

INK SLINGS.

—Again Governor Pinchot has met his enemies in the Senate and against he is their's.

—Oranges from Florida are selling in Bellefonte cheaper than apples from Centre county. Solve that one, if you can.

—We'd have no quarrel with radio program arrangers if they should forget for awhile that there are such things as Hawaiian music and negro spirituals.

—The Curtin street property owner who recently became so discourteous as to look a gift horse in the mouth might do well to see that his insurance amply covers any future loss he might have. Volunteer firemen are not obligated to fight their way in to fight a fire and burnt children dread it.

—And where are the boys who used to come around to lecture our business men's associations on high pressure salesmanship, intensive selling, etc? They're probably back home with "the old folks" waiting for the country to get obsessed again with the idea that money grows on thistle bushes.

—We're against Governor Pinchot's election code because it proposes to load the State with more high salaried officials and put management of elections in Centre county in the hands of someone in Harrisburg who knows about as much about conditions here as we do of conditions up in Wayne county.

—The Democrats of the Nation are to have a great pow-wow soon. We're for that. Now's the time to iron out the difficulties and determine the strategy to be used in the battle of 1932. Let's settle all the fights we have among ourselves, dig in, consolidate our position and be ready to go over the top when the zero hour comes.

—And this twenty-thousand miles of country roads doesn't look so good either, when we come to realize that their control will be taken out of the hands of local authorities. They will be built and supervised by Harrisburg. The only say those who live along them will have is to figure where they are going to get the increased taxes that will have to be paid to maintain them.

—Mothers, don't worry. When that bellicose son of yours wants to join the army so he can get a chance to fight tell him that the army is not taking on recruits, Depression has hit it too. Besides, unless Mr. Mussolini should decide to gum the game that quelled the court martial of Smedley Butler, there's no chance of a fight in the army for years to come. Getting a thrill out of army life these days is just about as futile as pawing a woman with a pair of mittens on. If your son wants to fight tell him to join the Bellefonte Fire Department.

—The Smedley Butler affair has the smell of over-ripe fish. The General talks too much, of course, but we are of the opinion that his court martial was called off not so much because of what he had said as because of what he might have said had he been called to the stand in his own defense. And anyone who thinks the General's letter of regret to the Secretary of the Navy was so penitent as to inspire that gentleman to call the trial off is a moron. Mussolini got his apology, but it wouldn't have been so easy for President Hoover and Mr. Secretary Adams to have gotten it back had the trial revealed that an apology was uncalled for.

—Well, the first month of 1931 is gone, but not the bread lines and soup kitchens. In this connection we're not one of those who hopes for so called prosperity. All we would like to see is a speedy restoration of normal, sound business. Even that won't come until a lot of people come to learn that their actual earning capacity is economically measured only by what they produce for their employers. And that goes for the fellow who is getting five and earning three dollars a day, as well as the one who sits in a swivel chair and takes down ten thousand a year when there are thousands who could and would do his job for less than half that sum.

—The proposed election code, if adopted, would prove unconstitutional because it would come under class legislation. Merely because there are more Republicans than Democrats in the State is no reason for making it legal to spend more money to elect a Republican Governor than to attempt to elect a Democrat. If the amounts the respective parties may spend in a campaign is to be limited to 2 1/2 cents for each vote said party polled at the previous general election there would be manifest inequity. It would be subversive of the fundamental principle of equal opportunity to all if a meritorious candidate of the Democratic, Prohibition or Labor parties were not permitted to spend as much in his cause as a Republican candidate would be. To be elected such a candidate would have to sell himself to a majority of the voters of the State and how could he do that if he were restricted to an expenditure very much less than that permitted an opponent?

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Distress in Oklahoma.

There are 80,000 families in Oklahoma starving, according to a capable correspondent and experienced investigator recently sent by the Philadelphia Record to make a survey of the drought stricken sections of the country. This estimate is based on conversations with the Governor of the State and other prominent citizens, some of whom are more optimistic on the subject than "Alfalfa Bill Murray" but almost despondent, nevertheless. There are 200,000 families in distress in the State that average five to a family and "all want for the necessities of life." And there is no hope for relief from within before the 1st of June, sixteen long weeks ahead.

