

INK SLINGS

John McCormack, having a radio contract, there is promise of good music in the air for some time to come.

Even the head of the Philadelphia police department must respect the naval uniform or lose the respect of Secretary Adams.

While Governor Pinchot's friends are making political hay in Philadelphia reports indicate that he is losing in rural districts.

Having ended his vacation Governor Pinchot may now be expected to give his time and attention to weeding the political garden.

Even numerous criminal indictments fail to restrain the political activity of Mayor Kline, of Pittsburgh. Nothing short of a commitment will stop that bird.

The county jails in Pennsylvania had thirty per cent more inmates in May, 1931, than they held in the corresponding month in 1929. Of course prohibition isn't wholly responsible for this, but such a condition certainly should force prohibition to admit that it didn't know what it was talking about when it said: Put me in force and there will be no more use for jails.

In paying unusual tribute to the beauty of Bellefonte, in the New York Times, last Sunday, Zona Gale, eminent author, said she was writing the story in a lovely Wisconsin town—lovely because it "has more trees than people." It is a pity that so many of our citizens fail to understand what Joyce Kilmer meant when he ended his epic with "But only God can make a tree." If there were any way to trace such results we fancy that Bellefonte's trees would be found to have done far more in arresting world-wide attention to the town than any of those who want to cut them down.

Mr. Joseph Guffey's prediction that Pennsylvania will give at least sixty-six of its seventy-two delegates to Franklin D. Roosevelt for President looks to us like Joe is trying to stage a come back. What he did for the Democracy of Pennsylvania as compared with what John Collins, its chairman, and Sedge Kistler, Guffey's successor on the national committee, have done, is well known to those who have had the real interests of the party in Pennsylvania at heart. Sentiment in the State might be for Mr. Roosevelt, but it isn't going to be exploited for Mr. Guffey's aggrandizement.

The Watchman wants no glory, no pats on the back, for its part in having emancipated the trout in Spring creek. It does want to say, however, that were it not for the newspapers that have back-bone enough to do their duty to the communities in which they circulate the neatly-mouthed would have little chance in this grand old U. S. A. and it means by neatly-mouthed the timid souls who are afraid to yell "Stop Thief!" at the fellow who is carrying ten fat hens away from their coop because they fear he might not come back to their stores next morning for a five cent loaf of bread.

Fish Commissioner Deibler very sensibly declined to assume responsibility for having cooped up the trout that are one of Bellefonte's greatest attractions. He made it very plain, in his statement to the press last week, that neither he nor his Department had had anything to do with inaugurating the scheme and had only delegated some of his expert fish culturists to help carry it out because he had been led to believe that Bellefonte wanted it done. Commissioner Deibler discovered that of only Bellefonte, but a very large part of the country, didn't want it one and promptly let it be known that he didn't want the buck passed to him.

The gentlemen who surround our councilmanic table have redeemed themselves. They have corrected the mistake they made when they thoughtlessly gave something that belongs to all the people of Bellefonte over to the exploitation of an individual enterprise. The coop is to be pulled out of Spring creek, the big trout are to be released to their natural habitat and the beauty of the prospect above the falls is no longer to be marred by the ugly blotch put upon it. Men who make no mistakes accomplish little and because the Watchman has ways kept that truism in mind it congratulates council on having the living virtue of having had enough courage to correct this one.

American fight fans are more or less hopeless of soon retrieving the world's heavy-weight championship which Max Schmelling carried off to Germany on a foul route some time ago. Schmelling's later victory over Stribling was so impressive that the experts believe that either Sharkey nor Walker could take him now. Since there are other real contenders in sight the situation does seem temporarily hopeless. America will get the championship back, however. The woods are full of budding young pugilists who might come through, but our local movie magnate evidently isn't one of them. His foot work is fine but sprinters are for the wider paths, not the squared ring.

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Female Arctic Explorers.

The invasion of the masculine domains by women has been made complete by the enlistment of two wealthy society women of New York in the crew of the Soviet ice-breaker, Malign, which has sailed from Archangel for a voyage toward the North Pole. They are Mrs. Kenneth A. Patterson and Mrs. Emma S. Dresser. It is the purpose of the ship to cut its way to within 420 miles of the Pole and "make scientific observations." The Malign will carry forty passengers and a crew of fifty. The passengers are mostly scientists and sportsmen. The principal purpose of Mrs. Dresser, who will be accompanied by her son, an engineer, is to search for the body of Roald Amundson.

