

INK SLINGS.

The time is approaching. In forty-six days it will be here.

It is not what one does that irks. The feeling that he has to do it is what makes it hard.

Green rouge is the latest edict from Paris. If the ladies fall for that fad they'll all be looking like their liver is out of order.

The Wickersham Commission found that the hard coal regions of Pennsylvania are ninety per cent wet. That's nothing. Last fall we found that they are one hundred per cent Pinchot, too.

As yet Governor Pinchot's new Compensation Insurance Board has not been confirmed by the Senate. The probabilities are that it will be, but we imagine that Arthur finds the anxious bench not at all to his liking.

Mr. Raskob is going to sell the Democratic party to the country like he sold General Motors. That's putting politics on a business basis and our friends, the Republicans, would probably do the same thing if they could find some party to which they could trade in that used car they have on their hands.

Governor Pinchot is cooling off, they say, on his campaign promise to reduce motor license fees, as well as drivers' license fees. The Governor will have legislation to that end introduced, but will not press for its passage. In other words, he got the votes and now he is going to let the motorists get the reduction.

All we can tell you about the allocation of the new Pinchot country roads in Centre county is that one piece planned is the section of road from Pennsylvania Furnace, across "The Barrens," to connect with the Buffalo Run valley road. Of course it is merely an accident that the piece leads right over to the summer camp of the Hon. Holmes.

We're for "Alfalfa Bill" Murray's idea of restoring "the little man." There are so many "little" men in the country that if they were restored we'd just love to see how long they would stay put. Such an experiment in economics would probably work out very much like revivals in our spiritual life. Most of the beneficiaries would have to be "done over" every year.

The effect of the recent rains and snow was not what some hoped it would be. Streams were swollen for a few days, water rose a few feet in the wells and springs that had been dry, started trickling streams. Already there is a noticeable decline in the flow of all of them. It is going to take a long time and much rainfall to again saturate the earth with the moisture content it had when the drought set in last June.

After reading the proposed new election code we discovered that we were wrong in stating that it would create new offices and take the election machinery out of the hands of the people of Centre county. It will do that in counties of the first, second, third and fourth classes, but in all other counties the County Commissioners will function as the County Board of Elections and receive no extra compensation. It provides that no person who holds any federal, state, county, town or township job, whether elective or appointive shall be appointed or serve as a watcher at a primary or general election. And in presidential years it provides that the primaries will be held in April.

The army of news writers that was here for the electrocution of the Schroeder woman and Dague caused far more excitement about Bellefonte than the affair, itself. Presumably they were not personally interested in the morbid scenes enacted behind the grim walls of Rockview last Monday morning. We prefer to think that the high tension in evidence among them was only the competitive spirit to get the first flashes and the best story off to their respective papers. It was big news and the boys were eager to make the most of it. It was big news, however, only because the public feeds on tales of human depravity. Why it should be so we have never been able to fathom. But it is.

After scaring council into spending six thousand dollars to build a trestle to carry water pipes over Spring creek the authorities at Harrisburg permit council to carry water under Spring creek. The inconsistency of such action justifies the position we took at the outset of the controversy over the manner of conducting the water from the Big Spring to the new Gamble pumping station. At that time we advised council to lay its pipes first and then ask Harrisburg what it was going to do about it. Council might have been fined five hundred dollars, but to save the five of five hundred it wasted fifty-five hundred, marred a beautiful natural prospect and now finds that the water that it couldn't conduct to the pumps under the stream can be conducted from them to the consumers under the stream.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Muscle Shoals Bill Doomed.

The vote on the conference report on the Muscle Shoals measure in the House of Representatives in Washington, the other day, affords little hope of a satisfactory settlement of that ten year old contest between the Power trust and the people. The vote was 216 to 153, which is a substantial majority and probably guarantees the adoption of the report by both branches of Congress. But it is practically certain to be vetoed by the President, either openly or by the "pocket" process, and 153 is more than a third of 435, the complete roster of the House.

This long drawn out controversy in Congress has been acrimonious at times and tiresome nearly always. It was begun immediately after the close of the World war. The plant, created for the purpose of manufacturing war munitions at a cost of \$180,000,000, became useless for that purpose but of great value as a water power and a plant for the manufacture of fertilizers. The Power trust at once set about to acquire it on lease at a nominal figure when Senator Norris conceived the idea of operating it by the government to provide cheap fertilizers for the farmers and electricity for the public.

