

INK SLINGS

Oh, for a lodge in some wilderness
That civilization can't reach
Where all is quiet and peaceful
And hypocrites don't preach.

The beggars are all a horse-back,
They'll ride to hell in time
But save us from their cacklings
And give us a place to repine.

Lon Chaney died last week. He was a remarkable exponent of the histrionic art. The first character we saw Chaney portray was "The Frog" in "The Miracle Man."

His last interview clears up that haunting feeling. In it he leaves a message to the world that always he strove to show that in the blackest heart there is some clean blood.

It is a far jump from Hollywood, California, to Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. It might be difficult for some of the readers of this column to see the application of what we have said of Chaney to a situation that exists right here, now.

In the political life of our State we recall no such actor as Gifford Pinchot. There have been lots who have donned the tragic buskin and strutted forth to the hustings only to get "the hook" and be dragged back into political oblivion.

Just because he is the most consummate faker who ever appeared before a Pennsylvania audience, Lon Chaney was that on the screen, but Chaney's dying words were to the effect that he was trying to get a lesson across—the lesson we have referred to above. And what is motivating actor Pinchot?

We shall not answer this question because we want to give opportunity for those voters in Centre county who are minded to vote for the great actor to answer it for themselves.

This column, or any other in the paper, is open to any one who wants to try to prove that Gifford Pinchot has a message and is a Lon Chaney.

Mr. Pinchot wants to be Governor of Pennsylvania again because he figures that that will be a stepping stone to his ambition to be President of the United States.

But why should he ever have been or why should he again be our Governor. Pennsylvania is an industrial State and he never did and probably never will employ more men than are necessary to keep the grass green on his palatial estate up in Milford, Pike county.

When he rides up here to hypnotize the electorate he comes in a thirteen hundred dollar car, but when he is not trying to fool the common people and is hobnobbing with the idle rich he uses his high priced motor of foreign make.

He wilfully deceives the credulous by promising things he knows he can't accomplish; Witness, the promise to reduce automobile licenses he made on the court house steps here last May.

He is now shouting from the house-tops that if elected Governor he will do away with the Public Service Commission and in its stead appoint a "Fair Rate Board." He can't do that, either, unless the Legislature passes enabling legislation. And what if he could? In four years time his fair rate board would be kicked out. Besides, would it be any fairer because he appointed it than is the Public Service Commission?

Mr. Pinchot will get some Democratic votes in Centre county because he is posing as a "dry." And what a poser! The W. C. T. U. of Centre county might discover some sadly disconcerting facts were it to investigate just how dry Mr. Pinchot was before he started acting for votes.

His entire political career has been nothing but acting and the only message he has ever tried to get across has been boost me.

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Our Superb Ticket.

The quiet canvass of the State which the Democratic candidates have about completed has amply fulfilled our most sanguine expectations. It was said that John M. Hemphill, Sedgwick Kistler and their associates on the Democratic ticket were unknown to voters.

Now that these gentlemen have visited every section of the State and had personal contact with the voters it can no longer be said that they are unknown. As a matter of fact they are not only widely known but universally admired because of their candor and courtesy.

There is an old time and justly honored adage that "the office should seek the man rather than the man should seek the office." Our candidates for the State-wide offices this year pay tribute to this policy.

The season for revolutions seems to have opened in the Latin republics south of the Rio Grande.

Pinchot Takes in New Territory.

Mr. Pinchot is enlarging the scope of his reckless promises. In a speech delivered at Altoona, on Labor day, he said; "I here repeat to you my pledge that if elected, there will not be, on July 1, 1931, a single coal and iron policeman left in Pennsylvania."

There are many and strong reasons for objection to the so-called "Industrial Police" as provided for in the act of 1929 which is little, if any, improvement on the previous law on the subject. As Mr. Pinchot says, "no body of men has contributed more to the disorder or the danger of disorder than the coal and iron police."

It is gratifying to know that public sentiment has turned against a force which, though authorized by law, has been guilty of such atrocities as have been charged and proved against the coal and iron police. But Mr. Pinchot's present profession of opposition to the force is simply an expression of his hypocrisy, and his statement that he will refuse to commission fit men to perform needed service is preposterous.

Mr. Pinchot's Rash Promises.

In his speech at the Granger's picnic, in Cumberland county, last week, Mr. Pinchot wisely modified his method of spreading bunk. In his previous speeches he issued promises that were impossible of fulfillment without qualification.

There is no great hope-inspiring element in that promise to the farmers of Pennsylvania. But Mr. Pinchot imagines that he has a plan in mind to accomplish the result without expense to the public.

Mr. Pinchot's promise to cut the registration fees for automobiles and for license to operate motor vehicles without impairing the programme for construction and repairing highways is equally misleading and absurd.

