat every kind of labor and child-welfare legislation that has been presented there? We don't believe that the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. wants to get back into politics. But what if it does? We remember the days when every politician in Pennsylvania and every newspaper office had "free passes," for which they paid in kind; when the voters of all parties were provided with transportation to get home for election day, and nobody who could conjure up an illness that could be cured only by a glimpse of a Philadelphia hospital and a convalescence in Wanamaker's store or the old "Rathskeller" in the basement of the Betz building, was refused a free ride to the city over the Pennsy. We remember the records, also. And we know that the railroads of the State never did it to what the gang that Grundy typifies has done to it since. In our opinion the gentleman who is aspiring to represent Pennsylvania in the United States Senate is a poor sport. The worst interpretation that could be put on its attack on Mr. Atterbury is that of "the pot calling the kettle black."

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How Will the People Decide?

Mr. Grundy, who is the Mellon-Fisher candidate for Senator on the Republican ticket, charges that Francis Shunk Brown, the Vore machine candidate for Governor on the same ticket, is the instrument with which the Philadelphia gang politicians hope to loot the State as it has already robbed the city of Philadelphia. In a subsequent statement Mr. Grundy alleges that General Atterbury, president of the Pennsylvania railroad "has been and is the directing mind in the conspiracy being carried out by Cunningham, Hall, Salus and their pawns, by which the Philadelphia gang and the Pennsylvania railroad are attempting to grab control of the State government and the public treasury, dictate the personnel and policy of the Public Service Commission and dominate all the important relationships of this great State with the Federal government."

State Senator Salus, a member of the Vore machine war board, which is sponsoring the campaign of Francis Shunk Brown for Governor, charges that Mr. Grundy was participating in a looting operation of the State. "Maybe he can explain," Mr. Salus declares, "how Townsend (Mr. Grundy's secretary) sold the State hundreds of thousands of dollars of worthless land in Bucks county on the swindle that it was land where Washington's army camped." Cunningham and Hall, other members of the war board, have made no reply to Mr. Grundy's statement that an alliance "with all the mismanagement and corruption they represent," would involve "a sacrifice of self-respect and be too high a price to pay for any office in State or nation." General Atterbury has not made any reply either. His silence is ominous.

Mr. Huston Must Resign.

Mr. Claudius H. Huston, chairman of the Republican National committee, may as well resign now as later. No party can carry such a load as he is and survive. It has been proved that he was active in the lobby which defeated the Norris bill providing for government operation of the Muscle Shoals plant. It has been proved by his own evidence and that of other witnesses that he solicited contributions for use in the lobby activities and subsequently used money thus obtained in speculative stock operations in Wall street. His record reveals not only absence of patriotism but moral turpitude.

Some of Mr. Huston's friends advise him to hold on to the important office of chairman of the National committee until popular indignation has subsided. Others of his friends advise him to hold on to his office in the expectation that the episode will soon be forgotten. Both groups are giving him bad advice. The real and honest leaders of his party demand his immediate resignation and have even appealed to the President, who personally selected him for the service, to demand his resignation as essential to the future prosperity of the party. Both the President and Mr. Huston seem to concur in the bad counsel.

The congressional elections are approaching. It is morally certain that a considerable number of districts carried by Republican candidates in the "land-slide" of 1928 will elect Democrats this year. It is equally sure that with Huston at the head of the party a considerable number of close Republican districts will send Democrats to Congress. These gains are practically certain to reverse the political complexion of the House of Representatives, which would make the last half of Hoover's administration uncomfortable, to say the least. For these reasons, if Mr. Huston is wise and a good Republican, he will resign now.

Protest Against Parker for Supreme Court.

There is a strong suspicion that President Hoover intends to pack the federal courts in the interest of monopolies. The appointment of Mr. Charles Evans Hughes to be Chief Justice of the Supreme court was bitterly and properly resented, not only in the Senate, but throughout the country. Since that the appointment of Judge Parker, of North Carolina, to the vacancy on the same bench caused by the death of Justice Sanford has been protested by the Railroad Brotherhoods because of his mental attitude as expressed in decisions on the District court bench. It seems that Judge Parker's record reveals a reactionary spirit of the ultra type. The "appointment" is a bitter "disappointment."

The Railroad Brotherhoods have appealed to the Senators to investigate Judge Parker's record before voting on his confirmation. Labor, the official organ of the Railroad organizations, declares that President Hoover "has picked a man whose best known decision upholds the 'yellow-dog' contract in its most offensive form." In other words, his appointment to the Supreme court bench increases the majority of the reactionaries, already too great for the safety of human interests. It is true that Chief Justice Taft was a conservative and Justice Sanford a reactionary and the recent appointments simply maintain the ratio. But considering public sentiment on the subject the court is not balanced.

