

INK SLINGS

Judge Harry S. McDevitt is evidently out to give "the mitten" to Mitten Management in Philadelphia.

King Alfonso of Spain is headed for the grave yard of used Monarchs. Sunday's election over there certainly put his number up.

Altitude and speed records in aeroplanes are being broken so consistently that there would seem to be little glory in establishing one.

The greatest circus of them all is to exhibit in Altoona in June. We have forgotten the day, but whatever it may be, we will not be at home then.

Jack Dempsey says he still loves Estelle Taylor and is only getting a divorce because she wants him to. In other words, "the Manassa Mauler" has slipped into the role of Henry Peck.

A comparison of the newspaper publicity given the deaths of Knute Rockne, a foot-ball coach, and Nicholas Longworth, who creditably filled the second highest office in the government of our country, causes us to wonder as to what fame really is.

The professional base-ball season has opened and a few weeks will tell how great the depression has been. There are fans, however, who would "hold out" on their baby's milk money to insure themselves a seat in the bleachers at a base-ball game.

Not half as many fishing licenses as usual have been issued up to this time in Centre county. A license costs a dollar sixty. These times that sum is hard to get. However that may be, it probably isn't any harder than getting a dollar-sixty's worth of fish will be.

It is generally admitted that Mr. Hoover will be re-nominated for President by his party. It is also admitted that he will be mildly wet in the east and violently dry in the central west and south. He is to do the "Andy" stunt: When asked if he is wet he is to say: "Yes and no; mostly no."

Scientists who once thought the results of their research was proof that there is no God finally have dug down to the electrons. Beyond the electrons they know they can't go, yet they know that there must be a Will that guides them. And science has turned from scoffing to belief that there is a God.

We fear the candidates for county office got off to too early a start. Everybody seems to have forgotten all about the ambitions of the sundry gentlemen who want to immortalize themselves on the altar of public service. Along about July they'll all start burning up the gas again and much of it will not be of the no-knocks variety, either.

On Sunday we saw a young woman on the streets whose skirts reached to her shoe tops, and she looked like the devil. We mention it merely because it seems only a few years ago that we saw the first girl in our neighborhood who was showing her knees to all who had the dust out of their eyes. Then we thought she looked like the devil.

Those Republican women who are in Washington staging a demonstration for repeal of the Eighteenth amendment might get a large following if past experiences didn't justify the belief that when the next congressional election in their Districts comes around most of them will be voting for their party's nominee, whether he be wet or dry. It is our belief that nearly all such movements get under way merely because there are so many people in the world who love to parade.

Judge McDevitt's order creating a trusteeship for the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co., was an unusual proceeding, especially since the corporation is admittedly solvent. There is general belief, however, that it has been exploited to the prejudice of the taxpayers of Philadelphia and good may come out of the litigation that will follow. It is unfortunate that Judge McDevitt's ruling should have been made just at a time when political gossip is to the effect that Governor Pinchot, who is also exploiting public utilities, has in mind the elevation of Judge McDevitt to the Superior court.

The lady who wrote and intimated that we take salt mackerel to our fishing camp merely for the purpose of stimulating a thirst is all wrong. Thirst in a fishing camp needs no stimulation. An appetite sometimes does, and when it comes to tempting an appetite we want to tell our correspondent that there is no breakfast that we have ever sat down to that looks quite as good and is as good as a properly broiled salt mackerel, hashed brown potatoes and a pot of black coffee.

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Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 76. BELLEFONTE, PA., APRIL 17, 1931. NO. 16.

The Chicago Municipal Election.

Under ordinary conditions the election of a Mayor in a city, even though it be a city of large population, is a matter of limited or local interest. Even if it involves a reversal of the political complexion of the community it carries little significance outside of the immediate environment.

But the recent election of Anton J. Cermak to the office of Mayor of Chicago is different. It is a matter of nation-wide importance, both politically and morally. For several years the tide of crime has been running high in all the large cities of the country and extending its evil tentacles into the less populous communities.