Tom Thumb golf has been officially declared a nuisance but tree sitting is still a lawful diversion.

Pinchot Responsible for Greatest Evil

The pre-eminent evil of the public life of the country at present is the excessive use of money in campaigning for nomination and elections. An essential to popular government lies in the selection of honest and capable officials.

Previous to the campaign of 1896 vote buying was a negligible element in political contests in this country. Mark Hanna made it a dominant force. Under his malign instructions floaters and vagabonds were taught that votes are merchantable commodities and in full demand.

But Gifford Pinchot changed the system when he became a candidate for the office of Governor. He spent well on to a quarter of a million dollars for his nomination and election in 1922 and since that the scale has been rising, the cost of elections increasing.

The Appointment of Mr. Fletcher.

There is a good deal of speculation in Washington and among politicians generally as to the causes which influenced President Hoover to select Henry P. Fletcher as chairman of the new tariff board.

A Washington correspondent of the esteemed Philadelphia Record gives a much more probable and plausible reason for the somewhat surprising appointment. He states that Mr. Fletcher received his early training in politics from the late Boies Penrose and since his retirement from diplomatic service has become a prime favorite of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and Senator Joe Grundy.

The Record correspondent reveals another circumstance which might have had influence in the matter. While Mr. Fletcher was Ambassador in Italy, in an interview, he eulogized Mussolini for so regulating the tariff as to "increase the production and consumption of Italian goods."

Henry Ford proposes a ten month year as a remedy for unemployment. If he means twelve months pay there would be reason in the plan, but a ten month year with only ten months pay would aggravate the evil.

Ambassador Dawes in a New Field.

Ambassador Dawes has embarked upon a new and, comparatively speaking, uncharted sea of endeavor. During his brief but busy life General Dawes has undertaken many adventures, achieved a number of useful purposes and met with some disappointments.

Speaking on the subject Ambassador Dawes declared the enterprise is solely for his own personal recreation and information. "Prehistoric life and its remains," he continued, "have always interested me since my youth when I witnessed the excavation of the mound at Marietta, Ohio. Since then I have read about primitive man and I have always wanted to know more about him."

This adventure of General Dawes is an interesting episode of the public life of this country. Those who know the Ambassador and have followed his activities since he entered public life as Register of the Treasury during the McKinley administration may have expected much from him but not in the field of archaeology.

New Year's Day.

From the Philadelphia Record. For as long as Labor day has existed wags have been pointing out that its name is a misnomer. Labor day is apparently the one day in the year when no one labors.

It is on Labor day that theatres re-open, that vacations close, that the grindstone begins whirling once more beneath the noses of the citizenry.

No one cares much how the summer was. It is the winter for which they plan, and it is the course of the winter's business which spells success or failure.

We don't expect any great flood of Labor day resolutions, but it would be a good thing if all of us could get firmly into our minds the fact that that year is over. Balance and check the books; cast up accounts to profit and loss.

Buses, Trucks and Highways.

From the Altoona Tribune. Although the highways of this and other States are constructed primarily for the convenience and pleasure of the private motorist, it is becoming evident that, unless some system of control is speedily devised, they are likely to become little more than channels of transportation.

These vehicles, roaring along the roads in utter disregard for the rights of the people for whom those roads were constructed at a cost of millions of dollars, are fast becoming a menace to public safety.

The arrest of drivers as individuals means little or nothing. The companies which arrange the schedules and which pay those drivers should be the objects of any remedial action.

There is a rising tide of protest against the wholesale usurping of the highways; the force of that protest is bound to be felt in official quarters. Immediate and effective action to curb this abuse of public rights is an outstanding and vital need.

A Compliment to Bellefonte.

From the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. If the Lindberghs could not avoid a forced landing, they could not have found a better spot than Bellefonte.

The Bellefonte public schools opened on Tuesday with a full corps of teachers and a total attendance of 1118, which is just 21 more than last year. The increase, however, was in the grades as the High school numbers four less than last year.

During a rain and electric storm, on Labor day, the Methodist church school building at Osceola Mills was struck by lightning and damaged to the extent of \$500.

Probably General Atterbury could tell why the Liberal party was not willing to put Judge Niles on its ticket for Supreme court judge.

If what the claimants for the Republican nomination for Governor said of each other is true, neither of them is fit for the office.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—Eight horses burned to death as fire destroyed a stable of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company.

—Plans are being completed for a ten-county meeting of Odd Fellows in Sunbury September 12. More than 1000 past grandsons from Central Pennsylvania are expected. Judge Albert Lloyd, of Northumberland county, will speak. Edward Ellsworth, of Luzerne county, is president of the joint committee.