Accordingly the Nebraska Senator introduced a bill with this purpose in mind. After a strenuous contest the measure passed the Senate but was held up in the House. Subsequently it passed both branches of Congress but was defeated by a pocket veto by President Coolidge. At the first session of the present Congress it again passed the Senate but was "pickled" in the House committee to which it had been referred. Efforts during the second session failed to bring it out but the result of the election served that purpose. Consideration of the question or an extra session of Congress were alternatives presented.

An early session of the Seventy-second Congress would be like a dreadful nightmare to the administration and in order to avert it consideration of the Norris bill was promised. It was a reluctant agreement, however, and fulfillment delayed to the last minute so that a pocket veto might be invoked in the event the vote indicated sufficient strength to overcome a veto message. As it appears now the President may adopt either plan to serve the Power trust.

In the next presidential campaign there will be one less bogey for the Democratic party to face. Everybody who has survived present conditions will be so accustomed to "the demnition bow-wows" that they won't be afraid to take a chance.

The Public Service Investigation.

The Senate inquiry into Governor Pinchot's charge against the Public Service Commission has made little progress thus far. Only a few witnesses have been examined and they have revealed little beyond considerable mental agility in dodging facts and information. An analysis of the testimony thus far brought out very clearly shows that the Public Service Commission has utterly failed of the purpose for which it was created and that the law creating it is purposely or otherwise defective. Under it the Commission might have rendered valuable public service if influenced by consideration of public interests.

That the Commission has failed in this is commonly understood. It has favored corporations wherever and whenever it was possible to do so. The testimony concerning the attempt to burden the city of Philadelphia with a decaying property at an exorbitant price was an essentially political enterprise for the benefit of the Vore machine and the pecuniary advantage of a few of the leaders of that organization. Other adventures of the Commission, little less reprehensible but more successful, were plainly in the interest of corporate greed. Altogether they fully justified popular reprobation and loudly called for correction.

But neither the facts revealed nor the evidence justify Governor Pinchot's fantastic notion that the remedy lies in abolishing the Commission. The purpose of the Public Service Commission was to regulate corporations operating in the State and restrain them from excesses detrimental to the consumers of their products. The proper way to accomplish this result is to strengthen the law and appoint honest and courageous men to administer it. Euphemistic titles afford no guarantee of superior service and a Fair Rate Board chosen by machine politicians might make things vastly worse, instead of better.

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Disappearing Dark Clouds.

Now that the soldiers' bonus bill has become a law thoughtful people wonder why the administration opposed its passage so strenuously. The President and Secretary of the Treasury Mellon admonished Congress that the law would certainly disrupt, if it did not actually bankrupt, the treasury and that it would compel an issue of bonds in large amounts and cause a material increase in taxation. We have not seen the veto message of the President but presume that it reiterated and emphasized these gloomy predictions.

As a matter of fact it will not work any of these evils. With an addition provided by a rider on the naval supply bill there will be no less than \$897,000,000 in the insurance reserve fund of the Veterans' Bureau available by the time the machinery for putting the law in force is prepared, and that will be ample to meet the demands under it for a considerable period of time. In view of this fact Senator Johnson, of California, was justified in declaring in the Senate that "there has been gross misrepresentation in some official quarters leading the public to believe that the bill means increased taxation."

From the beginning of the government the people of the United States have been taught to believe that any statement coming from the President may be confidently relied upon. In the past an official statement concerning the operations of the Secretary of the Treasury has gone unquestioned. Even President Harding's statements were accepted as dependable. But President Hoover has frequently, for political or personal reasons, made statements that were wide from the facts, and for years Mr. Mellon's official opinions have had no value. His guesses have been as wide of the mark as that of a bucket shop broker.

An equally preposterous reason for opposing the bill advanced by both the President and the Secretary was that the veterans were cheating themselves by taking advantage of its provisions. That is, that in borrowing half the amount of their certificates they lose the other half. The truth is that the other half remains to their credit in the treasury and may be drawn at maturity. Of course they will have to pay interest on the half which has been drawn but at a less rate than would be charged if they had borrowed at a local bank.

Centre County's Quota of Township Roads.

