

INK SLINGS

—Crickets will be chirping soon, then it will be time to look with concern at the empty coal bin.

—Old Mortality has thrown away the scythe and taken an automobile as the symbol of his trade.

—The troubles in Europe give no concern to Calvin Coolidge. His mind is centered on the Vermont trout streams, at present, and too narrow to take in much territory.

—It's a trifle hard to conjure up sympathy for Albert B. Fall, recent cabinet officer, and besides justice is even-handed and punishment must be administered to the great as well as the meek.

—Just thirteen days of the fishing season remain and it would be just our luck for a couple more storms to come along and muddy up the streams again. Thus far July has been almost a complete washout.

—President Hoover's moratorium helped Germany exactly like "the old woman kept tavern on west." Germany didn't need delay in paying her debts. What she needed was something to live on while getting squared off to start making something to pay them with. You can't get blood out of a turnip and only honor gives a moratorium a rosy hue in the eyes of a near bankrupt.

—A letter from Congressman Chase suggests the idea that postal officials are considering the McClure and Miller properties on west Bishop street as a probable site for the new post-office. Neither one of the owners have any proposal to sell to the government and don't want to. Neither is it likely that the post-office will be located there. The Krader property, corner of Howard and Allegheny streets is still the government's real objective.

—The announcement that Mrs. Pinchot has had a second secretary added to her staff at the State's expense is pleasant news to a lot of us who find it so hard to pay our taxes that we can't have even one secretary for ourselves. Why should the State pay for any personal servant of the Governor's wife? If this isn't stopped we'll have to elect bachelor Governors hereafter, for if Cornelia has two the Lord only knows how many the next first lady of the Commonwealth will want.

—The contract has been let for the new bridge over Spring creek at Lamb street. From what we hear we are inclined to believe that there has been needless waste of the taxpayer's money. As specified it is to be thirty feet, possibly more, longer than the walled width of the stream just above it. Inasmuch as the cost of a bridge is in direct proportion to the square of its span it will be seen that thirty-feet of needless structure means real money. In addition to that an expert bridge engineer has told us that twenty-eight inch beams are unnecessary, that eighteen inch ones would have been sufficient and saved much in cost as well as in headroom. We are not competent to discuss such technical questions, but we do know that since there was so much ado about getting the approval of the State Highway Department as to the structure much might have been saved had the Department been asked to draw the plans for the bridge and supervise its construction. It would have done that without charge and there would have been no commissions to pay to a foreign engineer to pile on top of the cost of building a bridge that will be longer than necessary.

—The creditors of the defunct Centre County Banking Company are being asked to take Whitecroft Quarries stock in lieu of cash. The trustee holds enough stock of that corporation to make a fifteen per cent distribution, or thereabouts. If it should be sold at public sale the price would probably be pounded down to less than half its value because this is no time to sell good stock and even if there were a better market for securities this community is too small to absorb so large an offering, without disastrous effect on the price. Having been one of the four men who started Whitecroft, its first treasurer and a member of its board for many years we know something of the value of the property from which this stock issues. In the light of that belief we feel that those creditors of the bank who can do so would profit considerably by taking stock in lieu of cash. The company is being capably managed, it has maintained its six per cent dividend right through the depression and the book value of the stock is actually nearly double its par. The best feature of the plan is that an individual holder of a few shares at \$70 might some day discover them to be worth double that sum. In such an event he would in reality have a thirty per cent dividend instead of the fifteen per cent one they are to be issued for. Even if one could not find a market for his stock should a need be pressing it is good collateral on which to borrow at the banks. We have much faith in the future of Whitecroft Quarries, we have already assured many creditors of the bank as to that and for the long pull we recommend the offering to its other creditors.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 76.

BELLEFONTE, PA., JULY 17, 1931.

NO. 28.

Suspicion about the Moratorium

It would be unwise to build much hope on the moratorium as a cure for the present economic depression. It may work a temporary relief, as it actually did cause an increase in security values alike in this country and abroad. On the day the President's announcement was issued stock price shot upward in Wall street. But it was not an enduring improvement. Within a day or two a recession ensued which was attributed to the failure of France to express spontaneous approval. Since the success of the plan has been made expectations are disappointing. Signs of industrial stabilization are absent.

As a matter of fact there is a lack of confidence in the public mind as to the sincerity of the President. It is widely believed that he has no sympathy for human suffering. Herbert Hoover is absolutely destitute of "bowels of compassion." While millions of his countrymen were suffering the pangs of hunger, a year ago, he opposed every available form of relief except such tardy measures as occurred to his own mind. For this reason thoughtful persons look elsewhere for causes which influenced him to propose the moratorium. And there are plenty of leads to guide them in the search.