The same writer from the same sources of information estimates that it will cost ten dollars a week to keep each of these families from starvation. That means a total of \$12,800,000 for one State and there are ten or twelve States similarly afflicted, one at least, Arkansas, equally destitute. In view of these facts it becomes obvious that even if the pending Red Cross drive were entirely successful, that heretofore justly esteemed benevolent organization would be far short of the amount necessary to relieve the distress. Even the proposed Senate appropriation of \$25,000,000 would be inadequate. As Governor Murray says, "it is life or death with these people."

Nearly a year has elapsed since the drought calamity came upon the country. But until after the election nothing was done to palliate the evil or relieve the distress, and what has been done by the executive department since was not to mitigate suffering but to save the face of the President and benefit the Republican party. Six months ago the suffering became acute but the sphinx in the White House was unmoved. Even now he is wilfully delaying the process of relief by the pretext that feeding the starving people by Congressional appropriation is a dole and sets a bad precedent. But to our mind allowing thousands of people to starve sets an infinitely worse precedent.

—That the world loves clean humor is proved by the fact that in one week Will Rogers raised \$172,000 for drought relief by giving entertainments.

Consequences of an Extra Session.

The big business organizations of the country are unanimous in the opinion that an extra session of Congress, soon after the adjournment of the present session, would have a disastrous effect on prosperity. The United States Chamber of Commerce, the banker's associations and the corporations' executives are convulsed with fear of industrial and commercial collapse if Congress should assemble under auspices other than absolute control of Speaker Longworth and President Hoover. No reasons are given for this state of mind on the part of the captains of industry and wizards of finance. But a review of existing conditions may reveal the facts. They are as plain as a pikestaff.

President Hoover was elected under an implied promise that the purposes of the power trust would not be antagonized during the period of his administration, and the assembling of the new Congress with a majority in both chambers adverse to monopoly control, would end that agreement. Mr. Longworth, with the assistance of forty or fifty "lame ducks" who have been repudiated by their constituents, will no longer have power to regulate the legislation of the country in the interest of corporate greed and to the detriment of the people. And the ambition of President Hoover for another term would be seriously impaired.

Nine months will elapse between the adjournment of the present Congress and the assembling of the next. During that time, in the absence of restraint, the power trust will have ample opportunity to perfect its plans to merge, consolidate, absorb and by other dubious devices monopolize the water and electric resources of the country. A special session of Congress beginning in April or May would work a disastrous result on this sinister enterprise. It might make a few changes in the Grundy tariff law that would be harmful to some other trusts. But such changes would widen the markets for products of our factories and soil, thus benefitting rather than injuring the public.

—The administration at Washington has decided to sacrifice the navy building programme in order to avert an extra session.

The Proposed Election Code.

The new election code was presented simultaneously in both branches of the General Assembly on Monday evening. It was prepared by the Pennsylvania Elections Association after a year's investigation and labor and contains many meritorious provisions. For example, it limits the expenditures of candidates both in primary and general elections, restricts assistance to voters, makes the opening of ballot boxes easier and makes jail sentences for fraudulent voting and false returns mandatory. No citizen who favors honest elections will object to these conditions. Prohibiting appointed officials in State, county, city, borough and township governments from political activity is worthy of praise.

But the measure has faults that are equally conspicuous. That is, it takes from the people of the several communities the traditional and eminently just right to control their local affairs and lodges that power in the hands of the Governor at Harrisburg. This result is effected, according to the language of the bill, "by removing from the County Commissioners in first, second, third and fourth class counties and from registration commissioners where they now function, their powers over the conduct of elections and registration, and centralizes them in the county boards of election operating throughout the State under the Secretary of the Commonwealth."

This provision reveals the "fine Roman hand" as well as the inordinate lust for power of Governor Pinchot, who not only controls the activities of the Secretary of the Commonwealth but arrogates the right to veto the nominees of the Secretary. Precisely the same sinister purpose is expressed in his scheme to take control of the township roads into the hands of the administration at Harrisburg. It will not lift the burden of expense from the farmer. They will have to pay the cost anyway and they will forfeit all voice in construction and maintenance. This great evil in the election code more than counterbalances the good features and unless it is eliminated the measure should be defeated.

—Even the scientists admit that brachyuropushkdermatogannarous is a difficult word that ought to be eliminated from scientific literature.

Mr. Pinchot's Idea of Jury Packing.

