

INK SLINGS.

The Athletics are still far enough in the lead to make the pennant of this year a pleasant subject for contemplation.

As we read of the terrible floods in China and the almost incredible loss of life, we wonder if it is one of the Creator's plans for keeping down the ever increasing population of the earth.

On "sober, second thought" Governor Pinchot may change his mind about calling the General Assembly into extra session. If he should fall in his purpose it would be hard to shift responsibility for his expense.

Jack Dempsey is staging a comeback. It ought to be easy for him to "take" all of the heavy-weight contenders in this country, but knocking the crown off that Schmelling head is something else again. We fear Jack couldn't do that. Besides, he developed an aversion to fighting Germans some fourteen years ago.

The money that Japan has spent getting the Lindberghs will all be paid back eventually. The next big earthquake they have the Red Cross will be appealing for funds to succor the stricken. If the Colonel and Ann fly to China we hope they ask the rich Chinamen who will be lavishing entertainment on them for the cash that such affairs would cost, then give it for the millions who are said to be starving in that land right now.

We hear that overseer Tom Fleming is on the anxious bench. He is not so sure that he is going to be renominated by his party for the office he has held for 7 years. Tom was once a Democrat, but he has fared much better since changing his stripes, for besides being overseer he is the court crier and he frequents with which we have courts these days makes that a very lucrative plum. We voted for him once, but if he fails to get the nomination this time we shall shed no tears.

There are fifty-nine gentlemen in Centre county who are as much concerned about what will happen in the fifteenth of September as we are as to what the fifteenth of next April holds in store for us. Of course we refer to the candidates for county office who will be fishing for votes on that date. As we said two weeks ago this campaign has made so many strange political bed fellows that none of the candidates will really know who they were in with until the morning of the sixteenth of September.

It is said that the registration lists in the county show fourteen thousand Republicans and seven thousand Democrats. That means little to us, because we know that many Democrats changed their registration last year in order to vote or Pinchot at the primaries. Few of them have taken the trouble to change back. In several districts in the county we know that hundreds of Democrats changed their registration this spring in order to vote for a favorite in the Republican primaries. Under such political engine jumping conditions it is hard to determine what the relative voting strength of the parties is.

A recent edition of the "Houtzdale Citizen" carries a twenty four point head: "Methodists Should Know Their Code." When we first read it we thought perhaps the "Citizen" was either going after Bishop Cannon or taking the Methodists of its home town to task for doing a lot of things the discipline of the church does not permit. We were wrong in both surmises. The article calls attention to changes in the motor traffic laws and we presume that the compositor who set the head had a piece of bad copy that looked more like "Methodists" than "Motorists," which it was intended to be. However, the way they go riding on Sundays instead of to church, these days, one can't blame a printer who would think of Methodists and "Motorists" as virtually synonymous.

The merriest primary fight that Centre county has seen for years is now drawing to a close and everybody is set to sea as to just what the outcome of it will be. The Republicans, of course, are having the most fun, but there is one Democrat who isn't enjoying it as he should, because he can't find out what is "making the wheels go round." Apparently Senator Scott is sitting aloof. All he traps we have set have failed to catch Judge Fleming in anybody's snare. And the fact that county chairman Fleming and Tom Harter are for most of the Dale-Heverly-White slate is little consolation, though it is mildly intriguing. Dale, Heverly and White are head of the Pinchot crowd in Centre county and since they have the jobs to give it is only reasonable to believe that their favorites have a decided advantage and will win in the primaries. But who are they, outside of Keeler. That's what has been worrying us. A political bandwagon is only interesting when one knows who is on it.

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Resignation of Mr. Malone.

The resignation of James F. Malone, of Pittsburgh, from the office of Secretary of Property and Supplies in the cabinet of Governor Pinchot, was a startling surprise to the practical politicians of the State and must have been in the nature of a shock to the "holier than thou" admirers of the Governor. Mr. Malone is a practical politician of wide experience. A graduate of the Pittsburgh "Strip" he brought to the service of the faction with which he was affiliated a varied assortment of sinister tricks. For reasons which have never been explained, and probably never will be understood, he attached himself to Pinchot last year and was largely responsible for the Pinchot majority in Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh politicians are not, as a rule, of the adhesive variety and Mr. Malone, like the rest of them, frequently changed his factional label. But it may be said that he might be considered a rather steadfast adherent of Max Leslie, for some years Senator in the General Assembly, boss of the "Strip" district and an uncompromising enemy of Pinchot. Because of impaired health Senator Leslie voluntarily retired from public life a few years ago and thus automatically released Mr. Malone and all his other faithful followers to make such contacts or contracts as promised the richest rewards. Mr. Malone attached himself to Pinchot and was compensated with one of his most important offices.

But in the Pittsburgh "Strip" school of politics there is an unwritten rule that in minor matters the individual members shall have the right of personal choice. In the campaign for local offices, this year, Mr. Malone undertook to exercise this right. Mr. Pinchot, being less liberal-minded than Leslie, was not inclined to continue that policy and peremptorily ordered Malone to support a candidate for County Commissioner who carried the Pinchot label both on his breast and back. The result was an irreconcilable conflict. It may result in the ultimate defeat of the Pinchot policy of "rule or ruin". Mr. Malone has joined the army of unemployed.

