

INK SLINGS

-We are so sensitive to cold that we start sneezing even when we see the word draft in print.

-A few more warm days like yesterday and we will put the snow shovel away in moth balls.

-So far as April showers are concerned there have been enough of them to insure plenty of May flowers.

-Professor John Dewey is determined to have a new party, even if he has to start and manage it himself.

-If Tony Cermak, newly elected Mayor of Chicago, can clean the place up the man with the underslung pipe will have to look to his laurels as the "Windy City's" favorite son.

-The total cost of running Centre county last year was \$236,892.44. Ten years ago the annual cost was around \$162,057.63. We're getting more government, of course, but do we need it?

-Nicholas Longworth has been stricken with pneumonia and now "Princess Alice" will have something else to worry about than whether Mrs. Gans will be seated above her when the President dines the King and Queen of Siam.

-Big Bill Thompson, Mayor of Chicago, has been licked at last. His perennial declarations of war on King George will now cease and England can go into future disarmament conferences more convinced of the needlessness of big armies and navies.

-Governor Roosevelt has won a great victory in his fight with the Republican Senate of New York over the St. Lawrence river water power project. It was Al. Smith's baby, but Franklin D. adopted it and has finally succeeded in getting it legal recognition.

-The Auditor's Statement of the financial condition of Centre county appears on page six of this edition. You tax payers of Centre county, read it and weep. If you don't know what for we'll tell you in the first edition of this paper after September 15, 1931.

-This is Tuesday night. A week hence, the Lord willing, we will be in camp on Fishing creek. Every reader of this column is invited to drop in any time between six p. m. that evening and five p. m. the next day, (Wednesday). We are not guaranteeing anyone a mess of trout, but we will have a kit of mackerel there for those who come empty handed.

-King George has a cold and it gets three inches of space on the front pages of metropolitan papers. We have had colds, coughs and consumption ever since Harry Campbell sent us that mess of cough drops and all the reaction there is to our lamented condition can be summed up in Jim Watt's salutation, when he walked into the office, Monday morning, and said: "How well you look!"

-Having reformed (?) everything else in Pennsylvania Governor Pinchot has set himself to the task of reforming the phraseology of the letters that are henceforth to go out from the various Departments in Harrisburg. But what are the Stengos to do with the time they save by eliding the polite old phrases of yesterday's correspondence? Does he expect to "dock" them for that so as to create a fund to make good his own archaic promises to reduce automobile and drivers licenses?

-The optimism of some financial writers leads them to strange conclusions. In March there were seventy-six more business failures in the United States than there were in February. But because March has three more days than February the daily average was a trifle less and that decrease in the average only was occasion for a big head announcing that "March Failures Were Below Those of the Previous Month" over an article in the financial section of a metropolitan paper on Wednesday. A lot of whistling to keep up courage is being done these days.

-For the life of us, we can't see anything wrong with Mr. Raskob's idea of permitting the States to decide for themselves whether they want to be Dry or Wet. In fact, any Democrat who disagrees with such a proposal is not a Democrat in principle. The trouble with both the major parties is that not five per cent of their members know just what being a Democrat or a Republican should mean. Most of them are one or the other because of heredity, acquisitiveness or a desire to be with the winning crowd. And because of that incontrovertible fact the fundamental principles on which both the Democratic and Republican parties are founded appear as heresy when called to the attention of pseudo party men and women. One is not necessarily "wet" because he believes that Kansas and Maine have no right to control the personal habits of the people in New York and New Jersey. He is merely a Democrat who knows why he is a Democrat and our advice to all who disagree with such a premise is to get another party.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Troubles of a Decadent Party

The administration in Washington is greatly troubled concerning the financial conditions, according to newspaper gossip. The deficit which Secretary Mellon estimated at \$180,000,000 a few months ago has grown to \$800,000,000 and may reach a billion before the end of the fiscal year. Unemployment and industrial paralysis has cut the income tax revenue much more than was expected and the Grundy tariff has split the customs revenues pretty close to the middle. The result is a deficit more than double that of any peace time experience in the history of the government. It closely approaches the peak of the World war period and exceeds the worst in the Civil war time.

Of course various methods are being suggested to remedy the evil but none of them is satisfactory to the President or the politicians of his party. Senator Bingham frankly proposes an increase of taxes all along the line and Senator Watson replies substantially that such an act on the eve of a Presidential election would be political suicide. Senator Borah suggests a considerable increase of income taxes in the higher brackets which would cut off the slush fund contributions and leave the party without hope. President Hoover has set his face against both these plans. His engineering mind has evolved a scheme to fool the public by secretly issuing treasury certificates to meet public expenses.