With this object in mind Mrs. Dresser had prepared and presented to the Soviet government a detailed map of Rudolph Island, Franz Josef Land, by Anthony Flala, an experienced Arctic explorer who imagines that Amundson may be at Camp Abruzzi. In 1903 an expedition of which Mr. Flala was a member, left, "cached" at that point, enough food to last several men for several years. Amundson, he declares, was acquainted with that fact, and in distress on his last Arctic adventure, sought it out. If the conjecture has foundation in fact the enterprise of Mrs. Dresser will be a splendid achievement. In any event the Soviet government of Russia is in sympathy with her purpose.

Mrs. Patterson, whose husband is a New York broker, is influenced entirely by the spirit of adventure and sportsmanship. She is the youngest member of the expedition, has twice visited Soviet Russia and owns what is said to be the finest collection of Ikons in this country, one of which was the property of Czar Nicholas II and another was owned by the Czarevitch. She will record any unusual events of the expedition with a camera and will write of her experience after her return. Thus these two American women will demonstrate not only the courage but the capability of the female of the species to undertake and probably execute any sort of human endeavor.

It is not surprising to hear that politics has been introduced into road building operations in some sections. That's what Sam Lewis was appointed Highway Commissioner for.

The London Conference.

The London conference, composed of the heads of seven sovereign States concerned in the reparation of debts and international obligations of the World War, assembled on Monday under most favorable auspices. In opening the conference and welcoming the delegates Prime Minister MacDonald said: "The present moment may be one of the turning points in the history of the world, for good or ill. If we cannot find a solution of the present crisis, no one can foretell the political and financial dangers which will ensue."

That expresses a correct appraisal, not only of the gravity of the situation, but of the importance of the conference. Through a succession of misadventures the economic life of Germany had gone from bad to worse until the Grundy tariff law closed every avenue of hope. She had vast obligations to meet and no medium of payment except the products of her soil and factories. The Grundy law cut that source of payment out and made collapse imminent if not inevitable. The Hoover moratorium provided an opportunity to analyze the danger.

The collapse of Germany at this time would impoverish Europe and greatly distress the economic life of the United States. The American investors in foreign securities were first to realize the danger and propose measures to avert it. The London conference is the medium of putting force and value into the moratorium. It has opened in an atmosphere of sympathy and helpfulness and it will succeed because capital can't afford to let it fail. But it is not an humanitarian enterprise. If it were President Hoover would not be concerned.

Some scientists are doing great work. The other day a group of them decided that "loose, porous clothing allows the heat to pass easily from the body."

The Republican factional fight in Philadelphia affords a great deal of pleasure to Governor Pinchot and Senator Grundy.

Two rains in August are not much to hope for, but if they come there will be a bumper corn crop.

Vice President Curtis Worried.

We freely own to a deep-seated sympathy for Vice President Curtis. He is up against a perplexing dilemma upon one or another horn of which he is certain to be impaled. He is admittedly the favorite son of Kansas and dearly loves every farmer and every foot of the soil of that bleeding balliwick. He is also essentially a Republican and bound by the many substantial favors the party has bestowed upon him to cherish and conserve its interests. Under conditions which have arisen he is now compelled to betray his obligations either to the party or to the State. If he chooses to be faithful to Kansas he must be false to the party.

The exigencies of the party require that he accept the nomination for Vice President next year and appear to like it. His refusal to do so would be interpreted as an admission that in the next campaign the Republican party is pursuing a forlorn hope, and that would be so demoralizing as to make it a verity. Everybody knows that he enjoys the office immensely. The dignity of the station flatters his vanity and the social advantage, acquired by a crucial battle, is "the apple of her eye" and his charming and capable sister, Dolly Gann. The public could never be persuaded that these advantages were relinquished without a grave reason.

On the other hand, if he volunteers to save Hoover, he mortally offends Kansas and cordially invites oblivion. He realizes the fact that Democratic victory is impending and that any sacrifice he might make holds out to him an alluring future. He can have his Senatorial seat with all the pleasures and perquisites thereto belonging, and with the reputation as the best poker player in Washington these are not trifling. This injects the personal element into the equation. No man cheerfully obliterates himself from the official calendar, and that is the problem that worries Mr. Curtis.

These international conferences may be laborious but they are not tiresome. All kinds of diversions are provided for the members between sessions.

