

INK SLINGS.

The desertion of Speaker Longworth was the blow that killed father Hoover.

Last Monday's snow and Friday's rain picked the streams up a bit, but had no appreciable effect on wells and springs.

Already there are rumors that the Governor and some of his official family are approaching the parting of the ways. They are not surprising, because no road is wide enough for Mr. Pinchot to march on abreast with any man.

In another room the radio is going strong. Graham McNamee just said something about "the heart of our national prosperity." We didn't catch what it was, but Graham could make himself a national idol if he could start it beating again.

We've had ten years of prohibition, ten years of woman suffrage, ten years of high pressure on everything and ten years of unfulfilled Republican promises. Let's turn to the Democratic party for relief before the sheriff relieves us of everything we've got.

"Sandy" McDowell, of Axe Maan, has announced for nomination for the office of Recorder of Centre county. Since no other candidates for the office have announced we presume "Sandy" would not vote "nay" if someone were to move that the nominations close.

The Board of Pardons has refused commutation of sentence to Irene Schroeder, "the trigger woman," and unless Governor Pinchot acts she will go to the chair at Rockview next Monday morning. Since Al Smith refused to interfere to save the life of Ruth Snyder over in New York justice has gotten over its squeamishness about making women pay the same price as men for their crimes.

Now that Congress has voted millions to save the starving farmers of the southwest we'd like to have visible evidence of what the money is needed for. In 1898, when we went to save the poor Reconcentrados of Cuba, the papers were full of pictures of people who looked like the skin had merely been stretched over the bones of their frames. Does Arkansas have any such exhibits to make.

At our home the refrigerator stands on the back porch. It was placed there because that seemed the handiest location for it. Apparently other than members of our immediate household think so too, for it is being burgled occasionally. This is notice to the scallawag we suspicion as the one who is doing the burgling that he's got to carry a flashlight or matches when he goes exploring the interior of our ice box. In no respect is our wife anything like "Brother Crawford's" except that it makes her "very unhappy" to find every dish, bowl or package in the refrigerator besmeared with fingers that have first been dipped in a bowl of brown gravy and then not licked off before they proceed in the search for more concentrated eats.

Everything is still under the great white top, the announcer takes his position on the center stage, a beautiful little woman is drawn up to an iron ring dangling high above the sawdust arena and then, at the shout of "Look!" the drums of the band start a roll and Lillian Lettzel begins the remarkable aerial act that made her the featured performer with the greatest show on earth for years. No more will thousands of dainty white arm on which she turned herself over so fast and so long that it seemed surely it would be twisted from its socket. Lillian is dead. The iron ring broke in Copenhagen last Friday and she plunged headlong to the floor of a music hall. She was to aerialists what May Wirth is to equestrians—a truly great performer. We know there is a friend out in Hollywood, Cal., who has read of Lillian's tragic end and feels as badly about it as we do, for he knows and loves the circus folks with the same heart of youth as ours.

Can't begin to count the number of times we've been "called" for things we have written during the forty years we have been contributing to the columns of this paper. Numerous as they have been there is possibility that we have not received rebuke on nearly as many occasions as we have merited it. However, it remained for an eight year old boy to give us one, the other evening, so well deserved that we got a greater laugh out of our own momentary discomfort than we did out of the peculiarly appropriate and, of course, horribly caricatured comic valentine we found on our desk last Saturday. Two weeks ago we told the story of Johnny Doublebrower's going to get a license for his ardale dog. In describing that incident we made the youngster say "Aint." A few evenings later we were called to the telephone. A little boy was at the other end of the line. He said: "Is that Mr. Geo. Meek?" When we assured him that it was, he piped out: "I don't use the word aint" and hung up the receiver.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Mr. Raskob's Wise Innovation.

Chairman Raskob, of the Democratic National committee, has called a meeting of the committee to be held in Washington on March 5th, for consultation concerning the future activities of the organization. At that time all the Democratic members of the present Congress and most of those who have been elected to the new Congress will be at the capital and it will be wise for them to "get their heads together" and formulate plans, or at least suggest, and consider expedients for continuing the splendid work that has been in progress for a year. "In the multitude of counselors there is wisdom" and the old and new members of the Congress will be able to help the committeemen in planning.