Meantime the public mind has been confused, if not deceived, by glowing statements of the activities of the Treasury Department. On March 15, "the biggest day the United States Treasury ever had," according to these statements, besides other transactions of enormous proportions, "\$1,100,000,000 3 1/2 per cent notes were retired." This was an encouraging symptom of financial health. But on the same day "new government issues amounting to \$1,518,261,000 were put out," showing a balance of \$418,261,000 on the wrong side of the ledger, out of which \$30,000,000 was paid on account of interest on the public debt. If this form of activity is continued, which seems probable, the future is anything but rosy.

The General Assembly has an elaborate programme for the immediate future. The members have drawn their last pay until adjournment and that makes them anxious to speed up.

Pinchot's Real Purpose Revealed

In proposing an amendment to the Pinchot fair rate bill to eliminate the elective features, George W. Woodruff, "the Governor's special deputy Attorney General in charge of utility legislation," stated that "what the Governor is interested in is having a Fair Rate Board replace the Public Service Commission." In other words, the real purpose of the pending measure is to flatter the Pinchot vanity, promote the Pinchot ambitions and save the Pinchot face. Eliminating the elective feature robs it of all significance. Changing the name from Public Service Commission to Fair Rate Board can have no corrective or remedial influence upon its deliberation or its decrees.

The present Public Service Commission is rotten because it has been perverted to the base uses of the Republican machine, a result made possible by the language of the law creating it. The Senate committee investigation it's operation has revealed these facts to public view and has prepared or is preparing effective remedial legislation. The House committee, on the other hand, has staged a couple of circus parades, delayed and confused legislation, created an alibi for Pinchot's broken pledges and accomplished nothing else. The plain and paramount duty of the General Assembly is to make the law available for necessary improvements and let it go at that.

The Fair Rate bill is simply an appeal to public credulity and a trap to catch votes or deceive voters. The elective feature was introduced for the purpose of fooling voters into the belief that it invested them with some measure of control in the selection of the Board, though as a matter of fact it created a certain method of placing this power in the hands of politicians. Most of the other features are equally abortive for reformatory purposes and can be much better achieved by amendments to the Public Service Commission law, already proposed or to be proposed by Senator Earnest's committee. Still the Pinchot proposition helps some as an alibi.

It is now an open secret that the Republican State organization is preparing to prevent Governor Pinchot's election as delegate to the National convention next year.

Hoover Fools Only Himself.

President Hoover is kidding himself but fooling nobody else on the subject of maintaining the high standard of wages throughout the country. Following the Wall street debacle of October, 1929, he assembled what he called a White House conference of industrial leaders and prevailed upon them to make paper promises of increased industrial activity in the immediate future and to continue the schedules of wages which has been in existence for some time. At irregular intervals since he has emerged from his cloister to remind the country that whatever else had happened he had been able to prevent any decrease in the scale of wages. The rate per hour was unchanged.

As a matter of fact the rate of wages has been cut in most industries, not by reducing the amount paid by the hour but by decreasing the number of days of employment. In some instances the six day week was reduced to the three day week and in most cases to a four or five day week. In the railroad service, for example, the average daily wages amounted to a fraction over five dollars a day. Cutting the six day men to say four days a week reduced the semi-monthly pay envelope from eleven to twelve dollars, which was quite as certain a decrease of wages as if a twenty-five per cent cut had been made in the per hour rate. Does Mr. Hoover imagine that the average brakeman doesn't realize this fact?

During the more than a year and a half which has elapsed since the White House conference of industrial leaders President Hoover has vigorously opposed every effort to relieve unemployment and maintain the high standard of wages. The White House conference seems to have exhausted his resources. The paper promises, though never fulfilled, satisfied him and justified his periodical boasts that the high rate of wages has been maintained notwithstanding the industrial depression. Recently, however, official records have disillusioned him on the subject and it is said that he contemplates another White House conference to get a renewal of the bogus promises.

It seems that Mahatma Gandhi has been operating a "steam roller" in his effort to control the All-India National Congress. Sort of imitating Nick Longworth, so to speak.

Two Famous Innovations.

The principal innovation of the Coolidge administration was the "Official Spokesman." His job was to meet the newspaper correspondents and other inquisitive persons who appeared at the White House in search of information and take the blame in the event of adverse popular reaction. Nobody was ever able to find out exactly who the official spokesman was and there was a good deal of mental speculation on the subject. Our own opinion at the time was that it was Mr. Coolidge, himself, and that the purpose was to shield the administration from criticism when unpopular policies were announced. But it was a shrewd Yankee trick.