One Gratifying Result

Not the least of the blessings which have come out of the Hoover moratorium is the death and burial of that pestiferous absurdity, the "isolation wraith," which has been keeping the President awake nights. The official announcement that Secretary of State Stimson and Secretary of the Treasury Mellon will represent the United States at the conference of allied Ministers which opened at London, on Monday, expresses the complete abandonment of that imaginary shield of American life, independence and prosperity. Hereafter this country may take its proper place at the council table of nations and fulfill its part in shaping the destinies of the world.

Obedience to the preposterous policy of isolation by the government of the United States is responsible, more than anything else, for the prolonged delay in readjustment after the World War and the consequent evils, including the economic depression and unemployment. If we had promptly entered the League of Nations and thus expressed sympathy with the universal desire for permanent peace, the readjustment would have come naturally and without delay. But the isolationists conjured up a false theory that some selfish advantage might be obtained by holding aloof. Our failure to join the League weakened that benevolent enterprise and thus invited the evils which have culminated in world wide disaster.

Happily, now, that mischievous disturber is ended. When the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States sat down in conference with the secretaries of other leading nations, to discuss questions of world-wide interest they recognized that the well being and prosperity of one nation is a matter of grave concern for all other civilized nations and that fraternity and co-operation is better than isolation. It now remains for us to "prove our faith by works." In other words, we need legislation that will convey to the world that the spirit of "live and let live," is the paramount purpose of the American people. The Golden Rule is still in force.

Since John A. McSparran has been placed on the State pay roll he can see no evil in centralization of power. He really thinks it's a virtue.

COUNCIL ORDERS REMOVAL OF TROUT PEN FROM CREEK.

At the regular meeting of borough council, on Monday evening, a motion was passed ordering the removal of the trout pen from the overflow stream from the Big Spring. Only five members were present at the meeting, the absentees including Messrs. Beaver, Jodon, Kline and Cobb. Mr. Ardery brought up the subject by stating that he believed it time that council define its attitude on the trout pond question and he made a motion that the persons who placed the wooden screen in the creek be requested to remove same, at once, and failing to do so the Water committee be instructed to remove it.

Mr. Emerick stated that he would favor the removal of the unsightly screen but suggested that a wire screen be placed, temporarily, from the point of the island down to the falls to keep the trout from going up stream and being caught by fishermen; the screen to be kept there at least until the close of the fishing season. Mr. Nighthart, also, favored putting in a screen but having it done by the Water committee and not by a private individual.

Mr. Ardery consented to having the placing of the screen incorporated in his motion, which was seconded by Mr. Nighthart. The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

When council convened secretary Kelly reported the renewed bond of the Central Pennsylvania Gas Co.

A communication was received from the Brooks-Doll post of the American Legion suggesting that council appoint one councilman to serve on a committee of the Legion to prepare for a suitable celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington next year. Action was deferred until the next meeting.

Secretary Kelly reported that the contracts for the erection of the new Lamb street bridge had been executed and approved by the State Highway Department, which had also approved the county's contribution to the construction of the bridge, and that the contractor and engineer are expected here this week to begin work on same.

A communication was received from the borough council of State College inviting members of Bellefonte council to be their guests at a dinner to be held in the restaurant in Old Main at 6.30 o'clock on the evening of July 29th for the purpose of discussing public utilities and other municipal questions of importance. The secretary was instructed to ascertain how many of the councilmen can attend the dinner and notify State College council not later than July 27th.

The Street committee reported various repairs and that all the oiling contemplated for this year has been done. A check for \$30.00 for a sewer permit was also reported.

The Water committee reported repairs at various places and the collection of \$1750 on water taxes and \$65 for rent, etc.

The Finance committee reported a balance in the borough fund of \$1,264.24 and \$533.42 in the water fund. A new borough note for \$800 was authorized.

Borough bills totaling \$1373.14 and water bills \$786.88 were approved for payment, after which council adjourned.

Standing Pat Against Buying Voting Machines.

The Centre county commissioners are still standing pat against purchasing four voting machines for the borough of Philipsburg. Last week Secretary of State Richard J. Beamish served notice on the commissioners that if they did not advise for bids for the machines he would do so and have them billed to Centre county. His notice, however, was qualified with the statement that he could not do so until the expiration of thirty days.

In Philadelphia and a number of counties throughout the State the county commissioners, taxpayers leagues and other organizations are fighting the purchase of machines at this time and defying the Secretary of State's authority to compel them to do so. The Centre county commissioners are looking for any kind of a loophole that will save the county the expense at this time. They claim that the voters of Philipsburg are not asking for the machines now; in fact would prefer continuing the old method of voting, and it is preposterous for some one in authority at Harrisburg to attempt to compel the purchase.