The city of Chicago, with a population of nearly three and a-half millions, has come to be the center of these organizations. Notwithstanding its highly developed industrial life, its splendid commercial equipment, its extraordinary transportation facilities and its advanced progressive spirit, that city has become the symbol of vice, the center of crime, and it's now defeated Mayor, William Hale Thompson, has been charged with being the patron and protector of gangs, gunmen and racketeers and strangely enough seems to have taken pride in this sinister distinction.

During Thompson's administration of the government of Chicago, and under his protection, Scar-faced Al Capone has created and developed in that city the most complete organization of criminals in the history of the world. He has been able to defy the courts and nullify the laws of city, State and nation. After accumulating millions of dollars by processes of murder, racketeering and unlawful trading, Mr. Capone had taken up his residence and assumed the life of a prince in Florida.

The overwhelming defeat of William Hale Thompson is therefore a moral as well as a partisan victory. With full knowledge of his iniquities and after an intense and prolonged campaign, the Republican party nominated him as its standard bearer and adopted him as its representative. Many men and women who have been affiliated with the party voted against him and thus contributed to his defeat. But the result reveals the demoralization of the party, the lack of coherence in the second largest city of the country.

Former Governor Fisher recently announced his appointment of persons who will constitute the personnel of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies for 1931 and 1932. There is one member from Centre county, W. F. Dunaway, of State College, who is chairman of the committee on Historical Manuscripts.

If the administration at Harrisburg will consent to eliminate the centralization feature of the election code there would be little opposition to its passage.

It is desirable to put teeth in the election laws of the State but hardly necessary to locate them in Harrisburg.

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Perfidious Lucas Advises the Senate.

The real purpose of the proposed investigation of the government of New York city was revealed in a radio speech made by Robert H. Lucas, executive director of the Republican National committee, the other evening. In his perfidious campaign to defeat Senator Norris' re-election, last fall, Mr. Lucas openly violated the Corrupt Practices Act of Congress and was declared by a committee of the United States Senate a criminal.

The speech in question was addressed to the people of the South and given as the official voice of the National committee. It is not necessary for Mr. Lucas to poll the committee to get an expression of its opinions. He is the fountain of wisdom and he tells all others what to say and think. As the spokesman of the administration he admonishes the South to stay away from Tammany and practically promises that if they follow his advice they will be liberally rewarded in the future.

Tammany may be nearly as bad as the Republican organization in Chicago and approach in iniquity the rotten Republican machine in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, but there is no logical reason why the voters of the South should abhor one evil and fondly cherish another that is greater. As a matter of fact the southern voters haven't much reason for concern about the municipal government of New York or Pittsburgh or Chicago. The people of Chicago have already applied the proper remedy for municipal corruption and New York may do the same.

Senator Borah wants to make oil a public utility under government regulation. Public utilities are already making a good deal of trouble.

Death of Speaker Longworth.

The death of Speaker Nicholas Longworth has removed from the official life the most potential figure in the reactionary forces of the country. If it had occurred a year earlier the legislation of the last session of Congress would have been vastly different. By the partisan interpretation and ruthless enforcement of the powers of his office he not only made possible the passage of the atrocious Grundy tariff law but prevented the enactment of legislation which would have afforded speedier relief from economic distress and hastened the restoration of industrial prosperity.

It is universally agreed that Mr. Longworth was an exceedingly likable individual and of unimpeachable personal integrity. His great success as a political and parliamentary manager is largely ascribed to his popularity among his associates in Congress. But it was also due in considerable measure to his ability and a type of courage that amounted to boldness. He was a partisan who believed that "the end justified the means" and applied that philosophy regardless of consequences.

At the close of the last session the caucus of his party unanimously nominated him for Speaker of the next Congress and his popularity might, probably would, have secured his election. But his death may alter conditions and enable the Democrats to acquire control of the organization. His district is close and in the present confusion in politics is more than likely to elect a Democrat to fill the vacancy. If that should happen Everett Kent, contestant for the seat for the 30th district of Pennsylvania, might get justice and an award of the certificate.

American authors are accused of "dumping" literature on Denmark. There is no other way of getting rid of some of our output.

Some of the States in Central Europe seem to be hunting trouble.

