

INK SLINGS

—Speaking of news, if the Tariff Commission should recommend a decrease in the rate on something, that would be news.

—Let us hope that the marriage of Princess Elena, of Rumania, will be more happy and enduring than that of her royal brother, King Carol.

—Even a tear-bomb can't close Jim Davis' mouth. That method was tried on him at Wilkes-Barre, the other day, and it only postponed his speech.

—Doyle Confer, 15 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Confer, of Madisonburg, fell off of a truck, last Saturday, and broke his right leg above the ankle. He was brought to the Centre County hospital to have the fracture reduced.

—In England the national anthem is "God Save the King." If they get any results from singing it we would suggest "Muddy Water" as the name for a national anthem for our trout to sing. It has saved more trout this season than the State hatcheries can produce in a dozen.

—The passing of W. T. Twitmore, for more than sixty years continuously in business in Bellefonte, was not a shock to the community, for he had reached the age when the end of life's span can be expected any moment. Few men carry to the grave such a record as was his. Even tempered, devoted christian gentleman that he was his life was a daily benediction to those who came in contact with it. Though never aggressive by nature the unassuming dignity of his business, social and spiritual sides was, perhaps, more of a force in the building of good citizenship than positive leadership would have been.

—When you play politics in Philadelphia dealing from the bottom wouldn't get you anywhere. Mr. Vare would have the cards so stacked that even ten boys couldn't do a man's job. Hall, Cunningham and Campbell, with their Biles decoy, were only "push-overs" to give the impression that the near Senator was seeking respectability when he proposed "Hammy" Moore as his candidate in opposition to the "set-ups" who challenged the Vare dictatorship. "Hammy" will get the nomination and be elected Mayor of Philadelphia again. It is almost a parallel to the case of Quay and old Judge Pennypacker, except that "Hammy" is wiser than was "the Sage of Wetzel's Swamp."

—The philosophy of the youth of today is so strange to us that we don't get it at all. A week ago a rather indulgent father refused to let his boy have the car to ride to his favorite swimmin' hole. It is only a mile and a half distant and the father well remembers that he walked to Snow Shoe Intersection many times when he wanted a swim in water that is warmer than that of the "horse hole" on Spring creek. His offspring couldn't understand the hard hearted (?) refusal and came through with this: "I can't understand father at all. He wants us to do everything as our ancestors did. That's like the Chinese do and there's no progress in them. We'll get nowhere that way." The boy didn't get to the "horse hole." His philosophy was unsound because if he had really wanted to swim as much as he thought he did the matter of walking a mile and a half would have been no deterrent.

—A good bit is being said about the condition of the farmer. We know enough about farming to believe that legislation can't help him. We do know that economics are such that he is getting a dirty deal. In some instances he is paying more taxes than he ought to, because some farm property is assessed out of all proportion to urban realty. He pays more per day to every skilled mechanic who works for him than his average farm income will show that he receives for his own work. We know a farmer in Benner township who will have two hundred bushels of wheat to sell this fall. It is his only pay crop. His corn, oats and barley will be used for feed for the stock. He sells milk and ought to have some pigs for market, but he needs a carpenter to do some repairing about the house and barn. A carpenter wants eighty cents an hour for the work and puts in only twelve and one half hour of work each and the wheat crop of the farmer at fifty cents per bushel all must be sold to pay him. We have figured that during the last three years the average farmer in Centre county in his house rent, his butter, eggs, milk, pork, chickens, real, bull calves for beef, vegetables and all, hasn't earned more than three dollars per day. We have no quarrel with the carpenter for demanding eighty cents an hour from one who earns thirty cents out we do think that the farmers would be better off if a lot of them would go to carpentering. In other words, farmers are fools for producing anything more than will put them in position to say to those whom they may have to employ: I will pay you just as much per hour for your work as I receive for mine.

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Another Administration Policy Has Been Changed.

The administration has practically yielded to the demand of industrialists on the question of wage reductions. From the beginning of the depression the President has persisted in the fiction that the 1929 standard of wages has been maintained notwithstanding the diminished pay envelopes. But the other day, in a letter to Congressman Condon, of Rhode Island, Secretary of Commerce Lamont, speaking for the administration, says, "I do not believe that it is the duty of the government to interfere in such cases—neither do I believe that such interference would be effective." There is no uncertainty in that statement.

