

INK SLINGS

—Pinchot is flirting with Vare again and when Gif. deals with the Philadelphia boss he is always taken for a ride.

—It is much easier to like someone who agrees with you than one with a mind of his own and the courage to express it.

—The terrible earthquake that killed hundreds in Italy on Wednesday was one thing beyond the control of Mr. Mussolini.

—The back-bone of the hot wave was broken on Tuesday, but not before the back-bone of the genus homo had wilted to the consistency of the spine of a jelly fish.

—It is said that Pennsylvania will be the greatest loser by the new Congressional apportionment. But Pennsylvania sends about the worst bunch of misfits to Congress anyway.

—The President has ordered his Cabinet to cut expenses wherever they can. "Uncle Andy" Mellon will probably construe that as license to put the tax on the incomes of millionaires.

—The iniquitous tax law passed by Pennsylvania's Legislature last year should be wiped off the statute book at the next session. Let us send John G. Miller down to Harrisburg to help do that, as well as help take the tax off gasoline.

—Not every clean desk one sees indicates that the gentleman behind it has his work up to the minute. We have seen lots of clean topped desks that conceal drawers crammed full of work that ought to have been attended to months before it was raked into them.

—The optimistic farmer will figure out that he is nearly twice as well off as he was this time last year because his wheat crop is twice as large. The pessimistic one will knock the cup of happiness from his lip, however, by reminding him that last year, at this time, the price of wheat was nearly twice as high as it is now.

—Meteorologists, or whatever the fellows who dope out the weather are called, are telling the world that it was the "Bermuda wind" that made everything so hot during the recent calisthenics for the perspiration glands. It might have been so. We can imagine the winds sweeping over the onion fields of Bermuda, wafting away the heat so that when the Bermuda onion comes onto the market it will not be so hot.

—The attempt to get John M. Hemphill, our nominee for Governor, to withdraw is not being made either for the good of our party or for the State. Mr. Hemphill cannot cut capers on a ballyhoo like Pinchot can, but he is a sound, clean man with a conviction and the courage to espouse it. His ambition is to do something for his fellow Pennsylvanians, while all that motivates Mr. Pinchot is an ambition to be President of the United States.

—Old Bishop Cannon has married a woman forty years old. He is sixty-five. Our Methodist friends may say what they please about the Moses of their church South. We've got our own ideas about the gentleman, but we are not going to air them here because we spent thirty years on probation in getting into the church and, if we were to say just what we believe about Bishop Cannon's real religion we would be fired out again in about thirty seconds.

—The crickets will be chirping before long. After they start it will be only six weeks until fall. After fall, comes winter: Cold, drab, furnace stoking, snow-shoveling winter. And what are we going to do next winter, if the good Lord wills that we shall be sticking around here through those bleak days to come? We might get committed to the borough home. We'd have a soft time there, because if nothing else in the food line appealed there should be plenty of strawberry preserves. We love strawberry preserves and we know that the borough home buys them by the crate.

—The report of the proceedings of the latest meeting of the Bellefonte council gives the impression that Bellefonte's solons were a bit wary when it came to expressing an opinion as to how, when and where the pipes should be laid to connect up the Big Spring with the Gamble pumping station and hook the outflow up with the mains. Council has been dallying with this project for seven months. The borough has been paying five hundred dollars a month on the purchase of the Gamble water power and between four and five hundred a month for electricity which the Gamble power is estimated to supplant. This has been going on for seven months and it will probably be ten before the plant is put in operation. The loss to the borough by such shilly-shallying has already run into thousands of dollars and if there aren't enough brains in council to handle the project it is high time the body admits it and employs someone to complete the installation. If it doesn't do something soon the taxpayers of the borough can be justified in thinking there is something rotten in Denmark.

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Something Like a Conspiracy.

Frequent conferences between leaders of the Francis Shunk Brown faction of the Republican party and managers of the Pinchot contingent, recently, have aroused a suspicion that there is a movement on foot to withdraw the legal contest against Mr. Pinchot's nomination and give him the support of the Vare and Mellon machines in consideration of patronage favors to be bestowed in the event of Pinchot's election. The first of these conferences was held at Mr. Pinchot's Pike county home, several weeks ago, the emissary of the Brown faction being General Martin, chairman of the Republican State committee. Several other conferences have been held since and the utmost secrecy has been preserved.