Confusion in the Senatorial Situation.

Present indications point to an interesting contest for the Republican nomination for United States Senator at the September primary this year. In the ordinary course of events Puddler Jim Davis would be the unopposed candidate of the party this time. He was put to considerable expense in his campaign last year for the unexpired term of William S. Vare. In that campaign he demonstrated personal popularity in a high degree, and by tradition as well as party policy is entitled to the nomination for the full term. But Governor Pinchot is not inclined to concede that favor to him, and the Governor feels able to have such matters run his way. He wants to pick the candidates.

With Mr. Davis' popularity in labor and fraternity circles it was no small job to get a candidate to oppose him for the nomination but the Governor was equal to that emergency. Major General Smedley Darlington Butler has had so much trouble with his tongue that he is eager to find a place in which he can wag it to his heart's content and have perfect immunity from penalty. The Senate is just such a place. Under liberal rules of that body the marine hero might tell Secretary of the Navy Adams where to get off and even thumb his nose at Mussolini or any other foreign prince or dictator. In that frame of mind he was an easy victim of Pinchot's lure. He readily agreed to run.

But this situation is somewhat disturbed by a surprising rumor that Mr. Grundy has aspirations to again don the Senatorial toga. In his whole life he never had as much enjoyment as during the brief period that he treaded the aisles of the Senate chamber and setting the veterans Moses, Watson, Bingham, Hale, Reed, Smoot and even Fess aside assumed command of the machine. His heart yearns, the rumor has it, for a return of the "halcyon and vociferous" experience and Pinchot doesn't dare stand in his way. Without the reinforcement of Grundy Pinchot's legislative plans would "dissolve like the baseless fabric of a vision," and if Pinchot supports Butler that would be the result.

Former Governor Fisher is inclined to resent aspersions recently cast upon him by Governor Pinchot, and that may make a difference.

Public Service Investigation Finished.

The Senate committee which has been investigating Governor Pinchot's charges against the Public Service Commission has submitted its report, though it was not unanimously agreed upon. It recommends the dismissal of all members of the present board and the appointment by the Superior court of their successors. Necessary legislation to accomplish these purposes will be introduced and supported by a majority of the committee. If such legislation is defeated the friends of the Governor will be responsible. He expected much political advantage from the naming and control of these important officials.

The campaign promise of an elective body to control the utilities of the State was plainly a subterfuge to deceive the voters. This fact was revealed when, at the instance of one of his publicly paid personal agents, the elective provision of his fair rate bill was stricken out and a provision vesting the power of appointment in the Governor inserted. The proposition to lodge this power in the Superior court is, therefore, a disappointment to the Governor. But it will remove the commission from the atmosphere of politics, promote the purposes for which it was created and ought to be entirely satisfactory to the people.

The Senate committee has performed valuable service in the investigation which is completed with the submission of its report. It uncovered all the iniquities of a partisan board created by the Republican machine and functioning in the interest of that machine. Largely upon the evidence brought out by the committee Judge McDevitt, of Philadelphia, was able to break up a criminal conspiracy which had been plundering that city for years, and if this service is supplemented by the needed improvement in the Public Service Commission it will have earned the gratitude of the people of Pennsylvania.

Prince and Princess Takamatsu are having the time of their lives in New York and Washington, these days.

It has been discovered that Switzerland had a navy in 1792 but it probably got lost climbing mountains.

The Speakership Tangle.

Organization of the House by the Republicans, assuming that the filling of vacancies caused by deaths will not upset their nominal control, will provide several serious problems for the party caucus preceding the next session of Congress. The most difficult of these will be the selection of the Speaker. The death of Mr. Longworth last week removed the one man who held the good will of all factions.

The leading Eastern aspirants for the speakership are Representative Tilson, of Connecticut, now the Republican floor leader, and Representative Snell, chairman of the Rules Committee. These are the surviving members of the Longworth-Tilson-Snell triumvirate which has ruled the House with an iron hand for several sessions. For that reason they are in disfavor with the Western insurgents, who will be in as much of a dictatorial position in the next Congress as the Senate Insurgents have been in the past. Representative Beck, of Pennsylvania, has also been mentioned for the speakership, but his prospects are uncertain.