Mr. Condon had complained in a letter to the President that the Vermont textile manufacturers are reducing wages and the President forwarded the letter to Secretary Lamont for reply. This coming on the eve of a meeting of the directors of the Steel trust has been interpreted as an administration consent to wage cutting by that corporation. Senator Watson, who assured the public that within thirty days after the passage of the Grundy tariff bill prosperity would return, was greatly alarmed about it. "Any action by the steel corporation to reduce wages," he said, "would be a catastrophe."

But to observant persons this reversal of administration policy is not surprising. For some time the Wall Street bankers have been urging what they call "liquidating wages," as a remedy for industrial depression and unemployment and President Hoover invariably complies with their demands. Besides, he has probably come to an understanding that the wage earners are not being fooled by the pretense that wage standards are being maintained. The pay envelope is the true yard stick for the measurement of wages and for more than a year it has been proving the falsity of the pretense that wage standards are maintained.

—The Wickersham crime commission has made one report that will be generally accepted. In its ninth installment it declares that our penal system is a flat failure.

Supreme Court Will Decide.

The right of Governor Pinchot to require all applicants for office to sign a pledge to support the policies of his administration will be carried to the Supreme court. To the usual form of application the Governor has added a pledge "to support the policies approved by the people at the election of the Governor in 1930." A Philadelphia applicant for appointment to the office of notary public refused to subscribe to this pledge and the appointment was refused for that reason. Application for a mandamus was made in the Dauphin county court and the judge decided that he had no power to enjoin the Governor in the matter of appointments.

The law authorizing the appointment of notaries public is not specific as to qualifications. Officers and stockholders in banks and persons "holding judicial or other offices of trust or profit under the constitution or laws of the United States" are ineligible. It is also necessary that the applicant shall be a resident of the city or county for "one year immediately preceding appointment." If these conditions are fulfilled and the applicant is capable and of good reputation, it would seem that he or she has an inherent right to aspire to that or any other office within the gift of the Governor or the people.

The Governor holds, no doubt, that he has a legal right to refuse to appoint any applicant and without giving reason for his action. That is true, but his right to deny the privilege of applying may well be questioned and the condition expressed in his application form practically works that result to all who are unwilling to take the pledge. In any event his refusal to consider applications with the pledge eliminated indicates a narrow mind. His purpose is to organize a personal political machine by process of conscription, and that purpose deserves the execration of every fair-minded citizen of the State.

—The western farmers reason that on the principle that "charity begins at home" it is time President Hoover should do something toward their relief.

—Secretary of State Stimson is negotiating for the American-German vote by making generous promises to Chancellor Bruening, in Berlin.

Another Wolf in Sheep's Clothing.

The indications are that an attempt will be made to lay the lines of the next Presidential election on religious bigotry and prohibition fanaticism. Arthur J. Barton, chairman of the executive committee of the Anti-Saloon League, has set the machinery in motion to compass this result by an attack upon Governor Roosevelt based upon a recent declaration of Joseph F. Guffey that a large majority of the Pennsylvania delegates to the Democratic National convention will support the New York Governor. Mr. Barton, who is a Bishop of the Baptist church, was associated with Bishop Cannon, of the Methodist church, South, in the crusade against Governor Smith in 1928.

It was fondly hoped by most of the real religious men and women of the country that such an issue never would be raised again. Even Mr. Hoover expressed a sense of shame that it became so important an element in his victory. Though he sanctioned the processes employed by Bishop Cannon, Mrs. Willebrandt and Colonel Mann, of Tennessee, while they were at work in his behalf and encouraged the Ku Klux Klan activities, it is a matter of record that as soon as possible after his inauguration, he repudiated all of them. Mrs. Willebrandt was removed from the office of assistant Attorney General and the others were simply ignored in the disposal of patronage though all were looking for rewards.

Whether Governor Roosevelt is nominated for President by the Democratic National convention next year is a matter of minor importance compared with the menace that bigotry and fanaticism is to become a potential force in the political life of the country. Bishop Cannon has been eliminated from the equation. His record for hypocrisy and immorality made any appeal by him futile. Even those who sympathized with his purpose can no longer accept his leadership. But another "wolf in sheep's clothing," another mischief-maker, masquerading in the robes of a Bishop hopes to carry on his pernicious work. But he will be disappointed in the result. The public can't be fooled again.

—An armistice has been declared in the war between Oklahoma and Texas. "Alfalfa Bill," Governor of Oklahoma, having accomplished his purpose, bows to an order from the Federal court.

Politics in Philadelphia.