The assembling of the National committee in the middle of a term is an innovation. The practice has been to defer a meeting until the time for fixing the date and place of the national convention has arrived. Under the old-fashioned system of managing politics this may have been all right. But conditions are different now. Party management is a profession or occupation that exacts the full time and all the energy and ingenuity of those who undertake it. It is more or less of a thankless job and altogether a gratuitous service in the Democratic party. But it must be performed in order to prevent the Republican machine from running away with the capitol.

Mr. Raskob, who is not only a shrewd manager but an efficient chairman, indulged in an innovation a year ago when he opened permanent headquarters in Washington and prevailed on Mr. Shouse to direct the work of the committee during the recent Congressional campaign. The result of the election fully vindicated his judgment. It represented a step in the direction of bringing the party managers and voters closer together and establishing a better understanding between them. The mid-term meeting of the National committee is certain to have the same effect on both sides. Besides it will make for better team work, greater confidence and a higher standard of service.

It appears that General Pershing wasn't entirely satisfied with the work of any one in the world war except his own.

Real Relief in Sight.

The Senate, having approved the \$20,000,000 appropriation for the relief of the drought sufferers, it may be assumed that the beginning of the end of the acute distress in Arkansas and Oklahoma has been reached, and President Hoover's "victory over the Senate" is complete. It was a long drawn out contest, absolutely devoid of merit and equally without excuse. Before he knew anything about the extent of the suffering the President had declared against appropriating money to buy food. For nearly two months he has adhered to that declaration. The suffering increased, starvation became imminent but he stubbornly and stupidly held to his purpose.

Some Senators and a vast number of fair-minded people of the country are of the opinion that consenting to the compromise was a grave mistake on the part of the Senate. They believe that in order to avert an extra session of Congress early in the Spring, the President would have yielded and the Robinson amendment gone through. In that opinion we fully share. But it would have prolonged the suffering for three weeks more and probably resulted in hundreds, maybe thousands of deaths by starvation. That would have been too high a price to pay even for a just rebuke of a recreant official. The difference in the amount of the appropriation is comparatively small and the supplying of food has been at least ambiguously promised.

It is practically certain that the House of Representatives will accept the compromise measure and unless Mr. Hoover is able to discover some means of escape he will approve it. In that event it may be hoped that real relief work will be set in motion within a few days and the spectre of starvation will be removed from the mental vision of thousands of men and women. But there is no certainty of this desirable result. The equivocal language in which Mr. Hoover accepted the compromise indicates that he hopes to evade the obligation assumed, and his record in the recent past makes suspicion of his sincerity in anything inevitable.

And still they come! The woods must have been full of them—candidates, we mean.

State Rights and Home Rule are Synonymous.

In his Lincoln Day speech, spoken in the room of the White House in which the martyred Lincoln signed the emancipation proclamation and performed his great Civil war service, president Hoover stressed the Democratic doctrine of Home Rule. "In Lincoln's day," he said, "the dominant problem in our form of government turned upon the issue of States' Rights," and picturing the evils of centralization of power in capital of State and Nation, which "can lead but to the super-state where every man becomes the servant of the State and real liberty is lost" he significantly added, "such was not the government which Lincoln sought to build."

Of course in assuming this attitude on the subject Mr. Hoover was simply setting up a defense of his present contention with respect to relief for the drought sufferers. But we can see no reason why he should attempt to associate Lincoln with such a policy. It may be true that Mr. Lincoln was an advocate of States' rights and in ordinary conditions paid full respect to Article X of the constitution. But in emergencies he did not hesitate to go outside, not only that provision but of any other part of the constitution, even in the face of protest. If he were now in the White House as President there can be no doubt that he would do as he did then for a proper purpose.

But while Mr. Hoover is so earnestly pleading for the preservation of a fundamental Democratic principle the head and most of the leaders of his party in Pennsylvania are striving to impose the opposite policy. Some years ago they enacted legislation which took from the people all practical control of their schools and now propose to steal from them control of their roadways and election machinery and lodge such power in the hands of the administration at Harrisburg. States' rights is simply an enlargement of the policy of home rule and the preservation of local control to the people is quite as important as the preservation of the rights of the States.

The trick in the drought relief compromise lies in the fact that security must be given to obtain the money and those who need it most will be unable to give security.

Governor Pinchot Wrong as Usual.