Just how the matter will end remains to be seen, but if the commissioners do not weaken there will not be any machines in Philipsburg this year.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY

Items taken from the Watchman issue of July 29, 1881.

A festival was held at Hecla on Saturday evening for the benefit of a drum corps lately organized at that place. Master Oliver Yarnell entertained the patrons with various acrobatic performances.

A. J. Brown & Co., will open a furniture store in the new Brown building on Bishop street, on August 10th.

We regret to learn that Mr. S. F. Ishler, of near Boalsburg, is lying very ill with inflammation of the bowels.

Old "Jim," a family horse belonging to P. W. Barnhart, of Boggs township, died last Saturday at the age of 31.

The church of the United Brethren, at Houserville, has undergone a fine repairing and remodeling and will be re-opened for services on July 31st.

One of the Watchman typographers dreamed, the other night, that he was in Heaven. He said he was having a hell of a time but woke up full of disappointment when he realized he was still in Bellefonte.

Redmond Powers, brother of Mayor John Powers, died on Sunday evening last, as the result of a complete physical breakdown. He was a stone mason by trade and would have been 48 years old next month. He left a widow and a large family of children.

John Wian, aged 45, one of our most respectable and hard working citizens, died from remittent fever last Friday morning, leaving a widow and nine children. He was a good citizen, a good Democrat and a conscientious member of the Methodist church.

The Logan Fire Company has come to the conclusion that it ought to have a steamer, drawn with horses, and it intends to suggest the idea to property owners and other citizens of Bellefonte.

Master Eugene Hall, son of Daniel Hall, of Unionville, this county, is a natural musician. His father recently bought an upright piano and no sooner was it set up than the lad sat down and played a tune on it, much to the surprise of his family and the large company that had gathered to see the new instrument installed.

Charles Peterson, of this place, who lives in the family of Sheriff Spangler, died here on the 15th inst., and his body was taken to Centre Hall for burial. He was one of the veterans of the wars of the first Napoleon and had lived until next October would have been 85 years old. He was all through the Russian campaign.

An old stager up at Port Matilda claims to have killed a hoop snake. He says it was a very large reptile, striped like a zebra, and formed itself into a hoop for defense the instant he attacked it. In fact he thinks it would have killed him but for a wing thrust it made. The fight was going on near a large oak tree and in one of its vicious rolls a dead limb lying on the ground deflected its course so that it struck the tree instead of its intended victim. It had its spike-like tail in its mouth and hit with such force that the tail sank three inches into the hard green oak. It could not pull itself loose and our informant then jumped in and dispatched it. He went on his way to the mill at Port Matilda for his grist. On the way back he stopped to get the dead reptile to take it home for the family to see. Imagine his amazement when he got there and found all the leaves of the tree had withered, the trunk of the tree had swelled until it had split open and sap was pouring out of splits on every branch so fast that he couldn't get near the trunk where the snake was impaled for fear of drowning.

Wheat is \$1.00, corn 45c and oats 40c. New potatoes are 80c bushel, eggs 12 1/2c and butter 15c.

Penns valley is having a terrible drought, corn and potatoes are withering up. Sinking creek goes dry daily and remains so for two or three hours.

TWO BALL TEAMS TIED IN LEAGUE STANDING.

The Centre county baseball league has come to an end of the first half of the season with two teams—Centre Hall and Coburn—tied for first place. The two teams will play a series of three games to decide the winner. The standing of the teams at the end of the first half was as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Team, Won, Lost, Pct. Centre Hall: 11, 4, .733. Coburn: 11, 4, .733. Bellefonte: 8, 7, .533. Pleasant Gap: 7, 8, .466. Rebersburg: 4, 11, .266. Lamar: 4, 11, .266.

Nothing especially new has developed in the postoffice situation in Bellefonte outside of the fact that there is considerable local activity in behalf of the location on the corner of Howard and Allegheny streets.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Two bandits on Monday locked Max Moskowitz, 34, market proprietor at Beaver Falls, in an ice box and escaped with \$1,000.

The proposed training camp site at Indian Gap near Jonestown, has been unofficially inspected and approved by high officers of the regular army attending the National Guard encampment.

John Kowalchick, 16, of Centralia, died in the Ashland State hospital of tetanus as the result of a burn in the palm of his right hand suffered July 4 when he exploded a cartridge in a blank pistol.

Mrs. Anastasia Woods, of Pittsburgh, is seeking a court judgment of \$25,000 from the Bell Telephone company, alleging in her petition filed last week, that when she answered the telephone on May 7 she was knocked down and injured internally and externally when a flash of flame and electricity leaped from the transmitter.