There is no valid or even plausible reason for the bitter quarrel which seems to have arisen between the two houses of the General Assembly upon the question of investigating the Public Service Commission. As a matter of fact there is no substantial opposition to such an inquisition within or without the Legislature. The activities of that commission has been a subject of criticism for many years. The Democratic platform promulgated early last Spring declared that it "must be subservient to no interest except the law impartially and equitably enforced for the benefit of all the people." That meant the elimination of the evils which were justly complained of.

In a radio address, the other evening, Governor Pinchot declared that an investigation by the Senate, as contemplated by Senator Earnest, of Harrisburg, "would be equivalent to a trial by a packed jury." The resolution introduced by Senator Earnest proposed a committee of four members from the committee on judiciary general of each chamber. The Senate is said to be unfriendly to the Governor by a narrow margin. The House is believed to be in full sympathy with the Governor by a large majority. It is not easy to see how a committee thus constituted could be anatomized as a "packed jury." If it divided on lines of enmity or fidelity to the Governor, it would split even.

On the other hand the House proposition is a committee of three of the Senate, three of the House and three to be named by the Governor. Divided on the same lines the Governor's side would have a certain margin of three votes on every controversial question. This would be literally "packing the jury" to guarantee the adoption of every proposition, sensible or absurd, which the Governor might suggest. To his mind this may seem fair and just. The Governor imagines that he is the only honest man in public life and that those who serve follow him are appointed. But that is simply an exaggerated egoism. There are others quite as honest, intelligent and altruistic who may disagree with him.

—It's all here and it's all true.

Dignity of the Senate Maintained.

In affirming the Earnest resolution for the investigation of the Public Service Commission and "pickling" the House resolution for the same purpose, the State Senate, on Monday evening, asserted a fundamental right and maintained its own dignity. The Earnest resolution provides for a traditional parliamentary inquiry. The House resolution contains an unparalleled innovation in the form of giving the Governor power to name one-third of the investigators. In other words, it proposed to "pack the jury" in order to make a report desired by the Governor. Or possibly it might have been intended to create confusion and prevent an inquisition: It may easily accomplish that lamentable result.

If Governor Pinchot were sincere in his profession of opposition to the systems and methods of the utility corporations it might be possible to excuse some of the absurdities he has employed to fool the public concerning them. But he is not sincere. In the Presidential election of 1928 the Power trust might easily have been throttled. Mr. Hoover was openly for the trust and Governor Smith against it. It was palpably the paramount issue of the campaign. Senator Norris, as good a Republican and as sincere a Prohibitionist as Pinchot, recognized both the fact and the opportunity and supported Smith. Governor Pinchot supported Hoover. Pinchot, Hoover and the Power trust won a "famous victory."

The excessive charges, the criminal manipulation of capital stock and the manifest purpose of utility corporations, under the sanction of the Republican party and many Public Service Commissions, to rob the public, have provoked public criticism for many years. Mr. Pinchot joined, an eleventh hour conchot joined an eleventh hour conchot of the public but to promote his selfish ambition. His attitude in the present controversy with the Senate will have no other result than to prevent an investigation of the Public Service Commission, though its iniquities are crying to high heaven for redress. But if it will afford Mr. Pinchot an opportunity to traduce men, it will serve his purpose.

—Dexter S. Kimball, dean of Cornell's College of Engineering, addressed the Engineer's Club, of Philadelphia on Tuesday. He said he had attended that conference of industrial big-wigs in San Francisco lately, at which unemployment was discussed as the one big problem, and that no one there could explain "how we got this way." There were a lot of great captains of industry there and it seems strange that not one of them knew "how we got this way." We do. We did it because everybody who could was spending somebody else's money.

—While in Bellefonte on Monday the Hon. P. E. Womelsdorf, of Phillipsburg, dropped a remark that led us to believe that he is considering being a candidate for County Treasurer. "Little Phil," as we called him in the days when he really made himself felt in Centre county politics, looked vigorous enough for another fight and we want to tell the younger generation of politicians that fights were fights when he was in them.

—If Secretary of State Stimson is able to steer the foreign policy of the administration back to the lines laid by Jefferson his obvious purpose to cast a slur upon the memory of Woodrow Wilson will be overlooked.

—The Mussolini incident wasn't the real cause for the order to court martial General Butler. His recent speech condemning the marine activities in the Nicaragua election was "the head and front of his offending."