Governor Pinchot has chosen the wrong course with respect to the investigation of the Public Service Commission. Instead of cordially supporting the Earnest committee, he has decided to antagonize and confuse it. Having been invited to appear and present such evidence as he may have in support of his arraignment of the Commission he indignantly accuses the committee chairman of an ulterior purpose and submits a bunch of irrelevant questions to be put to the accused. He even refuses to allow his high priced attorney, employed without the sanction of law, to perform the only public service which he could hope to render.

The Public Service Commission has acquired a reputation for delinquency. The first witness examined by the Senate committee, the chief counsel of the Commission, justified the suspicion. He said the Commission is not sufficiently alert in initiating proceedings; that it is delinquent in refunding overpayments where cases are decided against the corporations, and that it is wrong in allowing increased rates to begin before the question has been adjudicated. But he denied that the Commission has ever been influenced by improper corporation domination. He said "I do not know of one single instance of behind the curtain work."

If the Senate committee had revealed a sign of unfairness in its preliminary proceedings the Governor would have been justified in broadcasting his opinion that it "is being set up not to investigate but to whitewash the public utilities." Senator Earnest is a gentleman of high standing in his community. His integrity has never been questioned or his purposes impugned. The statement of the Governor is a wanton and wilful slander and justifies the expression of an interested observer that it is "a dog in the manger" method of dodging an issue and deceiving the public. But it will not serve the purpose.

The Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals has discovered that Mrs. Hillebrand's grape juice is an improper beverage.

What an Extra Session Would Do.

There appears to be a deep-seated impression on the public mind that the compromise on the drought relief measure has completely disposed of the specter of an extra session of Congress in the Spring. That all the reasons for early legislation have been, or will be, eliminated during the remaining period of the present session and the country will have opportunity to restore prosperity in a quiet and orderly fashion. The Power trust will have another year in which to spread its tentacles over the country and big business will be able to more securely entrench itself within that time. President Hoover might even be able to rehabilitate his bankrupt political estate and create a chance for re-election.

The principal reason given by those who are opposed to an extra session is that those engaged in commerce and industry are apprehensive of unfriendly legislation by the new Congress. The great Republican majority in the House of Representatives, which for nearly a quarter of a century has stood consistently against any legislation in restraint of corporate cupidity, will be absent when the new Congress assembles and the administration is anxious to postpone that eventful period as long as possible. It is not that the people are afraid of Congress. Most of the people of the country have full confidence in that body. But big business is afraid that the new Congress will legislate for the people.

Within the year that will elapse before the new Congress can function the Power trust may be able to make it impossible to prevent it from acquiring control of the Muscle Shoals property. It might be possible within that time to compass the defeat of the resolution to abolish the lame duck session of Congress. In fact delay is backed up with opportunities to do harm and for that reason an extra session of Congress would do good rather than harm to the country. The idea that it would impair prosperity and that the Democratic party would be held responsible for damage is bunk of the rankest type. It would mean extinction to the Republican party under its present leadership.

For some time past borough council has had under consideration the widening of south Water street at the point just south of the Bush Arcade by blowing away the point of the hill that projects out to the edge of the paved thoroughfare. The management of the Bush estate is willing to have the point blown away and the only obstacle in view is George Glenn's shop. George is willing to have his shop moved to a location in the rear of the jail, on east High street, which would be nearer his home, but he wants the borough to move it, bag and baggage. The borough is willing to move it if the Street committee can find anything to move it with, and so the situation stands at the present writing.

An esteemed contemporary asks what has become of Senator Morrow, of New Jersey. That's easy. He's in a cyclone cellar, hiding from Presidential lightning.

The greatest Secretary of the Treasury since Hamilton appears to have gotten the finances of the country in the worst muddle since Hamilton's time.

According to Washington gossip the Butler episode was simply another "error of judgment made by the administration."

Work in the Legislature is lagging. The Legislators are too busy playing politics to make progress in legislation.

It is a comfort to learn that President Hoover approves of Washington. He also speaks fairly well of Lincoln.

The copious rains in some sections of the country would be more beneficial if they were more widely distributed.

King Alfonso seems to be suffering with headache and he is a good sort, as Kings go.

Ghandi is out of jail, all right, but he is electioneering for another commitment.

The Republicans of Pennsylvania are cultivating harmony with battle axes.

We do your job work right.

Lindbergh Character Builders.

From the Christian Advocate. Quoting Public Opinion, of London, England, an article in a recent issue of the Christian Advocate attempts to show that having an ideal and attempting to live up to it is what built the character that has made Col. Charles A. Lindbergh a national hero.

