

INK SLINGS.

—Senator Hefflin still has three months in which to worry a more or less tired world.

—The new moon is far around to the south and that usually means mild weather, but it isn't.

—Buy from your home merchants and get a second chance at every dollar you spend with them.

—As the time for a new deal at Harrisburg approaches we presume that those who have been in favor for the past four years are feeling about as forlorn as an outdoor Tom Thumb golf course looks these wintry days.

—The merchants who have overcoats to sell are thankful for the colder weather. Nature had that business almost wrecked. And we're hoping for some ankle deep slush so that those who have stocked up with rubbers and galoshes can get a smile on their faces.

—Anyhow, we are not suffering from eating too much turkey yesterday, nor are we anticipating a r'm'ed up turkey for the rest of the week and turkey hash as a finale. You see, we didn't have turkey yesterday. The price of the birds was down considerable, but not down far enough.

—While we have no desire to kill a doe we do think the State Game Commission is guilty of something in the nature of class legislation in having limited the number of licenses to be issued to those who do want to kill one.

—While rain is one of the few things he didn't promise us we believe Mr. Pinchot would make himself immensely popular if he were to concentrate on getting a little precipitation for Pennsylvania instead of devoting himself so exclusively to enterprises the people are not so much in need of relief from as they are from the drought.

—We're against any kind of truce in politics to aid business. Against it because truce in politics can't aid business. Present conditions were not brought on by the Republican party. They came as a natural sequence of the folly of a people who think that they can spend more than they produce and get away with it.

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—Really, we think we shall have to volunteer to take charge of the Prohibition party. We've been laborin' for the Democrats for nigh onto forty years and gotten no where, either in prestige or pecuniary profit.

—Naming commissions seems to be the engineering-mind method of passing the buck.

Democratic Watchman

VOL. 75. BELLEFONTE, PA. NOVEMBER 28, 1930. NO. 47.

Big and Hard Job for the Legislature

Under the new allotment of Congressmen to the several States, in pursuance of the census of 1930 and the act of Congress continuing the present membership of the House of Representatives, Pennsylvania will lose two seats, and beginning with the Seventy-third Congress our delegation will consist of thirty-four instead of thirty-six members.

The apportionment of the State into Congressional districts has always been a tedious job for the Legislature. If, as is contemplated by the law, the purpose was simply to divide the several counties into districts of about equal population composed of "contiguous territory," it would be a simple job.

The last apportionment was made under the supervision of the late Senator Penrose and his mastery of the organization was so complete that no one dared question his decisions. It was less difficult, moreover, because the allotment to the State was increased instead of decreased, and for a time it was only necessary to let the old apportionment stand and elect the additional members "at large."

—Pinchot can't wait until his inauguration to begin functioning as Governor.

Pinchot and Prohibition Enforcement.

If Gifford Pinchot is as zealous for the enforcement of prohibition as he was eight years ago his return to the Executive Mansion in Harrisburg will afford abundant opportunity for service. It will be recalled that following his inauguration in 1923 he talked of little else than destroying the demon rum.

A good deal of time was necessarily expended in procuring the passage of these laws and some sacrifices of other pledged ideals had to be made. The Volstead act provided for optional local co-operation in enforcement activities but the State and municipal police forces of Pennsylvania had not been urged, and were little inclined to mix in the matter of prohibition enforcement.

During the recent campaign suspicion ran rather wide throughout the State that the Pinchot ardor for prohibition enforcement had somewhat abated in the face of increasing popular sentiment against it. He deliberately and consistently refused to discuss the subject and tried in every way to divert the issue into other channels.

—Naming commissions seems to be the engineering-mind method of passing the buck.

Extra Session May be Avoided.

Senator Norris, of Nebraska, cordially concurs in the opinion expressed by Senator Walsh, of Montana, that an extra session of the new Congress may be averted if the administration pursues the proper course. There are important measures of legislation pending, consideration of which will require time and assiduous effort.

The annual supply bills must be enacted, of course, for the government can't function without money to pay the expenses. But it ought not to take a great deal of time to dispose of them and if there are no jokers or snakes concealed in them there will be little opposition to their passage.

Without any inside information on the subject we feel perfectly in line in predicting that Phil Stahlnecker will be the "power behind the throne" at Harrisburg during the first half of Pinchot's term.

Costly Tariff Legislation

Pyramiding tariff taxation has been an expensive experiment to the political groups that have practiced it in the past, according to a press correspondent who has given the subject attention. It first occurred in 1828 when the tariff of 1816, which was abundantly high, was supplanted by what became known as "the tariff of abominations."