The startling innovation of the Hoover administration is the "Official Liar." His job is to supply bogus statistics and juggle figures to support any absurd statement which the President may find it expedient to make concerning the operations of the government. For the first half of Mr. Hoover's term Secretary of Labor, James J. Davis, performed this service. Sometimes it was a stupid performance, because the falsity of the figures were too obvious. But it was performed boldly and in an atmosphere of confidence which deceived anybody who wanted to be fooled, and actually reflected credit on Mr. Davis as a prevaricator.

The present official liar of the administration is Secretary of Labor Doak, and in some respects he is an improvement on his predecessor in office. That is, he is a trifle more venturesome in his statements and maybe more careless as to facts. The other day, in a radio speech, Mr. Doak declared that "employment conditions are improving daily" and that "the federal employment service has been instrumental in obtaining jobs for 1,300,000 workers." As a matter of fact neither of these statements has any foundation, and the only inference to be drawn from them is that the Hoover policy of deceiving the public will be continued.

Russia is buying machinery extensively in Germany, according to newspaper reports. Maybe this is propaganda to make countries recognize the Soviet government.

Vital Fault in the Election Code.

The Philadelphia lawyer who wrote the election code now pending in the General Assembly assures the public that the provision which invests in the Secretary of the Commonwealth, an appointee of the Governor, power to name election officers and supervise their work and the returns, is not a dangerous form of centralization but simply an expedient to "put teeth in the law." He generously praises the work of the system in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and urges the Legislature to extend it to the other populous counties, making it effective in the first, second and third class counties. In Pittsburgh and Philadelphia it has almost doubled the Republican majorities within the short period of its operation.

The new code contains many admirable features, and there are as many reasons for election reform legislation as there are election crooks in the State. For years and years the Watchman has been an earnest and articulate advocate of honest election laws. Every measure that has given promise of improvement in election machinery has had our cordial support. But we can conceive of no greater evil to the people of Pennsylvania than an act to deprive a sufficient number of them of local control of the elections to nullify their votes by manipulating the returns in the seven largest counties. Philadelphia, alone, under the operation of the system, defeated W. E. Wilson for Senator.

The author of the bill defends the proposed centralization on the ground that "elections in the smaller units have their effect on every one else in the State and nation." That is to say, in a State-wide contest a considerable majority on one side, say in Centre county, offsets to that extent the majority for the other side in Clearfield county. But that fact doesn't justify Clearfield county to claim the right to control the election machinery in Centre county. Local self-government is a fundamental, and ought to be a cherished, right of every citizen. The purpose of the present State administration seems to be to deprive the citizens of all rights and centralize all power in Harrisburg.

Governor Pinchot has inaugurated a movement to improve the style of letter writing in departmental offices at Harrisburg by cutting out all unnecessary words and phrases and dishing out nothing but the meat in the coconut. As dictators of correct English and proper condensation he has appointed a committee of five departmental employees and heading the list of the committee is Miss H. Marilla Williams, chief of the stenographic service in the State Highway Department. Miss Williams was born, grew to womanhood and educated in Bellefonte, but has been a government employee in Harrisburg for a number of years. Mr. Pinchot gives as his reason for demanding more concise correspondence the saving of time and material and it's really to be regretted that the inspiration didn't hit him last summer when he deluged the newspaper offices throughout the State with his fulsome, longwinded campaign literature.

J. O. Heverly has fixed up one of the basement rooms in his business block into a fitting style for a comfortable office and a new sign on one of the windows reads "J. O. Heverly, Real Estate." Evidently the ex-county treasurer is getting tired waiting for Pinchot to give him an appointive office.

The Senate committee to investigate the Public Service Commission is preparing its report, which will probably disappoint the Governor but may satisfy the public.

It's increasing taxes or borrowing money to finance the government. In other words, the administration is between the devil and the deep sea.

It will be remembered that in 1893 a practically bankrupt government was turned over to President Cleveland. Will history repeat itself in 1933?

There will be no increase of taxation before November, 1932, and after that time unpopular legislation can be blamed on the Democrats.

Mahlon R. Hagerty, of Rush township, is the latest entrant as a candidate for county commissioner on the Republican ticket.

The Pinchot fair rate board will survive or perish in the House of Representatives, as Grundy supports or opposes it.