It is conservatively estimated that there is at present \$17,000,000,000 of American capital invested in Europe. It is believed that the collapse of Germany would have involved the loss of practically all this money and that the collapse of Germany would be inevitable on the date of the July reparation payments unless something was done to postpone the payments. These facts having been impressed upon the mind of President Hoover he devised the plan and promulgated it, not for the relief of suffering humanity, not for the stabilization of industry, not for the alleviation of economic distress, but to save Wall street.

It is true that the postponement of payments for the brief period of a year would not serve to rescue the vast amount of American investments in Europe. But it was expected, and among optimists believed, that even so brief a respite from pressing obligations would inspire confidence and revive business activity for a time and give the American investors an opportunity to unload their foreign holdings on the unsuspecting "Lambs" at home and abroad. It was a promising enterprise and an enticing bid for Wall street support next year.

—The Watchman now has a baby subscriber and he is paid so far in advance that we are worried lest the old sheet peters out before young Mr. Gray grows old enough to learn to read it.

Stream Purity Legislation Delayed.

Governor Pinchot promises legislation to purify the streams of the State next year. In a message read before the Conservation Council of Pennsylvania last week, he said, "the pollution bill should have passed at the last session. This administration gave it every backing. I am against stream pollution and for ending it everywhere promptly, as soon as it can be done." In his campaign, last fall, he promised action during the session of 1931. It was one of the principal planks in his platform. Unless a special session is called there will be no legislation on any subject in 1932.

During the recent session of the General Assembly a bill was introduced at the instance of the Conservation Council. Governor Pinchot induced the friends of the measure to abandon it and accept an administration bill to be introduced subsequently. The result was that no legislation was enacted on the subject. As happened in the coal and iron police matter, the Governor's interference prevented action. Under pretense of serving the public he was helping the interests which drew profits from stream pollution. A promise now for legislation next year is an appeal to popular credulity rather than public intelligence.

In addressing his colleagues of the Conservation Council Mr. Lader, of Philadelphia, stated that "out of 100,000 miles of water in our streams only 14,000 miles can be found in a state of purity. The other 86,000 miles are badly polluted and their unmentionable, filthy and poisonous waters swallow up the 14,000 miles which are mostly small streams located in remote places with no direct channel to the sea." Governor Pinchot was fully aware of these facts. But he sacrificed remedial legislation in order that he might acquire the right to "hire and fire," certain big salaried public officials.

The Need of Tariff Legislation.

The suggestion of Senator Robinson that President Hoover supplement his amiable gesture for the relief of Germany by a movement for the relief of the United States through a decrease of the tariff schedules of the Grundy law is likely to precipitate a tariff war in the approaching session of Congress. The attempt to shift responsibility for unemployment in this country to the economic distress in Europe having failed, the Arkansas Senator thinks it would be wise to strike at the real cause of the trouble here Tariff rates which have closed foreign markets to the products of our mills and factories are the real causes of unemployment. Goods must be sold or factories can't operate.

Senator, Watson, of Indiana, Republican floor leader of the Senate, promptly challenged the Democratic Senator to introduce such Legislation. It will be remembered that when the final vote was about to be taken on the Grundy bill Senator Watson declared "that within thirty days after the passage of the measure prosperity would be restored and unemployment will be ended in this country." Nearly a year has elapsed since and instead of the promised improvement conditions have been getting worse. Our export trade has been cut in half and such factories as were still in operation have been compelled to close because they can find no market for their products at home or abroad.

In approving the Grundy bill President Hoover promised that the Tariff Commission would correct the inequalities and eliminate the inequities which he acknowledged to be present. The report of the work of the Commission has just been published and it appears that out of 229 subjects considered decreases have been recommended in eleven cases, increases in ten and the rest undisturbed. This record shows the futility of the flexible feature of the bill and the inequalities which the President admits proves the justice of Senator Robinson's demand for new legislation on the subject. It may not be necessary to pass a new bill but the faults of the Grundy bill should be corrected.

—Mental delusions produce curious spectacles. For instance, Bill Vane still thinks he is a party leader.

Philadelphia Crooks at War.

"When rogues fall out honest men come by their own" is an ancient adage. The crooks who compose the Philadelphia Republican machine are involved in what seems to be an irreconcilable war and it remains to be seen whether the time honored result will follow. These same political racketeers have had quarrels before but the adhesive force of selfish interest in common has brought them together in the end and public expectation of destruction has been defeated. The present cause of quarrel appears to be deeper, however, and the enmity more bitter, which inspires a hope that the honest voters of Philadelphia will come into control of the government of the city.