The Republican squabble in Philadelphia increases in interest as its details are revealed. It expresses an irreparable fracture of the Vare machine, which ought not to be a subject of regret outside of those immediately concerned. But it fails to inspire confidence of improvement however it ends. Selfishness is the source of the contention on both sides and spoils the objective of all involved. Whichever faction wins the people stand to lose. The pirates represented by Mr. Biles, having lost in the first skirmish, the gangsters represented by Hammy Moore are ahead in the game.

The candidacy of Mr. Biles, for Mayor, was supported by Tom Cunningham, Charlie Hall and Bill Campbell, a trio of buccaners who have outraged decency and looted the public for many years. The candidacy of Mr. Moore is sponsored by Bill Vare, Jim Hazett and Sam Salus, equally corrupt and defiant of public and political morals and persuaded that he will serve their purpose. Mr. Moore flirted with both sides for a time. The Biles crowd offered him a seat in Congress which was enticing. The Vare offer was more tempting but less certain. He finally figured out that the Vare offer promised most for himself and accepted it.

Various other names have been mentioned as willing to accept the nomination of either faction but with few exceptions they are of the scurvy type. Meantime Governor Pinchot stands on the side line watching the progress of the scrimmage with intense interest and ready to take a hand in the finish. Thus far he has expressed preference for neither faction but it is practically certain that if Biles does not withdraw from the contest, the Governor would have lined up with Vare. Politics has made strange bed-fellows in the past, but the spectacle of Pinchot and Vare under the same blanket would make a new record.

—The Graf Zeppelin, having circled the globe and made several trips across the Atlantic, is now on its most ambitious as well as perilous enterprise. It is heading for the North Pole.

Hoover's False Pretenses.

The friends of President Hoover are developing a rare talent in the line of propaganda and publicity. For example, every event of public interest which gives promise of popularity or beneficence is ascribed to Hoover, labeled Hoover plan or Hoover idea and placed on the front page of all newspapers in big type. At the opening of the London conference, Prime Minister MacDonald said: "There seem to be two main alternatives. The one is to find the means of providing new loans or credits to Germany. That is a matter that I understood has been under consideration at Paris." Any intelligent newspaper reporter could have easily phrased this idea into a plan.

After this statement had been made acting Secretary of State Castle, acting Secretary of the Treasury Mills and Senator Morrow, of New Jersey, got their heads together, wrote out a paper and christened it the "Hoover Plan." It had already been skeletonized in Paris, approved by Premier MacDonald, in London, and was finally stolen by Hoover. Commenting upon it in the London Secretary Stimson declared the plan is "as much a product of British thought as American, the actual introduction of which was made by Prime Minister MacDonald." But it was published in all the newspapers of Europe and America as the Hoover plan and Hoover and his friends are responsible for the false claim.

When Wall Street warned Mr. Hoover that billions of dollars of American money were in immediate peril he sent for Owen D. Young to point a way to avert the calamity. Mr. Young suggested the moratorium and Hoover promptly proclaimed it as a product of his own mind because it met with popular favor. He made his last campaign on false issues, such as religious bigotry and prohibition fanaticism. He now proposes to make an equally fraudulent appeal to the emotions of the public by posing as a benevolent statesman concerned in the welfare of the world. But his record of stupidity and ineptness in dealing with questions of importance in the past refutes his pretense.

—If the Vare victory eliminates Cunningham, Hall and Campbell from public life it will be worth what it costs, including the triumph of others not much better.

Wickersham Commission Worthless.

The Wickersham Commission issued its final report, the other day, having previously, at irregular intervals, made five or six other reports. In the course of its long life and arduous labor it expended well over half a million dollars of public money and apparently accomplished nothing. It was given to the public as an instrument for making "an accurate examination of fact and cause" of the prevalence of crime and the suggestion of "constructive, courageous conclusions" concerning remedies. If any thing of this kind has been achieved it has escaped public notice.

The original purpose of the Commission, as interpreted by the people, was to discover a method for the enforcement of the prohibition amendment and the Volstead law. But at the outset its functions were expanded so as to embrace all forms of crime and every aspect of criminal jurisprudence. Probably the principal reason for its failure was that "it took in too much territory." In any event it made no progress either in ascertaining the cause of the crime wave which brought it into existence or the reasons for failure of enforcing the repressive legislation.

The Commission was disappointing, moreover, because public opinion had been deceived in its operations. The idea conveyed by the President and accepted by the people was that it would gather the facts and recommend remedies which would be accepted by the President. In other words, the recommendation of the Commission would be approved by the President. But the first report made by the Commission was repudiated by the President and the public was forced to the conclusion that the whole scheme was a form of "passing the buck" to save the face of the President.