"I came to the conclusion that if I knew the difference between the right way to do a thing and the wrong way to do it was up to me to train myself to do the right thing at all times.

So I drew up a list of character factors. At night I would read off my list of character factors, and those which had fulfilled satisfactorily during the day I would mark with a red cross; those I had not been called upon to demonstrate that day would get no mark.

But those character factors which I had actually violated each day I would mark with a black cross.

I began to check myself from day to day and to compare my "black and whites" from month to month and year to year. I was glad to notice an improvement as I grew older.

- Altruism
- Ambition
- Brevity in speech
- Concentration
- Calmness in temper
- Clean body
- Clean speech
- Clean thought
- Clean conduct
- Cheerfulness
- Courage
- Courtesy
- Decisiveness
- Determination
- Economy
- Energy
- Enthusiasm
- Firmness
- Faith
- Gracfulness
- Honesty
- Hopefulness
- Industry
- Initiative
- Justice
- Judgment
- Love toward all
- Loyalty
- No talking about others
- No talking too much
- Readiness to compromise
- Recreation—"Manful, not sinful"
- Moderateness
- Modesty
- Neat appearance
- No argument
- No sarcasm
- No faultfinding
- Optimism
- Perseverance
- Physical exercise
- Punctuality
- Patience
- Polliteness
- Reverence (Divine)
- Parents
- Home and family
- Country
- Respect superiors
- Respect fellow men
- Self-esteem
- Self-control
- Self-confidence
- Sleep of humor
- Sympathy
- Sincerity
- Tact
- Thoroughness
- Unselfishness

More Calendar Revision.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Another "business calendar" has been devised by Mr. C. M. Rusk, by which each year is divided into twelve months as usual and each quarter into thirteen weeks, with the containing five weeks. With 364 days thus accounted for, New Year's day carries no date, but precedes the first of January, while every four years Leap Year day precedes the first of July. This arrangement obviously meets some of the objections to the thirteen months of the presumed benefits of regularity in beginning every month with Monday and ending it with Saturday. But giving five weeks to every third month will not quite satisfy those who lay so much stress upon the bookkeeping advantages of mechanical precision in the calendar.

If any change is desirable, it is certainly better to avoid, as Mr. Rusk does, the confusion of turning part of June and July into the month of Sol. But the fundamental reasons against such a sweeping change remain. It may be that there is some inconvenience in the present arrangement, but we have got used to it, and there would be a much greater inconvenience in a change of dates which would make necessary, at least for many years to come, double-dating all past events. When the Gregorian calendar superseded the Julian this inconvenience was felt for a time; but it was nothing to what would follow any radical revision now. Uniformity is doubtless desirable to some extent; but it is not worth the trouble a complete upheaval of custom would cause.

Fortune Goes Begging.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

"There is a fortune in store for the person who achieves success in propagating ruffed grouse on a large scale," writes Leo A. Luttringer, Jr., of the Pennsylvania State Game Commission in an article in the current issue of The Game Breeder magazine.

This is true. While artificial propagation of this magnificent game bird has been accomplished on a small scale, as Mr. Luttringer sets forth at the Rolling Rock Club and elsewhere, nobody has yet been able to produce them on a large scale in captivity. It is to be hoped present successes in limited numbers and the experience gained will lead others to try. Otherwise, it may be a comparatively few years until the ruffed grouse tragedy is written in the wild life history of the State. Every contribution to the knowledge at hand is well worth while.

When you read the Watchman you are sure it's all true. If not a regular reader you ought to be.

SPAWS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Keeping the custom, centuries old, Lancastrians on Tuesday, observed Fasnacht day by eating approximately 480,000 crullers, or doughnuts.

—Hunters licenses for 1931 will be wine color with white numerals and letters. An order for 544,000 has been authorized by the Game Commission.

—A flock of crows flying eastward passed over Berwick several days ago. The line seemed to extend for miles and most of the birds flew high. Small flocks broke away from time to time from the larger one and flew low enough so that the birds could be recognized as crows.

—Game protector William J. Davis, of Clearfield, recently reported having seen a herd of approximately 15 elk while he and assistant game protector Philip Sloan, of Cambria county, were patrolling along the McGeorge Road. Attempts will be made to secure some good motion pictures of the herd.