The court is composed of the Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. Assuming that the dominant party is favorable to the interests of corporations and that its dominance entitles it to a majority of the judges the ratio of five to four ought to be ample to serve its purpose. But as a matter of fact the ratio is six to three, reducing the progressives to a hopeless minority. The appointment of a progressive to the office of Chief Justice, or the naming of a jurist of that school in place of Sanford would have created the just balance. But both appointees are reactionaries and the fact that Justice Holmes is going on ninety years of age justifies the fear of greater disparity in the future.

The income tax supplies 63.8 per cent of the revenues of the government. If Mr. Mellon hadn't had his levy cut in half the ratio would be greater.

His Golden Anniversary.

Wedded fifty years ago to the newspaper business John F. Short, gentleman, Democrat and veteran editor of the Clearfield Republican, celebrated the golden anniversary of the day he got the first whiff of printer's ink and elected a career that has been fraught with both happy and troublous times.

It were better, perhaps, to say that Mr. Short's friends did the celebrating while he, overwhelmed with surprise and gratitude, indexed each tribute in memory so that it can be brought out again as the years march on. The Rotary club of Clearfield entertained at a dinner at the hotel Dimeling in his honor, the Clearfield Progress, a rival newspaper, published a "John F. Short Fiftieth Anniversary Edition" and telegrams, letters and cards of congratulation piled high on his office desk.

It was, indeed, a merited and notable occasion. Mr. Short has long been distinguished in the field of Pennsylvania journalism and his virile, courageous and constructive writing has made his paper an unusual force. The Watchman greets and salutes a man whom it has always admired.

The county auditors will complete their work of auditing the various accounts of the county either this week or early next week. In this connection it might be said that many taxpayers are anxiously watching for the publication of the auditors' annual statement.

There is nothing new under the sun. Thirty years ago a distinguished Republican statesman characterized the Republican organization of Philadelphia just as Grundy describes it now.

Possibly the American delegates to the naval conference were simply showing their French and Italian colleagues that they know something about the quality of wines.

Maybe that Chicago blizzard last week was the justly famous onion snow.

Pinchot's Appealing Promises.

Mr. Pinchot's platform is artfully phrased. It promises much that is appealing to the average mind. "If elected Governor," he says, "I will use the full power of my office to break the strangle hold of the electric, gas, water, trolley, bus and other public utilities on the cost of living and margin for happiness." This pledge will "ring the bell" in thousands of homes in Pennsylvania. There is no section of the State which has not suffered injustice at the hands of these monopolies. The promise of security from their unjust exactions will thrill thousands of hearts. If Mr. Pinchot could give a guarantee of achievement along these lines his nomination and election would be certain.

His several other promises are equally appealing. The Public Service Commission has long been an agency through which utility corporations have legalized their crimes against the people. To abolish it would be a public service of inestimable value. The creation of a fair rate board to be elected by the people in districts is an enticing proposition and to invest it with power to "review and reduce every unjust rate now charged by any electric, gas, water, trolley, bus or any other public utility under its authority" would be admirable. These and the other improvements in methods and policies which Mr. Pinchot enumerate are desirable and commendable in the fullest measure.

But in the face of past experience how can Mr. Pinchot hope to accomplish these results? All these vicious practices are deep-seated policies of the party to which he adheres tenaciously. The only way they can be eradicated is the complete reversal of the political complexion of the State administration, the elimination of every trace of machine politics. Mr. Pinchot tried to accomplish the reforms "within the party" and failed. His effort was belated but probably sincere and his energy was wasted. The Democrats of the State have been striving for years to compass these results but now profess to desire but lacked the opportunity. Elect their ticket now and they will succeed.

Harmones are reported by scientists to work greater wonders in the aging human system than monkey glands ever promised to perform. Injected into an old rooster, whose combs had wilted and whose wattles had shriveled, they perked him up until he couldn't be distinguished from the youngest cock in the flock. This hormone injection interests us and we think there are a lot of other old roosters who will sit up and take notice of what science has to say of harmones.

On Tuesday morning a vast army of census takers started out to discover just how many of us there are in this country. If there aren't 122,136,893 then the great Census Clock in Washington will be found to be wrong. What if it is? It won't be the first clock to be wrong. We have one that is so habitually wrong that we don't rely on it when it happens to be right.

It remained for a spelling bee between Congressmen and newspaper correspondents, in Washington, to reveal that in the Constitution of the United States the word tranquility is spelled with only one I. It is just possible that the wise men who framed that precious document thought they would emphasize the much desired condition described by tranquility by taking as much I as possible out of it.