Blue prints showing the allocation of township roads in each county scheduled for improvement in Governor Pinchot's much vaunted 20,000 miles road building program were distributed to members of the Legislature when that body convened on Monday. Instead of 250 miles as Centre county's allotment, according to reports coming up from Harrisburg the past several weeks, the total is 177 miles. The blue prints were furnished Members to approve the allocation as to the roads to be built, or recommend any changes they might have to suggest. One piece of roadway included in Centre county is that from Pennsylvania Furnace through to Barrens to Halfmoon township to connect with the road through Buffalo Run and Halfmoon valleys to Warriorsmark.

As it is beginning to look now there is not much occasion to become excited over this road building program. Governor Pinchot has already hedged on his promises to reduce auto and drivers' licenses and now he is reported as saying that he only promised to start the road building program.

While former Judge Arthur C. Dale has been appointed chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board by Governor Pinchot he so far has only the appointment without the salary, as neither his own appointment nor those of the other members of the Board have been confirmed by the Senate. Senator Frank Baldwin, of Potter county, chairman of the Senate committee on executive nominations, stated on Monday evening that he has received letters from twenty local unions in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties asking for a hearing on the appointments before confirmation is made.

Operator's licenses for 1930 will expire at midnight, Saturday night, and if you have been a little tardy in getting one for this year better not drive your car or the State patrol may get you "if you don't watch out."

A Short Circuit Caused Brilliant Pyrotechnics in Town.

A short circuit somewhere on the high tension lines of the West Penn Power company, about two o'clock last Friday morning, caused a brilliant electrical pyrotechnic display and caused some superstitious people to believe that the end of the world was heading this way.

Exactly what caused the trouble has not been definitely decided by officials of the West Penn. At first it was believed to be a leaky insulator near the transformers of the American Lime and Stone company. Later some of the officials expressed the belief that the rain and wet snow had sagged a wire sufficiently to come in contact with the high tension lines.

It was just about two o'clock when the entire town was illuminated by a flickering brilliance that led all who saw it to jump to the conclusion that there was a big fire right near their own home. Balls of fire rolled along the wires, flames spurted and sparks were showered down in the street. One pole was set on fire and destroyed. The entire system of the company was put out of commission for a quarter of an hour and the lines of the Penn Central up to Altoona were also put out of service temporarily.

As quickly as they could employees of the company cut out the short-circuited section at the big substation and hastily restored the service. Friday it developed that the trouble also affected the telephone wires to the extent that bells were set a ringing in a large number of homes. Motors on a number of Frigidaires were also put out of commission and a number of lamp sockets on the street lights were welded solid and had to be replaced.

So far as could be learned not a single transformer was burned out or damaged.

The Grand Jury Condemns the Jail and Justices of Peace.

It took the grand jury, of which Harry E. Charles, of Philipsburg, was foreman, four full days, last week, to wade through the grist of bills of indictment presented by district attorney John G. Love, and the fact that twenty per cent of the bills were ignored bears out the Watchman's recent statements that a large number of returns are made to court that should never have gone beyond the office of the justice of the peace. And the grand jury evidently was of the same mind, judging from its report, which is as follows:

That we have acted upon 50 bills of indictment of which 40 were found true bills and 10 not true bills; that we visited and inspected the county buildings and find that the interior of the court house is in fine condition, but find that the outside appearance could be greatly improved at a small cost by having a coat of paint, or cleaned in some manner. Having visited the jail we find it to be in a deplorably insanitary condition, due solely to the antiquated and exposed plumbing system. The jail should also have a separate heating plant. As repeatedly recommended by former grand juries a fire escape, or means of exit, for the safety of the prisoners should be made by the county commissioners with plans for the remodeling of the jail so as to provide more ample accommodations for men as well as women prisoners.

We further report the grand jury finds that justices of the peace are too prone to make return, or "give law" in trivial cases, thus compelling the attendance of witnesses at court and the incurring of expenses to the county. One justice returned a case to this term involving the larceny of four small traps of the value of sixty cents which cost the county many times that sum in costs. Justices should refuse to take such informations and advise the parties concerning their civil remedies. Every dispute between parties does not always give rise to a criminal prosecution and this should be kept in mind by the Justices.

In consequence of the depression all commodities but milk have gone down in price. Milk at the farms has suffered a cut, but it is the same at your back door as it was a year ago. Butter is lower than we have ever known it to be at this season of the year, so that it would seem that there must be something wrong. However, before starting to figure out what it is just count up the number of milkmen you know who are getting rich.