—The Cambria county court has handed down an opinion refusing the application for a parole made by Joseph Cauffiel, former mayor of Johnstown, sentenced to serve two years in jail. Cauffiel was convicted in March, 1929, on charges of extortion, perjury, conspiracy to violate the gambling laws and misdemeanor.

—Harry Snyder, of Tyrone, who received a broken back while working in the railroad yards last winter, celebrated his sixtieth birthday Saturday by being the guest of honor at a family dinner at the Gardner Rod and Gun club. He was presented with a handsome wrist watch by his family and friends. Despite his physical condition, Mr. Snyder enjoyed the occasion immensely.

—Raffael Castell, 5, of Pittsburgh, is dead from injuries received when he tripped while running with an all day sucker in his mouth. The child was discharged from a hospital last Monday after having his tonsils removed more than four weeks ago. Tuesday he tripped with the sucker in his mouth, tearing open the wound in his throat. He died the next day from hemorrhages.

—Swept under a train at Emmlenton, Franklin county, as he stood on a crossing watching a Pennsylvania train go by Francis A. Middleton, 82, was fatally injured on Friday. Both legs and one arm were cut off as the man's clothing caught on one of the cars and he was thrown under the wheels. The aged man lived an hour after he had been received at a hospital in Franklin, which is 28 miles from Emmlenton.

—Harry S. Beverlin, Sunbury, Pennsylvania railroad locomotive engineer, with 45 years and nine months' service, went on the retired list September 1. For many years he ran on the Lewisburg and Tyrone branch between Sunbury and Bellefonte. He applied for retirement two years ago but was told he was too good a man to take off after a physical examination and has continued at work since. He is only 68.

—Trial of Alexander Foster, former deputy auditor general of Pennsylvania and former general manager of the Danville stove works, on embezzlement charges has been set for September 15. Motions to quash eight counts in three of the five indictments were presented on the ground that the statute of limitations had expired. Argument on the motion will be heard Monday. Judge Culver, of Bradford county, will preside at the trial.

—Fears for the life of one of the state's prize cows resulted recently in a successful operation at the Selingsgrove State colony of epileptics where one of the best cows of the institution's dairy herd showed indication of decided decline. A veterinary surgeon was called and diagnosed the symptoms as pointing to foreign matter in the stomach. An operation was performed and in addition to nails and other pieces of metal a wire was found to have punctured the stomach wall. The cow is rapidly recovering and shows every promise of recovering entirely.

—Thomas Schuchman, of Chambersburg, is too much of a gentleman to hit his wife. Instead, he merely held her arms while his pal, Paul Bailey, also of Chambersburg, took aim and landed a manly blow on the woman's mouth. Such was the tale of woe told to borough police by Mrs. Schuchman, whose swollen mouth and a missing front tooth substantiated her complaint. She, however, refused to prosecute the men for assault and battery, so police arraigned them before Magistrate Fred K. Henninger on charges of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. They were fined \$5.00 each.

—Scranton's fourth bank official to be accused of embezzlement, within two months is William Miller, prominent Republican leader. A warrant for his arrest was issued, on Saturday, at Harrisburg by the State Department of Banking. He is accused of having embezzled \$30,000 or more from the Anthracite Trust company. He had been assistant treasurer for several years. He resigned several months ago. Miller formerly was collector of county taxes in Scranton and also was president of the South Side Republican Club. In addition to embezzlement Miller is alleged to have made false entries. The bank has suffered no loss, it is announced.

—To live with a .22 calibre long rifle bullet imbedded in her scalp for more than two months and suffer no apparent ill effects is the unique experience of Betty Swartz, 8-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Swartz, who reside north of Millintown. The child was found unconscious in the yard at her home by her mother June 13. She was quickly revived and a cursory examination revealed a slight abrasion and scalp wound thought to have been caused by a hoe in the hands of another child with whom she was playing. The wound healed and the incident would probably have been forgotten had the abrasion not remained sensitive to the touch. The child was taken to the office of Dr. Robert Banks where the presence of the slug was discovered and removed by the surgeon.

—The third barn fire within six days at the Selingsgrove State epileptic colony caused a loss of \$7500 on the building and \$8000 on the contents, and jumped the total loss in the fires to \$85,000. Dr. Chester A. Marsh, superintendent of the institution, said, on Monday, that he was advised by Frederick Swartzlander, of Beavertown, that he saw lightning strike the farm barn. Dr. Marsh's questioning of the 152 patients in search of a pyromaniac resulted in six patients "confessing" they had fired the Ush barn Tuesday morning and the Luck barn at the same hour Thursday. Dr. Marsh says records of the institution show no patients were outside the dormitories when the Schoch barn burst into flames. Investigators for the State Welfare Department are endeavoring to solve the mystery of the fires.