It is recalled that after Mr. Pinchot's nomination, eight years ago, though the most intensely bitter feeling had developed during the primary campaign and the candidate's demand for the courtesy of naming the chairman was contemptuously denied, the organization earnestly supported his election. He had promised to "clean up the mess," but that didn't impair the energy of the Vare machine in his behalf and after his inauguration, instead of cleaning up the mess, he entered into an agreement with Vare to retain all his friends in office. In fact Mr. Vare, having had himself elected Senator, became the voice of the administration on the floor of the Senate during the subsequent session of the Legislature.

When Mr. Pinchot entered upon the office of Governor in 1923 he could have had any reform legislation he wanted. With the patronage of the office at his command the Legislature was obedient to his will. The friends of clean elections urged him to move in that direction at that psychological time, but he was deaf to their appeals. Mr. Vare was "his guide, philosopher and friend," so long as he had patronage to dispense, and Vare didn't want ballot reform. After Mr. Pinchot quarreled with Vare he began a crusade for ballot reform but it was too late. He had wasted his opportunity. Are the secret negotiations with the Vare and Mellon machines leading to a repetition of this history?

In trading with the Vare machine Gifford Pinchot's principal capital is hypocrisy.

Tariff Propagandists Rebuffed.

The highly organized bunch of propagandists who have been sent into the wheat belt by the administration to fool the farmers met with an unexpected rebuff in Kansas the other day. Alexander Legge, chairman of the impotent Federal Farm Board, and Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture, having undertaken this job, were making a series of speeches in the Middle-west, urging the farmers to reduce their wheat acreage to domestic consumption and thus make the increased tariff tax on sweet milk and peanuts benefit agriculture. They made several speeches in Nebraska and got away with the bunk without encountering any serious trouble and then passed on to Kansas.

Their first meeting in the State of sunflowers and Hades was held at Hays, a small town in the center of the wheat belt. According to reports of the event "men who take their livelihood from the soil" were present by thousands. After Mr. Legge and Mr. Hyde had finished their speeches Clyde M. Reed, Governor of Kansas, took the improvised rostrum and said: "Now for the first time in the 141 years of our national existence it is proposed definitely to subordinate agriculture to industry by asking that it be restricted in its production to that amount necessary to supply those occupied in the industrial world." Then he declared there is "no substantial overproduction of wheat in the world."

"Interest of the assembled farmers was intense," the press report continues, and it is natural that they should be deeply concerned. They live in a section where the soil is better adapted to growing wheat than any other crop and the curtailment of their planting practically means to leave their fields idle and nonproductive and their mortgages unpaid. But Legge and Hyde are correct in their opinion that it is the only way to make tariff tax on farm products affect the farmer, one way or another. If the tax on wheat were a dollar a bushel the selling price in Kansas would be the market rate of the surplus in Liverpool. Maybe Governor Reed is also correct in his belief that implement makers "get the cream," and Legge is an implement maker.

Mrs. McCormick's Campaign Expenses.

After four days of diligent digging Senator Nye, chairman of the new Slush Fund committee, announced an indefinite recess of the inquiry into the expenses of Ruth Hanna McCormick's campaign for the Republican nomination for Senator from Illinois. During that period of time some interesting facts were revealed. In her sworn report to the secretary of the Senate, immediately following the vote, Mrs. McCormick gave her expenses as \$252,000. It has been shown that the total cost to herself and members of her family and a few outside friends amounted to approximately \$350,000, and that one check for \$10,000 contributed by her brother-in-law was not included for the reason that it hadn't been used.

In connection with the investigation Mrs. McCormick filed with the committee a complaint that her Democratic competitor for the office had said her nomination cost a million dollars and asked that something be done about it. But she admitted that she knew nothing about the sums spent by the corrupt Chicago machine and various other organizations that had been active in her behalf. It is well known that Chicago politics is of the most expensive type, and as she carried that city by an immense majority Mr. Lewis probably assumed that it had cost considerable. At any rate the Nye committee took no steps toward censuring Jim Ham. Probably Mr. Nye knows something about Mr. Lewis' fighting spirit.

But the public concern is not so much as to the amount spent by Mrs. McCormick and her family and friends in the campaign. It is the menace which such vast expenditures in Senatorial contests presents to the public life of the country. It is practically a public notice to the men and women of the United States that only millionaires are eligible to that office, and that certificates of election are commodities attainable only by bargain and sale. In the contest for the office now pending in Illinois Mrs. McCormick's competitor is a man of splendid ability, high character and eminent fitness, but not rich. If the office is to be sold to the highest bidder Mr. Lewis has no chance.

Prince Mohammed Hassan Mirza, who aspires to the throne of Persia, is "hunting trouble."

Sad Blow to Vare's Hopes.