Four years ago a similar, though less acute, difference among the leaders was compromised by the selection of Harry Mackey for Mayor and the people accepted the solution as a promise of improvement. But it turned out to be an aggravation rather than an alleviation of the evils. Since the infamous Ashbridge administration there has been no such orgy of corruption as has prevailed under the Mackey regime. That fact has made it more difficult to fool the voters this year. No man who sincerely desires improvement in the methods and morals of government will accept favors at the hands of the machine, and the managers are unable to agree on a candidate who will serve their purpose.

It will be a great boon to the people of Philadelphia and a vast benefit to the voters of the State if the quarrel among these crooks is continued through the primary campaign and up until the election of November. The city, rich in tradition, abundant in resources and favored in all the elements which make for prosperity and contentment, has been brought to the verge of bankruptcy to serve the cupidity of these lecherous politicians. If the fight among them continues long enough it will force the better element of the population to oppose them and elect in their places men of character, intelligence and integrity, thus vindicating the adage "when rogues fall out honest men come by their own."

—Mussolini talks peace with great volubility but rattles the saber at the same time.

Farm Board and the Farmers.

The war between the Farm Board and the farmers of Kansas and other wheat growing States of the middle west is increasing in interest and energy. A few days ago chairman Stone, of the Farm Board, announced that the Board will sell 5,000,000 bushels of wheat a month until its accumulation of 200,000,000 is disposed of. The market reaction to that announcement was a decline in price of six cents a bushel to the low of thirty-five cents a bushel. The farmers, through their organizations, entered protest against any Board sales until the crop of this year is disposed of and enlisted Vice President Curtis and Senator Capper, of Kansas, on their side. But this aggravated rather than composed the quarrel.

Chairman Stone promptly resented the interference of the Vice President and the Kansas Senator and ascribed the decrease in price to a conspiracy of the wheat speculators "to discredit the Farm Board in its efforts to aid agriculture," and significantly added, "I am not going to let these people dictate to us what is for the best interest of the farmers." Senator Capper's reply was, "the situation in Kansas is approaching a crisis. The farmers are in revolt and their anger may be reflected in the coming elections. Wheat is selling at thirty-five cents a bushel in Kansas, the lowest price in years, which means that the farmer receives for his product less than the cost of production."

In the controversy, if it may be so called, chairman Stone declares that he has the support of the President. His policy to sell 5,000,000 bushels a month was announced after a conference with Mr. Hoover and he believes the President will stand to the agreement. But Capper and Curtis appear to entertain a different opinion on that subject. At least they have announced a purpose to appeal to the President in person. They realize his mental infirmities as revealed in the past relation to the operations of the Farm Board. He has already changed his mind and reversed his policies with respect to its activities half a dozen times, and the fear of losing votes will have a strong effect in this case.

—Among three names now being frequently mentioned in connection with the Republican nomination for Auditor General is that of Senator Harry B. Scott. Senator Frank Baldwin, of Potter county, and Hon. Benson E. Taylor, of Jefferson, are the other two. It has been on the card in organization circles to give our Senator a State office, but slate making is not now the easy job it was before Mr. Pinchot messed things up, so that no one can tell just whose "number is up" for the Auditor Generalship. If the regulars intend naming a regular for the office it goes beyond question that Senator Scott embodies the quintessence of regularity.

Germany Will Not Collapse.

At this moment Germany is in a critical condition. The moratorium, well-intended, failed of its purpose, temporarily. Adverse conditions were moving too rapidly to be stopped by a single gesture. But there will be no collapse. The threatened crash will be averted. The German government is under wise management. Von Hindenberg and Chancellor Brüning are capable and patriotic public officials and enjoy the confidence not only of Germany but of the world.

The collapse of Germany would be a world-wide calamity. It would involve adversely every government within the radius of civilization and possibly convert a number of them to the policies of Communism or Bolshevism. In either event it would involve the loss to each nation concerned of all or a large part of their foreign investments. That would make universal bankruptcy practically inevitable. No country could survive such a disaster.

For these reasons it may safely be predicted that the impending collapse of Germany will be averted. Word comes from Washington that the American government will not further intervene. But the American bankers and investors will. There are \$17,000,000,000 involved and they will not allow that amount of money to disappear without an effort to save it. Investors of other countries will adopt the same view and ultimately they will chip in the necessary funds.