—While men are hunting jobs every where else the Soviet government of Russia is preparing to draft women into industries because of the scarcity of labor.

—The snow storm of Sunday was a double blessing. It gave needed moisture to the soil and employment to thousands of shovelers.

—The first thought that came to President Hoover's mind when the compromise was announced was "it is a victory over the Senate."

—The Secretary of the Navy owes an apology to somebody. Either General Butler or the public or both have cause for complaint.

The Jobs are Coming.

From the Altoona Tribune. When the steel industry, the automobile industry and the railroads are going under a reasonable headway, we have prosperity. Those are the key industries of this nation.

Long before cities like New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago realize it; long before the farmer is out of the doldrums; long before the bread lines have ceased taxing to capacity the sources that support them, these three industries are on the way up. Industrial experts who have seen this thing happen in its regular cycles over the years have always learned to observe these phenomena. Prosperity returns to the industrial centers where the steel is made, where lately the automobiles have come to be manufactured and where the great railroad centers are located.

Creeping through the news of late have been items of tremendous import. The steel workers are going back.

Each week from the automobile manufacturing centers come little items about the thousands who are being put on at this, that or the other plant.

This necessitated the adding of hundreds of employees to the street car lines that carry the men to the factories.

The railroads around Chicago are also hiring thousands.

It doesn't mean that prosperity will be back with their first pay day. But it does mean that here and there throughout the country just that many more workers will have to be put on the job to supply the things they need, and these workers will thus receive money to spend.

In that fashion does prosperity come back and an era of depression end.

It may be months before the country as a whole will feel the effects. But it is coming. For the first time in a long while the signs are really most hopeful. Even cheerful.

The Bickering is Ended.

From the Danville Morning News. Administration spokesmen are hailing as a Hoover victory the compromise plan which will provide a 20 million dollar appropriation from which drought-stricken farmers may draw funds for surcease from hunger.

Anti-Administration leaders are equally vociferous in claiming credit for routing the President and Red Cross forces which attempted to prevent Federal relief.

As a matter of fact, the victory is one of common sense over stupidity. The President, high officials of the Red Cross, Senators and others merely acted like stubborn boys determined not to give in, regardless of the consequences of their pigheadedness, and created an impasse from which they all had to retreat.

The President stood out against 15 million dollar Federal appropriation for food. He is finally giving in to a 20 million dollar appropriation after laboriously removing the word "dole" and the Red Cross from its dispensation.

The country has been treated to another spectacle of chaos and confusion in the place of intelligent leadership. Had the Senate and the President shown a disposition to get together for a sensible discussion of a national calamity and a plan for relief and agreed upon a program much time would have been saved and neither side would be under compulsion now to prove that it was right all the time and that the other side had to give in.

Political Juggling.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

There is much political juggling on Capitol Hill these days. The intent is to deceive the public, but the old game has been played so often that few are being fooled. Issues are being tossed about in frenzied fashion. Loud demands are being made in the interests of the poor old voter when in reality all that is intended is to place this or that individual or faction in a particularly favorable light. Meantime legislation that should be receiving the earnest attention of all concerned flounders along or is delayed unreasonably. Nothing is to be gained by such tactics. The public has no stomach for mere political juggling at a time when there should be the heartiest of co-operation. While thousands are idle and many are hungry, the efforts to deceive and befuddle continue. The public is impatient of results. It cares very little about political ambitions but it is very much interested in good government and prompt attention to all the real needs of the moment. It is in no mood for a continuation of picaresque politics by peanut politicians and it may be depended upon to register its sentiments at the elections of the next two years if there is not more consideration of popular interests and less to political promotion.

—Now that the Butler court martial has been called off Corney Vanderbilt will not have a chance to "startle the world."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company, of Pittsburgh, has received an order for more than \$100,000 worth of equipment from the Southern Sierras Power Co. Some of the equipment will be used at Las Vegas, Nevada, to supply power for construction work on the new Hoover dam.

—The Harbison-Walker Refractories company at Monmouth is promised better times by the securing of a large order for brick from the U. G. I. company, of Philadelphia. It is reported. This is expected to put the plant on practically full time for a considerable period, something not known at Monmouth for many months.

—A \$100,000 damage suit was filed against the Easton Dollar Savings & Trust company, of Easton, Pa., in federal court, Philadelphia, on Monday, by William A. Evans, of Orangeburg county, S. C., as a result of his acquittal in December, 1929, on a charge of having given the bank a false statement of his financial condition to procure a loan of \$6000.