—A woodpile where men may saw wood for \$5 a day, half of which is to be paid in wood and half in groceries, has been established in Butler by the Salvation Army unit as a means to relieve unemployment. Three other woodpiles are to be established there, it is said. Slabs are furnished free by Clayton T. Holmes, saw mill operator.

—February 26 has been set as a tentative date for the dedication of the new \$100,000 wing of the Lewistown hospital, when it is expected to have Governor Pinchot or his personal representative present. Should this date not be convenient for the Governor, it will be held early in March, according to a decision of the Board of Trustees.

—During January, 6375 claims for bounty were received at the offices of the Game Commission covering 47 wild cats, 1887 gray foxes and 13,010 weasels, entailing an expenditure of \$21,272. During the same month last year, 970 claims were received covering 39 wild cats, 1992 gray foxes, 22,597 weasels and 11 goshawks, entailing an expenditure of \$31,205.

—Mrs. Clara Hox, who lives on the Susquehanna Trail, a few miles north of Williamsport, reported to Robert B. Burns, of the Lycoming county detective's office, that while she was absent from home for several weeks, someone visited the premises and carried away the timber in the front porch, some of the window sash and otherwise damaged her house.

—Three more violators are spending around 500 days in the Union county jail as a result of "outlighting deer." The men, who were rehanded by Miles Reeder, of Mifflinburg, game protector for the Union-Snyder county district, are William Strickler, Millmont, who is serving 524 days; John Bickle, Laurelton, serving 505 days, and Cyrus Hoffman, also of Millmont, serving 506 days. The sentences were imposed in lieu of \$500 fines.

—Reasoning that it was better to surrender as deserter from the army than to continue to be hungry, Andrew Dayco, recently walked into the town hall at Bloomsburg and gave himself up to chief of police Spaid. The man stated that he had deserted on March 31, 1930, from Cheyenne, Wyoming, and a telegram from the police to the army post there, confirmed his statement. The man was turned over to the army post at Carlisle.

—With a roar that can be heard a mile distant the gas well on the Farr farm in Lawrence township, Tioga county, has increased its flow to nine million cubic feet a day and is expected to steadily do better. Gas was struck on Saturday with a flow of six million feet. The well is being driven by Fairman brothers, of Kane, for J. C. Trees, of Pittsburgh. Hundreds of persons visited the well on Sunday. It is 45 miles in a straight line from Williamsport.

—One of the five victims of her husband's pistol, Mrs. Nancy Stirling Playford, wife of R. W. Playford, a lawyer, of Uniontown, who killed himself after shooting to death his wife and three children, left an estate of \$25,359.43, according to an appraisal filed in the register's office. Previous appraisements show Playford's estate aggregated \$150,000 and the total estates of the three murdered children between \$8000 and \$9000. Friends of the Playfords say he sent members of his family to keep them out of the poor house.

—The Huntingdon Presbytery will be requested to approve and make provision for the formation of a Presbyterian Men's Association at the spring meeting of Presbytery, action having been taken at a conference of Presbyterian men held at State College to place the request before Presbytery. More than 125 men from all parts of the Presbytery attended the conference held in the State College Presbyterian church. Cloyd B. Ewing, of Mt. Union, director of men's work for the Presbytery, and Prof. A. A. Borland, of State College, presided.

—Lawrence Dale, executor of the estate of his father, the late Dr. John A. Dale, of Clearfield, was given a verdict of \$7,500 as the result of his suit against the Standard Accident Insurance Co., when the jury heard the case in civil court at Clearfield last week. Mr. Dale sued the insurance company for the above amount alleged to be due him on a policy issued by the defendant on the late Dr. Dale, who died about a year ago and the plaintiff claimed his death was due to two accidents in which he had been involved. The defense contested the claim on the grounds that Dr. Dale's death resulted from conditions not taken care of by the policy issued by them.

—Three hundred men from towns surrounding Lewisburg will be given employment today when work formally starts upon the erection of the new \$2,781,000 northeastern federal penitentiary near that place. Only six men are being sent there by the Great Lakes Construction company to supervise the job, as all other labor will be hired locally. Fourteen huge steam shovels will be on the job inside of a week and it is estimated that 150,000 square yards of ground will be excavated. After that is completed there will be over twenty separate buildings erected, all of them of steel and brick and of gothic architecture. The contractors have 426 working days to complete the job, but they will make every effort to complete the work ahead of time.