—Like most of the achievements of the Hoover administration the success of the moratorium is enveloped in doubt.

—The Navy Department is undertaking to measure the depth of that justly celebrated "hole in the bottom of the sea."

Moratoriums, New Credits—Then What?

From the Philadelphia Record.

Much American money is invested in Chile, Argentina and Brazil. American investments in Argentina total about \$800,000,000. The American people's stake in Chile is between \$600,000,000 and \$700,000,000.

Premier Bianquier, of Chile, announcing a moratorium on foreign debts—scheduled to run to August 1 but all likely to be extended by decree from month to month unless Chile's financial condition improves—gives painfully practical point to the theoretical observation that nowadays the nations are linked and locked in an economic relationship irresistibly overruling all political plans of governments.

And that is the lesson America and all the world must learn, is learning: that isolation is dead and national exclusiveness will have to give way to international co-operation.

Chile depends chiefly upon copper and nitrate for its living. When the markets in these commodities are demoralized, Chile is pinched.

Chile controls the world's market in natural nitrates. Chilean producers have been in conference with the synthetic nitrogen makers of nine European countries.

Germany tried a squeeze play. She placed a prohibitive duty on all nitrogenous fertilizers and on Chilean nitrates. But all the nations which would be affected by that tax—except Chile—are protected by trade agreements.

The Chilean delegates, denouncing the new impost as deliberately discriminatory against their country's product, withdrew from the conference. So Chile resumes open-market trading, co-operation with the European producers of the synthetic product ends, and competition begins again.

This moratorium is "different." It is one-sided. It runs hind and foremost, being declared by a debtor instead of granted by a creditor. The old-fashioned word for it is "Default."

But it works out the same way. America will have to foreclose, with no chance to collect, or else okay the moratorium in hope that trade will pick up and payments be resumed.

The interlocking of the present-day international credit system is knocking old-time theories—like Coolidge's "Well, they borrowed the money, didn't they?"—on the head. Theories yield place to conditions. Necessity drives. The world can't live forever on credit. The Governments must get together and use the breathing space provided by the war debt moratorium to make definite plans for resumption of trading on the old scale.

This Chilean default emphasizes the necessity of converting the moratorium device into a Design. Unless that is done, the moratorium period will hasten to its end with nothing accomplished but new credits piled up on top of the old, temporarily suspended ones.

President Hoover "started something." It is to be carried to a finish—and how?

—Residents of Bellefonte have been pestered with more mosquitoes this year than ever before and the impression has been pretty general that they come from the upper marshes of John McCoy's dam. While that may be their breeding place we notice in our exchanges that the pestiferous insects are also more numerous than ever before in surrounding towns. Phillipsburg, Tyrone and Lock Haven people are all complaining, and in Phillipsburg the matter has been before town council, which had been appealed to to devise some method of exterminating the insects. While every means possible should be resorted to to get rid of the mosquito there are other kinds of bugs that seem more numerous and destructive on flowers and gardens this year than ever before, and to wage a fight against all of them would keep a man busy from early morn till late at night. It is quite possible that the extremely hot and wet weather we have had this year has been especially favorable to the increase in the bug kingdom.

—The States of Maine, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina and Illinois, as well as a number of towns in Pennsylvania, were represented in the attendance at the Bellefonte Methodist church, last Sunday morning. Rev. Harold I. Zook, pastor of the First Methodist Protestant church, of Kittanning, participated in the service. At the Sunday school the attendance was 49 in excess of the same Sunday a year ago, the number including twelve visitors.

—Dog days are here and the right way to treat dogs now is to give them as wide a berth as possible.

—Senator Capper says the Kansas farmers are trying to like the Farm Board but can't.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—June graduations from 835 Pennsylvania secondary schools, the high school classification, totaled 48,000 boys and girls, according to the Department of Public Instruction. The number increased 5,000 over the 1930 total graduations.

—All hunting licenses which were issued after May 1, 1930, will be in force until August 31, 1931, which marks the termination of the old hunting license period. After August 31, 1931, all licenses will be issued for the year beginning September 1 and ending August 31 of the following year.

—Lambert P. Stout, 33, of Woolrich, died in a hospital, last Friday, as the result of a fall from his porch at his home. He recently retired from employment with the Woolrich woolen mills on a pension after a service of sixty-eight consecutive years, during all of which time he had never missed a day or been a minute late.

—Just as the casket bearing the body of Anthony Rice was lowered into a grave in a cemetery at Frackville, on Tuesday, a detective arrested one of the chief mourners, Andrew Rice, of Philadelphia and Gilberton, a brother of the deceased. Rice has been wanted by police at South Fork, on a charge preferred by a girl of that place.