KEEP FISHIN'

Hi Somers was the durndest cuss
Per ketchin' fish—he sure was great!
He never used to make a fuss
About the kind of pole er bait,
Er weather, neither; he'd just say,
"I got to ketch a mess to day."
An' towards the creek you'd see him slide,
A-whistlin' soft an' walkin' wide.
I says one day to Hi, says I,
"How do you always ketch 'em, Hi?"
He give his bait another swish in
An' chucklin', says, "I jest keep fishin'!"
Hi took to reading law at night
An', pretty soon, the first we knowed,
He had a law suit, won his fight.
An' was a lawyer! I'll be blowed!
He knowed more law than Squire Mc-Knab!
An' the he had no "gift of gab"
To brag about, somehow he made
A sober sort of talk that played
The mischief with the other side.
One day when someone asked if He'd
Explain how he got in condishin',
He laughed an' said, "I jest kept fishin'!"

Well, Hi is Gov'nor Somers now,
A big man 'round the State, you bet!
To me the same old Hi somehow,
The same old champion fisher yet
It wa'n't so much the bait er pole,
The way for Hi his big success,
"Twas jest his fishin' on, I guss.
A cheerful, stiddy, hopeful kind
Of keepin' at it—don't you mind?
An' that is why I can't help wishin'
That more of us would jest keep fishin'."
—R. C. Rose, in West Penn Life

Earthquakes and Our Canals

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.
Nicaragua's devastating earthquakes which ruined its capital city bring into discussion once more the feasibility of constructing in that country a canal to supplement the Panama enterprise. The day is not so far away when enlarged facilities will be required for vessels passing between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Congress originally was divided in sentiment between the two routes, and Panama was selected only after heated debates. But Nicaragua has never been out of mind. A couple of years or so ago the steady growth of canal business revived the subject in Washington. The United States had already bought right of way from the Nicaraguan Government, and it is ours for the taking.

For a year and a half engineers of the United States Army have been conducting a survey. Perhaps if the earthquake which, with fire, has destroyed Managua, had occurred before they were sent to Nicaragua the order would not have been given. But their work has been almost completed. Their report is expected by July. That they will deem the route practical from a construction viewpoint is altogether probable. Previous examinations had shown it to be so. Expensive, yes. But Congress need not bother about that for the present. What is more likely to influence it adversely to the route is this Managua catastrophe.

Whether the engineers in their survey went any deeper into the subject than making maps and estimating cost is not yet apparent. But their studies would not be complete unless they had sought information whether the proposed location of the locks have been subject to earthquake shocks. If they are, the fact would have a direct bearing upon the situation. It is reassuring to know, however, that they were untouched by last week's disturbance.

An Oil Fraud Sentence Upheld.

From the Philadelphia Record.
Albert B. Fall must serve a year in jail and pay a fine of \$100,000—the amount he took from Edward L. Doheny for conveying to him unlawfully valuable public oil lands. So rules the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, affirming the verdict of the trial court.

No cause, surely, for vindictive elation. Broken in health and fortune, branded with dishonor, deprived of another hope of escaping the ordeal of imprisonment, this former Cabinet officer is a tragic and pitiable figure.

But the decision, final except for a possible appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, must be welcomed as evidence that rich and resourceful criminality cannot always paralyze the law.

More than nine years have passed since Fall and Sinclair and Doheny conspired to exploit the naval oil reserves. Long ago their transactions were canceled by the courts as fraudulent and corrupt, and restitution forced of millions in plunder.

But Sinclair served time only for contempt of the Senate and espionage of a jury. Doheny was acquitted of bribing Fall. The former Secretary of Interior alone has been convicted of participation in the original crime.

So eccentric are the processes of criminal procedure that the bribe-taker was exonerated, the bribe-taker found guilty!

Yet it is well that at least one of the plotters pays the penalty. Crimes of violence endanger only the lives of individuals. Crimes of cunning imperil the security of society. Successful defiance of the law undermines faith in the administration of justice.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Twenty-five thousand school children of Mifflin, Huntingdon, Snyder, Juniata and Centre counties will within the next few days receive free passes to the 1931 Mifflin county fair for "children's day," September 1. The tickets are being mailed to all school teachers in these five Central Pennsylvania counties for distribution to the children before the close of school.

—Crowded from the highway while crossing the Seven mountains between Milroy and Centre Hall, one day last week, George N. Kling, of Lewistown, was seriously injured when the truck in which he was riding overturned against a telephone pole. He received fractures of both legs just above the ankle, a fractured hip and the right leg fractured in another place and a compound fracture of the right hand. His son, Norman Kling, was only slightly injured and the second son, George E. Kling, was not injured.