As the threads of the Republican primary contest are untangled only disappointment comes to the Vare machine managers. The Luzerne county vote has been certified to the Secretary of the Commonwealth at Harrisburg and the Pinchot majority of 20,099 has been written into the record. No fraud has been revealed to challenge the validity of the returns and the question of the mutilation of ballots by perforation can be raised only under conditions that are practically impossible. It may be assumed, therefore, that Gifford Pinchot is the Republican nominee for Governor and that the transfer of the Vare machine headquarters from Philadelphia to Harrisburg has been indefinitely postponed.

This is a hard blow and a rude shock to the War Board. Tom Cunningham, Charlie Hall and Sam Salus confidently expected four years of fine picking from the treasury of the State with the complacent Shunk Brown dispensing the favor of a profligate administration. When the carpet baggers in the South, during the infamous era of reconstruction, were about despairing of further loot one of them, a Pennsylvanian, revived their hopes by writing that "there are two years of good stealing in South Carolina yet." The opportunities for graft in Philadelphia are about exhausted and the prospect of a new and rich field in Harrisburg was very enticing to the bunch of political pirates.

But sad as the blow was to the War Board the greatest disappointment came to William S. Vare, the former boss of the machine. While the satellites expected much, he coveted a vastly greater prize. He has leaked out that one of the objects of the enterprise was to place the power and influence of the Brown administration behind Vare as a candidate for United States Senator against Reed in 1932. In pursuance of this plan Secretary of Labor Davis, of Pittsburgh, was put on the ticket for Senator this year, thus giving that city its share of the party favors and correspondingly diminishing Reed's claim next time. But "the best laid scheme 'o' mice and men gang aft agley."

Clan Gatherings in Flower.

The "clan" season is on and for a period of five weeks in the immediate future family reunions will be held in this and other counties in central and eastern Pennsylvania. We have no means of ascertaining the origin of this beneficent custom or where it began. But it can easily be seen that it is increasing in popularity, and it may be added, in enjoyment and importance. It brings together widely separated members of conspicuous and sometimes pioneer families of the community in which it is held, and not only renews but strengthens the bonds of friendship and fraternity which under the necessities of life have been severed.

It is a long way from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific coast but there are men and women who were born in Centre county, or whose forbears were resident within her borders, now living in most, if not all, of the States between those points. The "clan" gatherings bring them together and afford opportunities to discuss the vicissitudes of life and compare their experiences during the year that have intervened since their separation, in some cases fifty or more years before. Family trees are traced from root to branch, family traditions and peculiarities discussed to the intimate enjoyment and vast improvement of all concerned.

There is nothing more interesting to a group of kindly-minded men and women assembled in a spirit of fraternity than a review of the family history with full details of early trials and triumphs and equally complete and confidential accounts of subsequent successes or failures. The highest merit of the "clan" gathering lies in the opportunity for these recitals, and the even more precious privileges of tendering help where help is needed or expressing felicitation when it is more appropriate. Quite a number of these family reunions are held annually in Centre county and this year they seem to have aroused more enthusiasm than ever before.

Power, oil, aluminum and steel interests are combining to prevent the re-election of Senator Walsh of Montana. It's a case of a combination of evils.

Farm Board Falls Down.

Having completely subdued the Senate the Hoover administration has now determined to force the wheat growers of the country to obey the order to curtail production. The Farm Board will buy no more wheat. That absurd expedient to "stabilize the market" has been abandoned as a hopeless, if not exactly a "noble, experiment." Until the surplus is reduced by voluntary action, that is by "reducing the production to a point where it practically parallels domestic consumption," the Grain Stabilization Corporation will not intervene again. It has 69,000,000 bushels of wheat on its hands now with storage charges pyramiding and no prospect of relief.

One of the most conspicuous apologists for administration blunders writes that "there is a strong impression that those most intimately concerned have reached the conclusion that the stabilization provisions of the agricultural marketing act have been found to be uneconomic and impractical as a means of dealing with the surplus problem." When it was under consideration in the Senate, more than a year ago, a considerable majority of the Senators declared it to be not only impotent but vicious. But President Hoover insisted on its adoption and its passage. The responsibility for failure is upon him.

The debenture plan of farm relief was abhorrent to President Hoover but it would have accomplished the result which the Farm Board experiment, a Hoover invention, has failed to achieve, and in substantial the same way. That is, it contemplated a bonus to the producers of surplus farm products, and the purchase and storage of wheat by the government works precisely the same result. Neither is economically sound but the plan rejected was practical, while that adopted has proved a failure and the farmers are the victims of the blunder. The Congressional elections next November will reveal how the victims will react to the disappointment and betrayal.