—Mrs. Hattie E. Paul was awarded \$26,000 damages in a verdict handed down in court at Sunbury, against the Atlantic Refining company for the death of her husband, W. E. Paul, Reading company engineer, who died of burns suffered when his train struck a gasoline truck at Muncy. This is the largest verdict ever awarded in Northumberland county courts.

—Spending the last 45 cents of a \$8000 legacy to purchase a ticket to Re-treat Almshouse, James Kelly, 54, of Edwardsville, was refused admittance because he had been a resident of Ramson poor district. At the death of an aunt several years ago Kelly was bequeathed \$8000, the money to be paid him in monthly stipends. His last \$50 fell due in June.

—Creditors of Aaron Engle, a North Cornwall township farmer, Lebanon county, lost the full amount of their claims as the result of a bolt of lightning which caused the destruction of its contents of the barn on a farm of which Engle was the tenant. Engle had made a deed of assignment, but E. D. Siegrist, as auditor, found assets following the fire to be insufficient to pay even the tax claims.

—Patrolman Robert J. Bigelow, of the Altoona police, on Sunday arrested his brother, James H. Bigelow, 31, on a charge of murder following a shooting, believed the result of jealousy. Bigelow is charged with fatally wounding George Raymond Peacock, 22, of Coalport, when he found the latter in company with Mrs. Amelia Maciarielli, 31, of Altoona. The shooting followed a scuffle at the woman's home. Peacock was shot in the stomach, dying before reaching the hospital.

—After breaking into a brewery, at Shenandoah, last Thursday night where six trucks were being loaded with brew, two prohibition agents from Philadelphia were arrested by local policemen on charges of carrying deadly weapons and were forced to leave the place under a barrage of stones and refuse hurled at them by an irate group of citizens. In addition to suffering the indignity of arrests, Agents Pindro and Bower had their automobile wrecked by the riling mob, which literally ripped the machine apart as it stood in front of the brewery.

—Armed with a loaded rifle, Mrs. John E. Thomas, of Scranton, on Monday defied a gang of carpenters who tried to cut off part of the porch of her home. Her husband was not at home at the time. When she threatened to "blow off the head of the first man who dared to lay a finger on her property," the men beat a retreat. For some time a dispute over the building line has existed between the Thomas family and a neighbor, Joseph Schamberger, who engaged the carpenters to saw off a portion of the porch he claims projects over the line.

—Because the cops made it hot for her, Miss Elsie Devine, 24, of St. Peter's, Chester county, made it even hotter for the cops at Pottstown, on Monday. Miss Devine was locked up at city jail on a charge of being drunk in a public place, to wit, the street. She liked the street a lot better than her stuffy cell and proceeded to throw a shoe through one of the two tiny windows to get more ventilation. Jailers took her to another cell, one of them losing a shirt, ripped off by Miss Devine. There she announced that it was too hot to be locked up and set fire to a mattress to which she had been strapped. Jailers rescued her and extinguished the flames. Burgess Klink gave her a 30-day sentence in the "cool-er."

—Joseph Miller, a Wilkes-Barre telegrapher, denied on Monday that he was drowned at Niagara Falls Sunday afternoon. In fact, he wired police of that city that the portion of a body recovered from the river was not his, that he was in the best of health and back at his job with the Lehigh Valley Railroad at the terminal in Wilkes-Barre. The mixup came about when Edward Hattmacker, ticket agent at Bear Creek, who accompanied Miller on the week-end trip, fell asleep while he was in bathing, above the rapids. When he awoke and found Miller missing, he notified police. In their search police recovered a part of a man's body, which was believed to have been that of Miller. Hattmacker prepared to return alone, when he found Miller waiting for him on the train.

—Two convicted burglars awaiting sentence, escaped from the Bradford county jail Saturday night by sawing their way into the boiler room and walking through Sheriff McClelland's apartment. The fugitives are William Chandler, 23, and Anthony Sindona, 19, both of Denver, Colo. In a previous attempt to escape they had tried to tunnel out through a wall. Shortly before midnight Saturday they began their second attempt. First they seized trusty Charles Sullivan and while one was sawing, the other stood over Sullivan with a steel rod broken from a bed. After breaking through to the room containing the steam heater, they jimmied open the door to the sheriff's apartment, walked through and out his front door. They escaped at 4 A. M. Posses of citizens and officers have found no trace of the pair.