Included on a committee appointed by Governor Fisher, last Friday, to arrange for the dedication of statues of the old War Governor, Andrew G. Curtin, and Gen. John G. Parke, in the Vicksburg military park, in Mississippi, the coming summer, are Capt. C. T. Fryberger, of Philipsburg, Senator Richard S. Quigley, of Lock Haven, and Hon. John Laird Holmes, of State College.

On Wednesday evening announcement was made at the Pinchot for Governor headquarters in Philadelphia, that former Judge Arthur C. Dale, of this place, has been made state chairman of the Pinchot campaign committee.

As a matter of fact it was Grundy and the Mellons who bestowed the office of National Committeeman on Mr. Atterbury.

Encourage others to subscribe for the Watchman.

FRIENDSHIP.

Out of the "Long Ago"—into the now. We cherish each memory of friendship's glow. And carry it on through days of time, Sure in its faith and hope, divine. Out of that "Long Ago," freighted with cheer, Comes the joy of having had friendship so dear; Of sharing the sunshine, the clouds, the rain. Life's song is not lost—it will live on in refrain.

W. B. MEEK-MORRIS  
April, 1930.

Middletown, Penna., Has No Debt, and Why?

The fact that there is a town in Pennsylvania that has no debt is interesting. It is such an unusual condition as to excite inquiry as to how it has attained such an enviable position.

The following, clipped from last Sunday's Philadelphia Public Ledger, will explain how Middletown, Dauphin county, got out of debt and stays out.

Middletown has passed another year without debt and with money in its borough funds and money in the bank on interest, as well as a special reserve. It is the only municipality in the State that has no debt, Councilmen believe, and one of the few in the country.

There are towns where the tax rate is very low because corporations, such as mining companies, pay most of the tax, and there are others where economy has kept the wolf from the door. Most incorporated communities not only have debts, but in many cases they are so cumbersome that the taxpayers are in some instances considerably inconvenienced in raising funds with which to meet interest.

So muddled are the affairs of some boroughs and cities, too, that the Legislature a few years ago passed a law providing that all municipal bonds be passed upon by the Department of Internal Affairs before any money is realized through municipal loans. Up to the present time that law has meant nothing to this borough.

In approving the report of the borough auditors, R. W. Stickell, R. S. Gotshall and H. E. Robinson, Council was able to plan for the 1930 improvement work on streets, sewers, paving and other improvements without bothering about what the triennial assessment figures will be. This is the year of the triennial assessment, when in many municipalities the assessed valuations of realty are boosted so that the town's revenues may be increased.

The audit is built primarily about the borough's municipal light and power plant, which furnishes electric power to new industries at a cent a kilowatt hour, and compete with one of the largest of the Metropolitan Edison plants in the State, erected on the Susquehanna River here. It is profits from this plant that keep the town free of debt. It paid the running expenses of 1929, cut down the tax rate, provided good and cheap light and power and helped in piling up the Borough Treasury's cash balances. The borough has \$5140 cash on hand for ordinary purposes; \$19,700 in a special light plant reserve; \$6000 in bank on interest and its other funds are in excellent shape.

Maxwell P. Moore, of Bradford, has filed nomination papers as Democratic candidate for Congress from the Twenty-third district, composed of the counties of Centre, Clearfield, Cameron and McKean. He is the only Democratic candidate.

Women Democrats Will Meet in Johnstown.

The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women will be held at Johnstown, April 9, 10, and 11. The Women's Democratic club of Johnstown will be the hostess club. Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross, vice chairman Democratic National Committee, and ex-Governor of Wyoming, and Hon. Gordon Browning, Congressman from Tennessee, will be the speakers at the banquet which will be held Thursday evening, April 10, at the Fort Stanwix hotel. A large number of women and men have already made reservations for the dinner.

Headquarters will be at the Fort Stanwix hotel where the first session will be held at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning and where the reception to delegates will be held Wednesday evening. At 12:30 on Thursday there will be a luncheon to delegates at hotel Capitol hotel. Democratic women from all sections of the State are expected to attend the sessions.

The curious thing about the quarrel between Grundy and the Vore war board is that everybody who knows the parties concerned will agree that all of them are telling the truth.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Thomas V. Miller is dead at Lewis-town at the age of 84. A Civil war veteran, he was one of the guard over Jefferson Davis, the captured President of the Confederacy. He took part in the battles before Petersburg and Richmond.

State Senator A. J. Sordani was low bidder on the contract for a soldiers' memorial shaft to be erected in the center of the public square, Wilkes-Barre. He quoted a figure of \$116,000, while the highest bidder named a price of \$157,000.