—While the organization Republicans are throwing harpoons into each other Gifford Pinchot is quietly enjoying himself at the seashore.

Flying, Freed of Guesswork

From the Philadelphia Record.
When the Winnie Mae landed at Roosevelt field, N. Y., last week, after the greatest flight in the history of aviation, the cockpit door opened and Wiley Post, the pilot, stepped out, weary but happy and grinning. Inside the plane sat Harold Gatty, the ship's navigator. He was all in. They had to lift him out.

Post handled the ship through fog and clear; over seas and mountains. And Gatty gave him the course.

Two men of skill and courage, nerve and endurance. They deserve all the honors they will get. But the conspicuous thing about their splendid achievement is the accurate navigation over 15,500 miles of a strange course.

Lindbergh shot his ship at an invisible speck of ground 3000 miles away—and hit the mark. "Lucky Lindy," said some, overlooking the fact that the young flier had specialized in his preparation, on the problem of navigation.

Chamberlain, handling his ship as well as any pilot could, missed his mark, got lost. Imperfect navigation sent many eager fliers to death at sea.

The flight of the Winnie Mae was a triumph of scientific accuracy. William Brock, who in 1928 flew to Tokio, said: "What a flier sees in it to admire most is the speed and the precision, with credit going equally to both men. It is unbelievable even to some of us old-timers—the manner in which they clicked off place after place on their route."

From New York to Harbor Grace; from Harbor Grace to Chester, England; to Berlin; to Moscow; across Siberia and Manchuria; to Alaska; over Canada and the Great Lakes, and on to New York, the plane ran close to schedule; the paper plans were translated into actual achievement with no fumbling, groping, trusting to luck on a blind thrust.

Almost as surely as a train on the rails, and perhaps quite as surely as a liner at sea, the Winnie Mae reeled off its thousands of miles and scored its scheduled contacts. Fliers who gathered to greet the boys at the end of their cruise agreed that their demonstration of accurate control could not have been made with the equipment available so recently as two or three years ago.

Ground speed and drift are the toughest problems of the navigator; the actual rate of progress from one land point to another, regardless of force and direction of wind, and the incalculable side-slipping of the craft.

Gatty used a drift indicator of his own invention; we suspect that little instrument was the prime secret of the success of the voyage.

Compasses, artificial horizon and drift indicator—these and other delicately adjusted instruments are the sources of the navigator's ability to give the pilot his course with unflinching accuracy.

"A flier's flight," they are calling this. It thrills the technician. The spectacular element appeals to the public; but the true triumph of Post and Gatty, their chief contribution to progress, is in the clean precision with which they followed their difficult course.

They gave a hundred per cent. demonstration of reliability in aviation.

A Serious Situation.

From the Altoona Mirror.

A serious, not to say critical, situation is developing in Germany, with the run on the banks there and the closing of the Nanat bank.

There seems to be a loss of confidence upon the part of the people in their financial institutions. Perhaps it is an hysteria of fear, such as certain communities in the United States have recently experienced. At all events, heavy withdrawals have continued and depositors have thus threatened the financial stability of their nation.

So far it is a European problem. When appeals were made to France for assistance that country is reported to have asked for certain political guarantees first. To give them, it was feared, would result in a cabinet crisis, with the Fascists and communistic groups profiting thereby. But it may have a more far-reaching effect than upon Europe alone.

The United States has let it be known that the Hoover moratorium plan, which grants relief to the extent of \$400,000,000, is as far as this nation can go at the present time. The federal reserve banking system, it is understood, is willing to lend a hand to relieve conditions.

Meanwhile directors of the bank of international settlements are meeting at Basel, Switzerland, and they may evolve a plan of assistance that will help Germany in the existing crisis.

What the outcome will be cannot be accurately forecast at the moment.

—The new Tariff Commission is proving its value. It has recommended an increase of fifty per cent on dried eggs. There is no dried egg industry in this country to protect, but it's a good subject to practice on.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Frances Leberman, 19 years old, was struck and burned by a bolt of lightning at Pottsville, on Monday night, in the most severe lightning and rainstorm of the summer. Miss Leberman was attempting to close a window when struck. Her right arm and shoulder were burned.

—Although he testified his wife stood by and cheered her "boy friend" on while the latter beat him, John N. Clarke, formerly of Coatesville, was refused a divorce on Monday, by Judge Windle, at West Chester. The master in chancery recommended the decree, but Judge Windle decided this did not constitute an "indignity" within the meaning of the law.