—Five horses were burned to death and thousands of dollars worth of grain and farm machinery destroyed when fire razed a barn on a farm near Roaring Spring Sunday morning. The farm is owned by P. S. Duncan, Sr., Hollidaysburg, and tenanted by H. E. Cunningham. The amount of the loss could not be estimated, although the barn and farm implements were partially covered by insurance.

—The Cambria plant of the Bethlehem Steel corporation, at Johnstown, has placed in service a newly rebuilt open hearth furnace. It is the only one of its kind in the country, increases its capacity, speeds up its output and more men will be required to man it. If the present successful operation of the new furnace continues the other open hearth furnaces of the Cambria plant will be rebuilt along similar lines.

—After he had clubbed his wife, Agnes, aged 42, to death with a pick handle, Frank Brhoback, coal miner, of Coy, Indiana county, went into the cellar, lay down on half a dozen sticks of dynamite, lighted the fuse, and was blown almost to bits by the resultant explosion. The murder and suicide took place in the home of the couple, at Coy Mines, about one and one-half miles from Homer City, at about 6:10 Sunday evening.

—Charles William, 15 months old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hendricks, of Danville, escaped with minor injuries when he fell through a register hole from a second story bedroom to the hot stove below. The child with its brothers and sisters was playing in the bed room when he fell through the circular opening in the ceiling. Fortunately in falling, he struck the side of the stove and fell to the parlor floor. His injuries consisted of a contusion of the back.

—Several hundred dollars worth of merchandise stolen from camps and stores of Renovo, Coudersport pike and Lock Haven, as well as from several stores in Harrisburg, have been recovered in a cabin on the Coudersport pike and owned by the Brown Run Hunting Company, and consisted principally of canned goods. The goods were turned over to the police by Jesse Dayton, who with his pal Carl Bair, was found in the Reeder-Widmann hunting camp Thursday by Caretaker Fount L. Linn.

—The damage suit against the New York Central Railroad company, by Estey Butterbaugh, Mahaffey resident, as the result of injuries received in an accident over a year ago, was settled out of Clearfield county court for \$12,000, according to an announcement made by attorney Carl Belin, of Clearfield, counsel for the plaintiff. The suit was instituted in the Federal court at Pittsburgh. Butterbaugh was injured while working as a section hand for the railroad company near McGees Mills. A train backed into the section gang inflicting serious injuries on the plaintiff. A fellow employee was killed almost instantly.

—The only thing that seemed to bother a bandit who robbed Frank Loeth, in Pittsburgh, was a feeling that the latter might get the idea that he was being held up. Loeth, salesman for an auto agency, was sitting at his desk early last Friday when a well-dressed young man walked in and, smiling, pointed a pistol at him and demanded money. Loeth gave him \$25. "Now please don't get the idea that this is a holdup," remarked the bandit as he removed his own watch and chain, stick pin and a fountain pen and laid them on Loeth's desk. "I'll be back in an hour, pay you your money and you can return these to me." Then he left. But he didn't come back.

—With 250 cords of wood cut and sawed into stove lengths since January 1 for the use of families being cared for by the Mifflin County Welfare Society and the demand now increased to 120 cords weekly it is estimated that a total of 1000 cords will be needed before spring by the society to provide fuel for the needy families under its care. The wood already cut and delivered has been secured on State forest lands but due to the difficulty of transporting men to and from the section of the Seven Mountains where the cutting was being done the offer of S. B. Russell to allow cutting timber on a tract owned by him at Macedonia, near the William Penn Highway, west of Mifflintown, has been accepted and work started at the new location this week.

Enrollment at the Pennsylvania State College to date indicates that this will be the largest second semester in the history of the college, according to William S. Hoffman, college registrar. During the regular mid-year registration period last week 4086 students entered Penn State for the second semester, Hoffman said, against 3808 in the same period last year. Late entrants are still enrolling. Under a new system of registering which Hoffman put into effect this semester, the time required was reduced from three to two days. The system eliminated long lines of waiting students to get through in less time than formerly. Registration proceeded at the rate of 89 to 45 students per minute for eight hours on each of the two days this year. Each student required about an hour to complete his arrangements, fill in his record cards, pay his fees, and be ready to attend classes.