Warren Crow, 20, son of the late United States Senator W. E. Crow was found fatally shot on the office floor of the Warren Lumber company at Uniontown, Sunday morning, and died soon afterwards in a hospital. The youth was employed summers as night watchman at the plant. Officials were quoted as expressing the belief that he accidentally shot himself.

The borough of State College is asking the Public Service Commission to approve acquisition of the State College Water company under municipal ownership. The application states the procedure would enable the borough to reduce overhead and rates and to finance the purchase ultimately out of earnings, with further rate reductions in event of such developments.

A slight move to the right or left on his hospital cot will bring instant death to John Burchick, 25, of Minersville, surgeons said, as they watched the amateur wrestler whose neck was broken when he was thrown by James Veller, 33, Minersville, during a friendly bout. If Burchick can lie perfectly still for a few weeks it is expected his injury will heal and he will recover.

Miss Emma Mae White, of Fountain Springs, was held by Ashland police, on Monday, after she drove her sedan into the parlor of the home of Ray Mallams, highway contractor, injuring his wife and a guest. Mrs. Mallams had her left leg broken at the knee and ankle, while Edward Watters, 25, suffered a fractured pelvis and injuries to his back. The home was damaged badly.

Lebanon girls parading the streets in pajamas will not be molested by police, chief Sealer declares. "What's to stop them?" was the chief's comment when asked about this latest fad. Pajamas have not been adopted generally as street dress by Lebanon women, but many girls have taken to them. However, Sealer would not go so far as to give his consent to women wearing shorts on the street. "I'll have to see them first and then decide," he said.

Struck by a bolt of lightning, last Wednesday afternoon, Mathilda Shaffer, 14 years old, of York, Pa., had her right knee dislocated. The hurt knee was the only mark evident on her body to show that she had been struck. Her mother, sitting on the porch of their home, only a few feet away, saw the bolt strike her daughter and was momentarily stunned by the shock. Neighbors 100 feet away were thrown down by the force from the same stroke of lightning.

Six men, lying in ambush along the Roosevelt Boulevard, near the city line of Philadelphia, last Friday, kidnaped two truck drivers and stole a truck load of raw silk valued at \$50,000, police reported. After driving about the city for a while with the two truckmen, they released them and drove away with the cargo of silk. In reporting the theft to police the truckmen gave their names as A. W. Baughn and Joseph E. Hunt, both of Burlington, N. C. They said they were enroute from New York to Burlington.

For helping an aged woman who had fallen on an icy pavement in Norristown six years ago, William F. Martin, of York, Pa., unemployed for three months, has received work he will get \$25,000 and a home valued at \$9000. The money and home go to Martin, a widower with one child, from the estate of Mary Ann Weaver, 70, who died in Norristown three weeks ago. It is her way of repaying Martin for helping her when she slipped on the ice and broke a leg. The bequest is part of an estate of approximately \$140,000.

Excavators found more than 600 counterfeit half-dollars in a cellar that was being enlarged. Johnstown and government secret service agents from Pittsburgh are conducting an investigation. William Franz, occupant of the house above the basement, reported the matter to the postmaster at Johnstown and the latter notified government operatives. Many tenants preceded Franz as occupants of the home, the agents said. The coins were made of a composition of lead and babbitt and were dated 1909. The house is at 420 Highland avenue, Johnstown.

An army of rats, ravenous since the moving of a feed and flour store house from a long-standing location in Lewis-town, has been invading south Pine street homes, even in daylight, in quest of food. One night last week several attacked the 8-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ammerman, while she was sleeping and bit her hand, arm and ears before her cries aroused her parents. The child was taken to a physician. She is recovering. Droves of the rats have been seen on the streets and in the alleys in daytime. One resident killed a half dozen with one shot from a shotgun.

The State Water and Power Resources Board has announced plans and specifications had been completed for Pymatuning Dam in the western part of the State and the contract probably would be let August 15. The dam will comprise an eastern embankment 2400 feet long and 50 feet in maximum height with a concrete spillway at the western end. The dam will require 370,000 cubic yards of embankment; 180,000 cubic yards of excavation; 5000 cubic yards of concrete; 900 tons of steel; 9000 cubic yards of riprap and 4000 cubic yards of stone paving. The board expects to advertise for bids in a few weeks. The 1931 Legislature appropriated \$1,500,000 for the project, which will make the largest artificial inland lake in Pennsylvania.