The days have become so much longer, the weather really spring-like, and it seems as if it won't be long now until we can quit shoveling coal and start pushing the lawn mower.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Items taken from the Watchman issue of March 4, 1881.

Co. B. left here for Washington, D. C., last night, making a fine appearance on their parade to the station. Today they will march in the Garfield inaugural parade.

Rev. Moses Pinckney (colored) will preach in the hall of the Logan house next Sunday afternoon.

The people of Snow Shoe and vicinity celebrated the anniversary of Washington's birth by holding a masquerade ball, which it is reported nearly six hundred dancers and spectators attended. It was held in the dance hall on the third floor of Uzzie's hotel. The music was excellent and the dancing spirited.

Talking about Pleasant Gap, where is there a village of its size that can have a musical convention, three hops and two concerts all in one week.

A. J. Smith has sold his store in Port Matilda to S. S. Miles, of Philipsburg. Mr. Smith has moved to Clearfield and Mr. Miles to Port.

The musical convention in the Presbyterian church at Jacksonville came to a close with a grand concert on Saturday night. It was very successful and some splendid singing was done by N. H. Yearick, W. J. Aley, C. H. Wilson, Misses Sue Yearick, Aggie Beatty and Helen McCalmont and Prof. Curns.

I. Guggenheimer will start for Philadelphia and New York tomorrow for the purpose of buying a new stock of carpets for his store in the Arcade.

Mrs. Orbison, Mrs. Beaver, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Tuten, and Mrs. Magee left, Wednesday evening, for Tyrone to attend the meeting of the Foreign Missionary society of the Huntingdon Presbytery.

Knox township, Clearfield county, has elected a female school director.

Mrs. Margaret Carson died at Spring Mills, this county, on the 2nd inst.

Quite a large trout was caught in the press room of this office while it was under the flood waters of last week.

The Lamb street bridge across Spring creek was badly damaged by the flood on Sunday night and McCoy and Linn's dam was damaged almost to the breaking point.

All the bridges between here and Rock were carried away by the flood and the dams at Valentine's forge and Mann's Axe factory both broke.

L. M. Coudriet, of Frenchville, has ready for the market two sticks of timber each 105 ft long and 18 inches square. He has two others 82 ft long and 25 inches square.

Dr. Thomas Kirk, of this place, sold out his interest in the Kirk drug store to his brother, Dr. Miles Kirk, two weeks ago, and has left for Burr Oak, Kansas, where another brother and his mother reside.

Harry Green returned from Philadelphia on Tuesday evening. He had been attending pharmaceutical lectures there.

Mrs. Susan Weaver, wife of Geo. H. Weaver Esq., died last Monday morning, after a long illness. She was a highly esteemed and generally respected woman and death did not find her unprepared, for she was a very devout christian.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Trippe have just returned from Safe Harbor, Lancaster county, to which place they had journeyed to be present at a big party the people of that town gave for Mr. George Trippe on the occasion of his 55th birthday anniversary. Among other presents given Mr. Trippe was a handsome new carriage and a team of horses.

The thaw and rain of Sunday night raised Spring creek to the sills of the windows in our press room and for the third time in two weeks flooded us out. The Valentine railroad trestle just above the station was carried away and it and the ice knocked the wooden pier out from under the upper section of the High street bridge letting it fall down into the torrent. The wooden bridge that ran from Water street over to the livery stable at the rear of the Bush house was swept completely away that no trace of it was to be seen Monday morning. It was a great flood, but we are about tired of them.

A good many Republicans in Pennsylvania will be greatly surprised if President Hoover ratifies the deal between our present Senators and Mr. Vore to appoint Congressman Welsh to the federal bench.

President Hoover's veto of the soldiers' bonus bill is a candid expression of "the courage of despair." The President knew that the measure would become a law anyway.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The bureau of motor vehicles on February 1 had licensed 1,171,027 passenger cars. The total is an increase of 11,702 over that of one year ago.

A toy balloon, released at Brownsville, Pa., has landed in Boston, traveling a distance of 454 miles in about 23 hours, according to word sent to Brownsville.

Although starlings move with the seasons from their urban to suburban homes and then return they seldom wander far from a given area, according to tests reported to the Game Commission.