There is an increase fire hazard in the long continued and hot dry spell, which should influence everybody to greater care.

This would be an appropriate time to recruit forces for arctic or antarctic explorations.

Politics in Pennsylvania

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

There is much talk of "irregularity," a more or less indefinite term in the present very much confused state of affairs political in Pennsylvania over the proposal of Gifford Pinchot to organize an independent party and the endorsement, expected soon, of John Hemphill, Democrat, by the Liberal Party. But there is nothing unusual about the situation. The political history of Pennsylvania is literally filled with incidents of this kind. Third parties, fourth parties and even fifth and sixth parties have not been uncommon. And it has been quite the fashion for nominees, either for the purpose of strengthening themselves outside their own party or to prevent the invasion of their presidency by enemies within, to accept endorsements of the kind now proposed or to organize independent party movements.

The practice started as early as 1811 when Simon Snyder was elected to the governorship as a Democrat in a field in which his opponents ran on the Federalist and Independent tickets. The much discussed Joseph Ritner also profited by another such split, being elected in 1830, over George Wolf, Independent Democrat, and H. A. Muhlenberg, Democrat, who divided the opposition between them.

But coming down to more recent years the present trend is even more apparent. Samuel W. Pennypacker, for example, was named on two tickets, and Robert S. Pattison in the same election was nominated on three and lost the election. Edwin S. Stuart in 1906 was a candidate on two tickets and Lewis Emery, Jr., his unsuccessful opponent, boasted of no less than five nominations. The late Martin G. Brumbaugh was a candidate on the Republican, Keystone and Personal Liberty tickets, while his opponent, Vance C. McCormick, claimed the Democratic and Washington party nominations, losing to the Philadelphia by a majority of 130,000. William Cameron Sproul ran on two tickets and Eugene G. Bonniwell, whom he defeated, was also the candidate of two parties.

This is the most recent example of mixed politics. Pinchot and Sparran battled it out eight years ago on the straight Republican and Democratic nominations and four years ago John S. Fisher had but the Republican and Bonniwell only the Democratic nomination.

So it is apparent that what is happening this year is not so new nor unusual as some folks would have it appear. Rather it is a return to methods long in use and no more to be condemned on the part of Hemphill than it is for Pinchot. Both are looking for votes and any endorsement or movement in agreement with the policies each represents will be, naturally, more than welcome.

Farm Relief: Skunk Cabbage or Rose?

From the Philadelphia Record.

Governor Clyde Reed, of Kansas, attacks Chairman Legge, of the Federal Farm Board, because, as he contends:

- 1. The Farm Board bought and stored wheat.
2. It pledged itself not to sell this stored wheat in competition with the new crop wheat as it came in.
3. It sold 2,000,000 bushels of old wheat.
4. These sales, in Governor Reed's opinion, were the cause of the break in the market.

Chairman Legge replies tartly that the sales were necessitated by expiration of grain elevator (storage) arrangements made by the Grain Stabilization Corporation. He said that "sales of grain in closing up agreements with mills would be replaced by purchases of an exact equal quantity in order to avoid reductions in holdings involved in stabilization operations."

To the ordinary Eastern metropolitan reader it's all "clear as mud." But it does not take a wheat grower or professional economist to perceive that the Government, which so long and with such bitter determination fought off the equalization fee and the export debenture plan, is now up to its eyebrows in a project of artificial control of wheat production and marketing, and presenting a price-fixing skunk cabbage as the rose of farm relief.

And it is perfectly clear that whatever is being or not being achieved in farm relief, the Farm Board is making mighty hard going for the Administration forces, politically.

The President has abandoned his idea of a tour of the agricultural West, and Congressmen from that section are urging the President to clap a stopper on Chairman Legge's jaw tackle, lest his endeavors to win the farmers result in a landslide of votes against the Administration in coming elections. Farm relief cannot make good at the polls unless it can make good in the fields.

So long as there are millions of hungry people in the world it will be hard to prove an over-production of wheat.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—More than 12,000 ring-necked pheasants are being raised at the two farms owned by the State Game Commission.

—Eva Lau, 13-year-old York girl, was tied to a kitchen table by a 12-foot chain because she tired of caring for her four younger brothers and sisters and ran out to play like other little girls her age. Her father has admitted chaining her, saying he and his wife had to work, leaving only Eva to care for the others, and head, sustained in the struggle.