—The Lawrence Stone and Setting company, operating the new stone quarry near Curwensville, has been awarded a contract for furnishing the stone for three more boulevard bridges on Long Island. The officials of the company were in Curwensville last week and say the contract already entered into will keep the plant going at full capacity until January 1, 1932, at least.

—Three hundred beetle traps have been set in the yards and gardens of Lock Haven residents and a special Federal agent, Harry G. Barton, Duncannon, has been located there by the United States Department of Agriculture, to be in charge of the Japanese beetle work until the middle of September. The traps will be visited several times a week and the beetles killed by the use of cyanide.

—The bureau of liquid fuels tax of the State Department of Revenue has instituted a State-wide investigation to determine how many gasoline retailers should be classed as distributors under the new liquid fuels tax act. The investigation includes a checkup of all retailers who were operating under the old act and is being made by revenue patrolmen and investigators of the bureau.

—Miners digging coal in a Lansford striping operation of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co., in Schuylkill county, recently uncovered anthracite that burned their fingers when they tried to handle it. The men had uncovered the site of an old mine fire which had been believed extinguished ten years ago. The coal company plans to remove as much coal as possible from the path of the fire which has defied efforts to seal it and shut it off from valuable coal seams.

—While Albert Lutes, 20, of Belle Vernon, was swimming to rescue a child adrift in a boat, a sneak thief ransacked the clothing he cast off on the Monongahela river bank and stole \$15 and a \$80 wrist watch. George Brusic, 9 years old, had climbed into a speed boat. The wash from a passing towboat set the boat adrift and the boy started screaming. A fire truck played a search light on the boat and swimmers from both banks went out to bring the lad ashore.

—Two churches and the Young Woman's Christian Association building at Williamsport, were visited by safe crackers, burglars and thieves. At the Covenant Central Presbyterian church a safe was picked, but nothing was missing. The sum of approximately \$20 in change was taken from a desk drawer in the Y. W. C. A. The third robbery was attempted some time during the night when burglars forced their way into the St. Paul's Lutheran church. A drawer in one of the Sunday school desks was "jimmied," but nothing was stolen.

—Mrs. Bessie Fyock, aged 41, of Banks township, Indiana county, met with almost instant death in an odd manner at her home last Saturday morning. A charge from the barrel of an old shot gun which had been placed in the kitchen stove struck her in the abdomen. The gun had been discarded many years ago and all that remained of it was the barrel. It is believed a charge was left in the gun at the time it was discovered and that the heat in the stove dried the damp powder and caused it to explode.

—Many coal miners in the Panther Creek valley, Schuylkill county, are going back to the farms, a survey of that section shows. The Lehigh Coal and Navigation company, which operates mines in that section on a rotating basis in order to give some work to as many men as possible, has only two collieries in operation this month. As a result a great number of men are without employment and many of them are returning to farm work. Wages on the farms are less substantial than in the mines but the men are able to make a living for themselves and their families.

—The Swarthmore Chautauqua, for years a medium of culture and entertainment, and which gave summer entertainments in Bellefonte a number of years ago, made its final exit on Wednesday, the 8th, to the accompaniment of an auctioneer's hammer, according to reports. A year ago the Swarthmore Chautauqua Association went into bankruptcy. Edward F. Hitchcock was named assignee for the benefit of creditors, the association having liabilities of \$182,000 and assets of about \$2600. Hitchcock derided upon the auction to clear up a little of the indebtedness.

—A bomb, believed by police to have been placed by mistake under the front porch of the home of Thomas J. Conley, retired business man at McKees Rocks, exploded at 3 a. m. last Thursday, showered the neighborhood with debris, and did damage estimated at \$2,000. Christina Sichak, 18, asleep in a second floor room across the street, was injured in the back when a flying chunk of wood flew through the window and hit her. A sister, sleeping with her was uninjured. None in the Conley family was hurt although all windows in the three-story house were shattered and the porch demolished. No reason for the bombing can be offered.

—Golfers must play the game at their own risk, the State Superior court has ruled in deciding that a person cannot collect damages for injuries received at play. The opinion handed down supports that rendered in Pittsburgh by Judge Swearingen in the case of Leon H. Benjamin whom a jury awarded \$1,000 damages after he was knocked unconscious for six hours and lost several teeth when struck by a ball driven by Attorney Maurice A. Nernberg, in Schenley Park in July, 1929. When Judge Swearingen reversed the jury, Benjamin took an appeal to the Superior court. "Many bad shots carry the ball to the right or left of the intended line of play," the opinion said, adding "this risk all golfers must accept."