—Dependents of Frank Sisco, of Easton, former employee of the Bethlehem Steel company, were denied compensation for his death in an opinion handed down by Judge Robert A. Stutz, of Northampton county, in which he reversed the referee and the compensation board. Sisco and a fellow employee engaged in a friendly tussle while at work. Sisco was struck in the solar plexus, fell to the floor and died. Judge Stutz held that the injury was due to altercation personal to the two parties involved, not arising out of their employment, and therefore not compensable.

—Death of Mrs. John Kiser and wounding of Clara Kamery, 86, at Brady's Bend Saturday night, as a result, police believe, of the accidental discharge of a high-powered rifle is being investigated. Clarence Kamery was examining a rifle in his home when it was discharged accidentally, police were told. The bullet pierced the wall of the house, grazed the head and shoulder of his brother and struck Mrs. Kiser near the heart as the latter two were standing on the porch. Clara Kamery was taken to the Butler, Pa., hospital suffering, it was said, from bullet wounds in the head and right shoulder.

—A contract for two new units to the sole cutting plant of the Elk Tanning company in Edgway, has been let to the Hyde-Murphy Co., of that place. Construction will begin immediately and the buildings will be ready for operation not later than July, employing about thirty additional men. One unit of the plant will be 50x160 feet to be used as a sole cutting plant and the other will be 74x100 feet to be used as a warehouse. Foundations for these were constructed last fall when one unit of the plant, an experiment there, was constructed. The buildings will be of steel and brick, practically fireproof.

—Victor Wavinski, 39, World war veteran and former United States marine, is dead in Pittsburgh, the victim of exposure and starvation, and the check for \$500 the government mailed him recently and which was found the day he died when officers searched his dingy room near the Monongahela river front, has been sent back to Washington in an effort to determine if it can be used for his burial. Wavinski fell ill early last week while hunting work in the hill district. He died a short time later in a hospital. A policeman whose brother fought in the same outfit with Wavinski learned of his death, went to the morgue and prevented his burial in a pauper's grave. Then the check was found.

—Following an argument Sunday night over the breaking of three strings on a guitar, Andy Sweatlock, age 35, was killed, and Joe Caruso, age 56, employed as a watchman at the Pennsylvania Railroad crossing of the Pennsylvania Railroad crossing of Mt. Union, is being held in the Huntingdon county jail as his slayer. The fatal shooting took place about 9:50 p. m. when the two men met on Water street, Mt. Union. According to witnesses they began a heated argument, which was climaxed when Caruso drew a revolver and fired two shots into Sweatlock's body. He fell to the side walk mortally wounded and died within a few moments. One ball entered the right chest and the other the right loin.

—Another specimen of the world's meanest man lives in Phoenixville. More than 1500 boys and girls started to look for him Saturday after the utter collapse of Easter festivities, which included an egg hunt in a field. Twelve hundred eggs had been hidden in the field Friday night for the children's frolic, but when they arrived, on Saturday, the best the 1500 youngsters could find was two eggs. Someone had slipped in during the night and robbed the hiding places. Burgess Hackett answered the children's disappointment with a promise that the field would be prepared again this week and that policemen with sawed-off shotguns would guard the hidden treasures until the children arrived.

—According to a report made by Paul H. Russell, of Milroy, assistant forester of the Penn State forest, there have been 550 cords of fuel wood taken from his district by unemployed men the past winter, most of this amount being cut and distributed under the direction of the Mifflin county Welfare Society. The Society had an average of 48 men working during January and 350 cords of wood were removed by them and by individuals under the special free fuel permits issued by the State. All this cutting was done under the supervision of Forestry Department men and more than 50 acres of forest land, much of it along State highways, was improved by the removal of the dead and less desirable timber.

—A six week's course in matrimony, including a lesson in how to become engaged in six weeks, scheduled to begin Sunday night in Mt. Pleasant Congregational church, near Washington, Pa., has been postponed until next Sunday. "Too much publicity," according to the pastor, Rev. Russell J. Clinchy, caused the postponement. Clinchy referred in the weekly church bulletin to "misleading head-lines in the press," and announced a poetry reading for Sunday night instead. It was said the young people's forum of the church, intrigued by the success stories of four young married members, decided recently to devote six of their meetings to an informal discussion of the technique of happy marriage. Barring further postponement, the course will begin Sunday night, April 12.