The immediate result was the election in 1829 of a Congress with a substantial Democratic majority in both branches and placing Andrew Jackson in the White House which he adorned eight years. In 1842 a precisely similar experience was registered. "Tippecanoe" Harrison had been elected President and carried with him into power a House of Representatives composed of 144 Whigs and 96 Democrats, which promptly increased tariff rates enormously.

We all know that the Grundy law brought about.

Motor Vehicle Accidents.

In an address delivered in Philadelphia, the other evening, Benjamin G. Eymon, commissioner of motor vehicles, gave timely and appropriate warning to careless motorists which should result in improvement. Mr. Eymon has been concerned with the regulation of automobile traffic for many years and thoroughly understands the subject of which he spoke.

Drunken drivers cause a great number of accidents and the penalties for that form of recklessness cannot be made too severe. Of late the courts of the State are coming to a better frame of mind with respect to this evil and in most cases the extreme penalty is imposed on conviction.

—Mrs. Clara Grace Prophet, the Philadelphia woman who conspired with her brother to kill her husband, is certainly a mental weakling. No sane person, deliberately planning a murder, would have made such a bungling job of it as she did.

Walsh Favors an Extra Session.

Senator Thomas J. Walsh, of Montana, one of the real Democratic leaders of the country, and fortunately re-elected in spite of intensive opposition organized by the administration, does not share the opinion expressed by other leaders that an early session of the new Congress would be inimical. On his arrival in Washington the other day Mr. Walsh called at the White House and frankly expressed his views to the President on the subject and gave the reasons for his attitude.

The question of adherence to the World Court, the disposal of the Muscle Shoals problem, the Wagner unemployment bill and various other measures of legislation on the calendar demand prompt consideration. Unless they are considered during the short session a special session will be necessary or they will go over for a year or more.

The enactment of legislation to relieve unemployment is important but there is not likely to be serious opposition to it and unless the President or his party leaders make unreasonable opposition to the other important legislation the calendar may be cleared within the limited life of the short session and the extra session be thus averted.

Prohibition and Parties.

From the New York Times. From commercial, industrial and agricultural depression the country may measurably recover by 1932. Can the Republican party recover from prohibition? While there are exceptions and confusions, and the effect of this issue cannot be segregated definitely from the others, it is clear that the Democrats have an advantage if they are wise enough to follow it, which their courage and their perception of popular opinion have won them in several States.

The Bay State Democrats are practically solid for repeal. The Republicans are divided. To face about prohibition will still leave them divided. In what was formerly Mr. J. Henry Roraback's Connecticut, out of tenderness to the small town voters they didn't dare to proclaim themselves as Wet as they are.

As nothing succeeds like success, the Democrats of the Mid-Western, Mountain and Pacific States, many of them already sick of prohibition, may be expected to go with the stream. There remains the South, clinging less fondly than once to its old idol and stimulated by the prospect of mirage of victory.

—Bids for constructing the new federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., will be opened in the office of the supervising architect of the treasury at 3 P. M., December 30, it was announced on Monday. According to present plans, the bureau of prisons plans to make the institution one of the most modern of its kind in existence.

What? Buckwheat, Too?

Somebody is always taking the joy out of life. Here we went and gave three rousing cheers for turkey and cranberries, when the news dispatches told us of bumper crops of both, and in the midst of our rejoicing we turn over to the next page and find the buckwheat yield is next door to a failure in Pennsylvania.

You folks who have always got your buckwheat in little boxes from the grocer with baking powder already added and only the addition of a little water required for a hasty batch of cakes cannot grasp the extent of the catastrophe forecast by the failure of the buckwheat crop. For buckwheat, whether you know it or not, is the standard breakfast—and some times the supper—of thousands upon thousands of Pennsylvanians scattered through the length and breadth of the rural sections, of this great Commonwealth, all through the winter.

When the mountain farmer, and there are still many such in Pennsylvania, has no buckwheat to take to mill he is indeed in a bad way, and just now the rural millers are importing this staple from other States. Buckwheat grows where no other food crop can profitably be produced. The surplus above the family's domestic needs is always saleable. It is a blessing when it is plentiful, as it usually is, and its absence will drive many a sorely beset farmer's wife to double-up on cornmush and ponhaus.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—While the Salvation Army conducted religious services in the bull pen of the Fayette county jail at Uniontown, on Sunday, John Ghamak, 46, Mason town, an inmate, went to his cell and hanged himself with a belt.