Surveys made by field officers of the Game Commission since the close of the hunting season show sufficient wild turkeys escaped to assure good hunting next season unless the weather conditions during hatching season are unfavorable.

With a roar that could be heard for more than ten miles, one of the largest gas wells in the United States blew out the drill and tools, on Saturday evening, at a well being drilled in Tioga county. The flow is estimated at more than 75,000,000 feet per day. Workmen fled for their lives and no one is permitted to approach the well. Gas masks will be required when work is resumed.

Diphtheria contagion lurking at a tea party attended recently by a score or more teachers in the York, Pa., schools resulted in the exclusion of 10 teachers from school as diphtheria carriers and the quarantining of the hostess at the party, who is suffering from the disease in its virulent form. She is Mrs. E. A. Gladfield, wife of the principal of the Hannah Penn Junior High school.

While supervising the removal of clay from the Brockway Clay Products mine, Monday morning, Emmet Wellington, 43, a foreman, was caught by a fall of rock and instantly killed. Workmen went to his aid immediately but when the rock was removed from his inert form it was found that death had already occurred. The deceased had been a resident of Brockway for the past several years, moving there from Toronto, Ohio. He is survived by his wife and two children.

G. S. Herbert, chief engineer for the Cumberland Valley Telephone company, has acquired the controlling interest in the Farmers' Telephone company, which served the rural territory about Bellefonte, Millin county. The company was organized twenty-eight years ago by Harry Smucker and incorporated in 1914 and will be continued under Mr. Smucker's management until April 1, when the new management will take charge. The installation of new equipment and improvement of service is promised by the new owner.

Mrs. Florence Brown, diminutive Berwick woman, was cured of a belligerent attitude by 10 minutes in the dungeon at the county jail—the first time in many years the cell has been used for a woman. Mrs. Brown was arrested on Friday after she punched Daniel Eckerd, Berwick poor overseer, in the face at a hearing in the court house when he testified her daughter was neglected. Saturday she fought with jail attendants, but a few moments' confinement in the dungeon changed her attitude completely.

Pottsville's steel mill was given a new lease on life last week after citizens raised the remaining \$75,000 needed to finance a new company to take over the property of the Eastern steel mill. The promoters of the new organization had already raised \$200,000 and this sum was matched by bankers of that city. The new plant is expected to start operations within a month or so with a force of 300 men. The plant will be gradually expanded in order to take in new lines of work, which will eventually open an almost new field of work for the plant.

Ralph G. Irwin, chief of the bureau of milk control of the State Health Department, reports that 5000 applicants for permits for the sale of milk have just been forwarded to the dealers. These applications are for permits for the distribution and sale of milk from September 1, 1931, to September 1, 1932. Investigations on these applications are made by the district State representatives and if the plants and equipment are found to be up to the standards required by the law of 1929, recommendations are made and permits issued by the Secretary of Health.

Lancaster county has made the final payment for its share of the construction cost of the new intercounty bridge across the Susquehanna river between Columbia and Wrightsville when county's share of the final payment on a check for \$69,474.56, representing the span, was turned over to Glen M. Wiley, president of the company which built the structure. A like sum is to be paid by York county, thus making up the last portion of the original contract price that was withheld until the span was formally approved by the respective courts of the two counties. The contract price for the erection of the bridge was \$2,484,000.

When Mrs. Charles F. Sandier, of Shamokin, returned to her home Sunday night following a visit with her parents at Snyderdown, she found her husband, a Shamokin undertaker, seated in a chair beside the kitchen gas range dead. All of the jets of the gas stove were turned on. Mrs. Sandier went to Snyderdown on Thursday to visit her parents and was unaware of the tragedy until she reached her home. Mr. Sandier, aged 45 years, had locked all the doors and seated himself alongside the range, and wrapped a blanket about his head and turned on all of the jets. This suicidal act had evidently been committed Friday night in the opinion of attending physicians.

A Pittsburgh grocer, who unwittingly trapped bandits in his store when he returned home on Monday, was shot to death by the robbers after they forced him to open a safe containing \$300, according to police. Police said they believed Silvio Lucrelli, 45, whose body was found by his wife when she arose Tuesday, was shot by bandits after they had taken the money from the safe. Lucrelli returned home from work several hours earlier than usual, telling fellow workmen he felt ill, according to police. When he entered his home he unknowingly trapped the bandits and was slain either because he recognized them or resisted their robbery efforts, police said.

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