Representative Wood, of Indiana, secretary of the caucus and chairman of the Republican National Congressional Committee, says it is not an established custom for his party to nominate for the speakership the preceding floor leader. This seems to imply that there will be much active opposition to Mr. Tilson, who is probably the strongest Eastern candidate. Mr. Wood himself has been mentioned as a possible compromise candidate. Western Representatives mentioned for the nomination are Mr. Hawley, of Oregon, chairman of the caucus and of the Ways and Means Committee; Mr. Hoch, of Kansas; and Mr. Ramsayer, of Iowa.

The November election gave the Republicans 218 members and the Democrats 216. Since then two Republicans and three Democrats have died. The capture of one vacant seat by a Democrat would tie the major parties, give the balance of power to Representative Kvale, of Minnesota, the lone Farmer-Laborite, and possibly mean the election of Representative Garner, of Texas, the Democratic floor leader, as Speaker. The Republicans do not seem to be greatly as yet over this prospect. They have, however, ample cause for worry in the pending rivalry for the speakership and the demands of Insurgents for modification of the House rules.

Is Pinchot in Roosevelt's "Lunatic Fringe"?

Gov. Pinchot of Pennsylvania has at last made public the details of his plan for the regulation of public utilities, about which he talked much during his campaign. The scheme calls for creation of a "fair-rate board" of seven members, to be elected from seven districts into which the State is divided. The board will have jurisdiction over utility rates and valuations and must recapture for the State treasury half of all net utility earnings in excess of 7 per cent and all in excess of 8 per cent.

In theory this is supposed to remove from the utilities all desire to charge unfair rates; but in practice it would remove also their incentive for operating or capital economies. Under it they would have no motive to improve the service or make it efficient, so long as it was good enough to earn 7 per cent. Further, Mr. Pinchot would be surprised at the unanimity with which such corporations would find good internal uses for all returns in excess of 7 per cent.

A board elected by districts obviously would not provide the type of officials needed for a job of this kind. Regulations of utilities is a job for experts. A board so elected would either be easily bamboozled by the experts of the utilities or would be politically controlled, or both with the result that the compromise would be fully protected (they can always appeal to the courts when commissions set rates that are confiscatory) while the consumers would have no protection whatever.

The Pinchot plan is about the worst form of organization for the regulation of public utilities that has ever been proposed. It reads as though it had been prepared not by a close friend of Theodore Roosevelt, but by some member of the "lunatic fringe" of which Roosevelt used to speak. Whatever form of regulation Pennsylvania has now cannot possibly defeat its own object to the extent that this proposed scheme would.

The State Highway is now advertising for bids for rebuilding almost six miles of roadway from Port Matilda to the "Devil's Elbow" on the Allegheny mountain, which will be the first link in a state highway between Port Matilda and Philipsburg. Engineers are now at work making a survey of the road from the "Devil's Elbow" to Philipsburg and it is likely that bids will be asked for the construction of that portion of the road just as soon as the survey has been completed.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

A survey of the 4,700 bakeries listed in Pennsylvania will be made in the near future, the bureau of food and chemistry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture announced.

William Bickel, 44, foreman of the rigging gang at the Standard steel works, at Burnham, was killed at the plant when he fell 75 feet through a roof of a foundry. He had been employed at the works for 29 years. He leaves a widow and one daughter.

Game commission officials have announced that groundhogs are not protected by State laws and may be killed at any time by land owners and licensed hunters. Each spring, the commission said they receive a number of inquiries relative to the law on these animals.

Earl Knepp, 34, of Logan, has been sentenced to serve four months in the Lycoming county jail and pay a fine of \$100 for alleged violation of the liquor laws. Knepp was arrested on March 10 by the Montgomery police, who say they found a ten-gallon jug of liquor in his car.

An award of \$5,930.64 to Mrs. Alfred Pedace, widow of the man shot and killed by Louis DeMario at Brockway more than a year ago, has been approved by the new Workmen's Compensation Board. Chairman Arthur C. Dale handed down the opinion validating the compensation award.