—When fire damaged the home of D. E. Ott, at Wind Gap, Pa., early last Thursday afternoon, Charles Smith, an employee of Ott, lost his savings of \$355 which he had in bills concealed in a mattress in his room on the third floor of the house.

—John Blasko, of Throop, was killed as a result of an unusual accident on his brother's farm near Scranton. A belt on a gasoline tractor became detached and smashed a grindstone to pieces. A piece of the stone struck Blasko on the head and killed him.

—Charles Radka claims that the landing of an airplane on his place in Butler county just about ruined him as a farmer. He sued the Bernard Air Lines, Inc., of Youngstown, Ohio, for \$500 damages, alleging that a plane forced down on his property struck two cows, decreasing their amount of milk three gallons daily; demolished a fence and destroyed 120 hills of corn and a patch of potatoes. The landing occurred last July, and the papers in the case named M. N. Graham as the pilot.

—Borough and State health officials last week joined forces in an effort to prevent typhoid fever becoming epidemic at Jonestown, Lebanon county. With one death and three cases of fever already reported to Dr. Paul Reich, the borough health officer, steps were taken for an immediate inspection of upwards of 100 wells from which residents secure their water supply for domestic purposes. Two wells already have been sealed because of the water being found contaminated. The prolonged drought is given as the cause of contamination.

—R. E. Matthews, defaulting cashier of the Dollar Title and Trust company, of Sharon, has signed a plea of guilty to the charges of embezzlement of the bank funds amounting to \$125,000. This was the announcement of district attorney Leo McKay following a meeting attended by Frank Jackson and W. J. Sweigart, of the State Banking Department, and McKay, Matthews and attorney T. J. Armstrong. Matthews will not be sentenced until the investigation now being conducted by the Banking Department terminates, which may be two months from now.

—As a host, Max Luther, six-foot Great Belt, Butler county butcher, is hospitable, plus. He invited Albert Leighner to take a drink of cider, according to Leighner's story to police, and then asked him to dinner. After being forced to eat for three hours, Leighner said he rebelled when it came to dessert. Leighner ran away after being man-handled by the butcher and called police, who black-jacked the burly meat cutter before handcuffs could be adjusted. Luther was placed in the county jail charged with assault and battery. The cider was said to be "hard."

—The wheel mill of the Atlas Powder company's plant at Horrell Station, on the Petersburg branch of the P. R. R. near Flowing Spring, blew up Saturday afternoon, the explosion destroying the building and its contents, consisting largely of machinery. Charles McCloskey, an employee, who was working in the building, was painfully burned about the face and hands. Another employee escaped injury. These men were the only ones working in the building at the time. One-half ton of powder in the mill exploded, blowing the roof high in the air and scattering fragments of wood and metal over a large space. The loss has not been estimated.

—Bids for constructing the new federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., will be opened in the office of the supervising architect of the treasury at 3 P. M., December 30, it was announced on Monday. According to present plans, the bureau of prisons plans to make the institution one of the most modern of its kind in existence. The project will cost \$4,000,000 and will employ between 175 and 200 men the year "round." It will house 1200 inmates. After the bids are opened they will be taken under advisement by the proper officials, and, it is believed, if they are found satisfactory the contract will be awarded within three weeks. It is expected construction work will be started in the late winter or early spring.

—A decision in the court of common pleas in Huntingdon county has been handed down by Judge Bailey which may have a far reaching effect in the State. The water commission of the borough of Mount Union adopted rules that water meters might be selected by the commission and placed in buildings of water consumers to be paid for by the failure of consumers to pay for their municipal liens were filed. On a test case filed by the commission against John C. Appleby, Judge Bailey held a municipality has no authority to install a water meter in a building without the consent of the consumer and assess him with expense accrued and that there is no act of Assembly permitting the authority of a municipal lien for failure of consumer to pay.

—On Halloween of 1928, Mr. and Mrs. John Neely returned to their home at Clarion and found in their mail box a cigar box containing a valuable watch and a mesh bag of excellent quality. They feared trouble would result if they disclosed the articles were in their possession they said, and put the gifts away and said nothing. The farmer and his wife again were away from home Christmas day of 1928. When they returned, another box was in the mail box. In it were a man's ring set with a ruby and a diamond ring for a woman. Also there was a note saying the Neelys need not be afraid to wear the gifts because a friend whom Mrs. Neely befriended when she was young had left them. It added that some day everyone would know from whom the gifts came. The third visitation of the unknown friend was made last week. While the Neelys were away from home, a man's diamond ring and a pendant set with two large diamonds were left in the mail box with a note explaining that these were Christmas gifts. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Neely have any idea as to the identity of the donors.