Lebanon Valley Fair grounds, covering 35 acres of land, part of which is in the city, along with its equipment, is to be offered at sheriff's sale on April 19, to cover executions entered against the Fair Association which is about 35 years old. There will be no annual fair this year.

Thieves early on Sunday attacked Henry Deible, 87 years old, of Sharon, in the office of the automobile parking lot he operated near a local theatre, beat him into unconsciousness, robbed him of \$10 in his pockets, but overlooked currency and deposit slips totaling approximately \$9,000 secreted in his clothing.

Seventy relatives will share in the small estate of Mrs. Hattie Mensch, Snyder-town, Northumberland county. It was disclosed when the will was probated in Northumberland county court. One cousin in the far away Philippines will get \$10. The bulk of the estate is a farm house which brought only \$900 at public sale.

Fires were lighted last week in the tank of the Interstate Window Glass company's factory at Mt. Jewett, twelve miles east of Kane, and the inhabitants of that village are pleased as this gives the assurance that their main industry will be in operation within three weeks employing 300 men. This factory has been idle for the past three years.

Mrs. Edith L. Reinhart, of 23 Gildersleeve street, Wilkes-Barre, wants \$10,000 for a cat bite and has sued the American Stores company for that amount. Through Attorney Frank A. McGuigan, who filed the suit in court. Mrs. Gildersleeve alleges she was bitten by the feline while a customer in one of the company's stores in that city.

A summary of the reports covering attendance in the public schools of Pennsylvania during the past school year shows that there was a net enrollment of 1,897,128 pupils in both elementary and high school departments. This was an increase of 13,705 pupils over the previous year. Of this number 963,741 were boys and 933,387 were girls.

What to do with the mail accumulated in Rouserville, Franklin county, over the week-end, has become a problem with the quarantining of the Federal post office. Alfred Hartman, postmaster of the Franklin county village, was quarantined for smallpox when it was found that a member of his household was suffering from the disease. No disposition of the mail was attempted by medical authorities.

The person who robbed the garage of C. R. Leach, at Lewistown, can hardly be called a sneak thief as he walked out again with a radio and stand. The garage is located on South Main street and the show room opens directly onto the street. An attendant was in the garage at the time the radio disappeared in broad daylight but failed to see anyone enter or leave. State police have been placed on the case.

John B. Ross, district supervisor of the State Game Commission, is the custodian of three bear cubs which were discovered by employees of the commission. One was found near Emporium, and two in Elk county. The three cubs were in an emaciated condition. Scarcity of food in the fall forcing the young animals to hole up before having accumulated surplus fat to last during the long period of inactivity is blamed for their condition.

Isadore Rudzis, 39 years old, of Shenando, Pa., did not have any work on Monday because the mine at which he is employed was idle. So he decided to be kind to his wife and help her with the family wash. That night he was in the Locust Mountain State hospital severely scalded about the back, chest and head. He stumbled and fell while carrying a boiler of hot water across the kitchen. Mrs. Rudzis finished the family washing.

The Public Service Commission, in an executive session on Monday, granted the application of the Safe Harbor Water Power corporation for permission to build a \$30,000,000 dam and power plant at Safe Harbor. The commission discussed the complaint of groups of residents of York and Lancaster counties, urging the commission to decline to grant the application unless the power company should agree to construct a roadway atop the dam.

Floyd K. Steiner, an installer and repairman at DuBois for the Bell Telephone company, is to receive the Theodore N. Vail medal for conspicuous acts of public service in emergencies during 1929. It was announced by Leonard H. Kinnard, president of the company. Steiner is to receive the medal "for initiative and conspicuous proficiency in first aid, resulting in the saving of a human life" in a fire on the night of September 3, 1929, at DuBois.

Jesse Hassinger, State game trapper, of Lewistown, spent last week in Juniata county, solving the killing of wild turkeys in that locality. The turkeys had recently been released by the State Game Commission and were only half wild. The carcasses had been found by farmers with only the head missing. Mr. Hassinger, an expert in woods lore, soon discovered that a pack of dogs were the offenders and after seeing them kill and devour the head of a turkey Mr. Hassinger shot them.

The radio and other radical changes in recreation and education have lessened the demand for Chautauqua programmes that the Swarthmore Chautauqua Association, one of the best known organizations of its kind, has been forced into financial difficulties. An assignment for the benefit of its creditors was filed Monday by the Swarthmore Association, whose president is Paul M. Pearson, of Swarthmore. No statement of assets and liabilities was made by the association, which for many years has conducted extensive and Nation-wide tours.