Benjamin G. Eynon, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, has announced that checks amounting to \$108,959.85 sent to the State Revenue Department in payment for motor licenses and other fees incidental to the operations of the Department have been returned by banks on which they were drawn, chiefly because there was not sufficient funds.

Lawrence Madden, 39, was seriously injured at the Bad mine of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company at Ashland, when he plunged headlong 155 feet down a timber chute. He was taken to the Ashland State hospital where it was found he was suffering from a fractured skull, internal injuries and a possible fracture of the back.

A Mud-covered dog, last Friday night, attacked three North Braddock policemen when they attempted to remove the body of an unidentified man killed by a Pennsylvania passenger train. The dog was sitting beside the mangled body when the officers arrived. Donning gloves, the police finally caught the dog and took the man's body to the morgue.

Licenses of 563 motor vehicle operators were revoked last month, Benjamin G. Eynon, Registrar of Motor Vehicles, announced on Monday. Of this number 148 were revoked for driving while intoxicated and permitting intoxicated persons to drive and 21 for failure to stop and give assistance after accidents. A total of 707 revocations were reported for the first three months of the year.

Believing that he had killed his wife after firing two revolver shots at her in her home at Scranton, Gorgia Mancia, 57, a farmer, ended his life by shooting himself in the temple a few minutes later. His wife saved herself by making it appear that the shots aimed at her had reached their mark. She remained motionless on the floor and within a short time heard the shots which took Mancia's life.

A mine fire which broke out ten years ago and was long since thought extinguished, broke out with new fury in the No. 10 mine of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company, near Tamaqua. Miners were driving a tunnel when they suddenly struck ashes. They summoned the foreman and continued driving cautiously. Suddenly they broke through a shell of rock and there found a raging fire.

Litigation in the courts of Northampton county, delayed for 43 years, ended on Monday when Judge William M. McKean signed an order directing the sale of the real estate of the late Philip Labar, of Bangor. It consists of the old Washington Hotel property in that town, and it is valued at about \$30,000. That morning when names of all beneficiaries were called in court none answered to object to the sale.

The State Supreme court has dismissed the petition of Everett Kent for a mandamus to compel Judge William G. Thomas, of Carbon county, to file with the prothonotary of his court the returns of the election for Congress in the thirtieth district, as computed in the recent recount. Kent was the Democratic candidate for Congress in the district, including Carbon, Monroe and Northampton counties, in the election of last November against William R. Coyle, Republican.

In two of the big producing wells in the Tioga county field, coal has been discovered by the drillers. In the Farr well at 200 feet a two-foot vein and in the Farr well, No. 1 a six-foot vein. Tested out it burns well and is of semibituminous quality. People of Tioga county who made early leases of land for oil or gas, at a small figure, have illustrated how to do it. The county farm of 400 acres just outside the borough limits of Farrington has been leased on competitive bid to Harry A. Erwin, of Corning, N. Y., for a bonus of \$320, 300,000 feet of gas free and the excess at prevailing wholesale within thirty days. A second well, if No. 1 is not a producer, must be started or a penalty of \$300 quarterly is to be exacted. In case gas is found an additional bonus of \$1,100 is payable within thirty days after the product is marketed.

Virtual abandonment of Mount Gettys as the training camp for the Pennsylvania National Guard was approved on Saturday by Governor Pinchot when he signed a report of the Military Reservation Commission to acquire a new site in the vicinity of Indiantown and Manada Gaps in Dauphin county. The Mount Gettys site comprises approximately 2,900 acres and the new camp between 9000 and 10,000 acres. Approximately 5000 acres will be devoted to artillery range. "The State will continue to hold title to the property at Mount Gettys," the Governor said. "For some time to come much of the transport equipment will be stored in the sheds at that point. Summer maneuvers will be held this year at Mount Gettys, as usual, but every effort will be made to have the new camp in readiness for use in the summer of 1932." The Governor said the new tract is located about twenty miles north of Mount Gettys, twelve miles northwest of Lebanon and twenty-three miles southeast of Harrisburg.