—During two months 800 dogs have been killed in Schuylkill county by State employees in charge of James G. Fox. The dogs had been let roam at large without muzzles. Fox is enforcing the rabies quarantine, which has another month to run. Seven persons have been bitten by dogs this summer throughout the county and of these two suffered rabies, but recovered.

—Fred Winnal, Philadelphia race driver who suffered severe burns of the body when his machine caught fire while rounding the Tipton bowl during the Flag day race, was permitted to use a wheel chair at Mercy hospital, Altoona, Monday night. Hospital authorities, however, pointed out that his condition has not materially improved and that he still remains in the danger list at the institution.

—The largest group of officers assigned by the United States Navy to study Diesel engines this year have been sent to the Pennsylvania State College. Seven lieutenants are now at the college for one year's study as graduate students. This is the second year the Navy has selected Penn State to train some of its officers in advanced engineering with emphasis being placed on Diesel engines and auxiliary equipment applicable to naval power plants.

—Private Charles Stewart, of the Pennsylvania state police, slain in a gun battle in which he killed a blackmail suspect at Monessen Friday morning, was buried at Reynoldsville, on Sunday. He was accorded military honors by brother members of the state police. Captain Albert Carlson, of the Greensburg barracks, and a squad of forty troopers accompanied the body to the Emerickville Methodist church, where the Rev. Roy P. Miller, of the Reynoldsville Presbyterian church, conducted the services.

—Edwin W. Kruse, 112 East Washington street, New Castle, Pa., has applied to the Federal Radio Commission for a construction permit to erect a new broadcasting station to use fifty watts power, a frequency of 1210 kilocycles and to operate from nine to twelve hours daily. The commission has set for hearing the application of the Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa., for a renewal of a license to use 500 watts power and to operate on 1604, 2308, 3256, 4795, 6425, 8650, 12850 and 17300 kilocycles.

—Burglars were very considerate when they robbed the cash register of the Charles M. Rice grocery store, in Lewisstown, taking only \$62, and leaving \$180. The thief or thieves only took part of the money, evidently hoping that the amount would not be found missing until the weekly checkup on Saturday night. This is the fifth time the Rice store has been robbed in the past several years and it is believed that persons familiar with the most recent hideaway place for the store's cash at night were responsible for the robbery.

—Because his brother took exceptions to his assuming charge of arrangements for their mother's funeral, Howard Kennedy, 48, near Wayne's Castle, Franklin county, on Monday, is in the Waynesboro hospital with a punctured wound in the left lung, another near the heart and a third less serious wound. At the same time, David Kennedy, 44, near Green Castle, was being held in the Franklin county jail on charges of assault and battery with intent to kill. He is alleged to have thrust a manure fork into Howard's chest, while arrangements were being made for the funeral of the mother, Mrs. Sarah Jane Kennedy, 71. Efforts are being made to have a sanitary commission appointed to examine David, it was stated.

Plans and specifications for the proposed new \$300,000 unit to the Cresson sanatorium have been completed and bids will be opened Wednesday, July 30, in Harrisburg, according to recent announcement. At the present time, every available bed at the institution is occupied and more than 500 patients are on the waiting list. The new addition will be used as a children's unit and will be one of the most beautiful on the sanatorium grounds. It will be built of native stone, with limestone trimmings. The main part of the edifice will consist of two stories and a basement, 240 feet in length and 80 feet in depth. A brick wing will be located in the rear for children's playroom and dining hall and which will be surrounded by a deck porch.

—Joseph Elko, 37, of North Scranton, snatched his five-day-old baby from its crib early Tuesday morning and, taking it into the yard, was about to crush its skull with an ax when neighbors, who had been aroused from their slumbers by the commotion raised by Elko, rushed to the baby's rescue in time to save its life. Police were called and the baby was taken to a hospital where it is in a critical condition suffering from shock, bruises and cuts about the face between Elko and the baby's rescuers. Elko tried to commit suicide about a month ago and on Tuesday was taken to jail to await an investigation. He is the father of seven children who were taken to an orphanage after Tuesday morning's occurrence. The mother was taken to the General hospital.

—M. B. Rich, senior partner of the firm of the Woolrich woolen mills, has just published a book giving the first 100 years history of Woolrich, the tiny woolen manufacturing village located in the mountains eight miles from Lock Haven, where the Rich families and their business associates will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of their town and industry today, tomorrow and Sunday, July 25, 26, 27, 1930. The speakers will include former governor Gifford Pinchot, who will make the Friday night address; Bishop Joseph F. Berry, who will make the closing address Sunday night, and M. B. Rich, eldest of the firm of the Woolrich woolen mills, who will give a history of the mills at the opening session of the centennial celebration this morning.