A \$1,100,000,000 bond issue is contemplated in Washington. This calls to mind that people used to say unkind things of any administration that borrowed money in peace times.

Bishop Cannon Exposed.

The resumed investigation of Bishop Cannon's political activities in the campaign of 1928 reveals the fact that he is not only a confirmed political crook but a moral degenerate. The records show that he received from Edwin C. Jameson, of New York, the sum of \$65,000 to be used in the campaign of bigotry against Governor Smith. Of this sum he accounted for \$17,000 and apparently appropriated some of it to his own use. This involved not only the embezzlement of that amount but perjury in his sworn return. There can be no other interpretation of the transaction.

Moreover the evidence leaves nothing to conjecture in the matter. Perry Seay, vice president of the American National Bank, of Richmond, Va., testified that Bishop Cannon frequently made deposits in that bank "through checks drawn on the Cannon political account in the Washington bank, the deposits invariably being made to the personal account of the churchman." Several other bank officials testified to the Bishop's habit of "kiting checks," that is shifting from one bank to another, thus operating on a basis of fictitious credits to his personal advantage at the expense of his personal integrity.

In view of this cumulative testimony of fraudulent operations it is small wonder that Bishop Cannon resisted, by every available method and legal trick, a Congressional investigation of his political activities in the Presidential campaign of 1928. He made pretense that he was influenced by prohibition or religious prejudices. But the facts as exposed by the Senator Nye investigation indicate that the principal cause of his activity was an abnormal cupidity. It gave him opportunity to acquire money and he embraced it. The Methodist church is justly respected all over the world, but it takes long chances in honoring such men as Cannon must certainly be if he persists in the effort to cover his tracks.

Bishop Cannon pretends to be greatly outraged by the Senate Committee's investigation. "No rogue ever felt the halter draw with good opinion of the law."

Hoover is Not Free from Blame.

The Republican leaders are working as vigorously now to show that the administration is not responsible for hard times as they were three years ago to prove that it was. Herbert Hoover was especially active in this form of propaganda. Forgetting the panics of 1873 and 1907 and 1921, he painted glowing word pictures of the prosperity during the eight years he had served in the cabinets of President Harding and Coolidge and freely promised that in the event of his election the prosperity would not only be continued but vastly increased. He literally guaranteed a land "flowing in milk and honey", an era of unexampled wealth and contentment.

It would be unfair to charge Herbert Hoover with responsibility for the economic depression which followed his induction into the office of President but it is not unjust to say that his party is responsible, and that his ineptness has greatly prolonged the period of industrial distress. The speculative orgy which was encouraged by both his predecessor and himself precipitated the crash, the Grundy tariff aggravated it by closing world markets to products of soil and factory, and his stupid resistance to every practical method of alleviation prolonged it. The relief measures proposed by Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, and Senator Wagner, of New York, would have restored confidence and industrial activity a year ago.

Even now President Hoover is trying to deceive the public mind by creating "a fool's paradise" in the form of another commission to perform by some imaginary process, the service that the Federal government, and that agency alone, can perform and ought to perform. The Governor of New York has courageously and intelligently proposed the only plan possible under the limited authority of a State executive. He has pointed a way which, if adopted by the National government, would achieve the purpose. But it would impose a burden on those who contributed to the Republican campaign fund in 1928 and are expected to perform the same service next year.

The underworld has lost another "shining light." Mickey Duffey, of Philadelphia, was murdered in an Atlantic City hotel last Saturday.

Will Rogers Exposes a Fraud.

Will Rogers observes: "Mr. Mellon is to-day's headliner, borrowing \$1,100,000,000 at three per cent. He could have got it for about 1 1/2, but wanted to give the boys a break. This means they are going to finance by borrowing instead of increased taxes on those able to pay. It's too close to election to antagonize the big boys." Mr. Rogers submits this as a specimen of humor. As a matter of fact it is an expression of high class philosophy. It reveals the policy and purpose of the Hoover administration. The high-bracket income tax payers must be protected even though the charitable inclined are "bled white."

By mismanagement, or stupid calculation, or both, the national treasury has been drained to the limit while the vaults of the banks are practically bursting. The deficit of nearly a billion dollars at the beginning of the fiscal year has been increased at the rate of several million dollars a month. There are two ways of remedying this positive and palpable evil. One is to increase revenues and the other to borrow money, thus shifting the burden to posterity. By borrowing the public is chloroformed into contentment by fraud. If the taxes are increased the rich resent the method and refuse to fatten the slush fund.

The administration imagines it can put this fraud over on the public. But it hasn't fooled Will Rogers. Maybe it will be equally unsuccessful with respect to millions of others. The public schools of the country have been hard on the manufacturers and distributors of hokum in recent years and tricks that could be put across a few years ago are no longer efficient. Possibly Herbert Hoover and Andrew Mellon are not aware of the change in public intelligence. But a radical change has occurred and snake doctors and political charlatans are no longer able to fool a majority of the people, even part of the time.

Ramsay MacDonald is still Prime Minister of Great Britain but he has lost his job as head of the Labor party. There will be no third party next year and the Republican party will be a poor second.

Bankers and Farmers Must Work Together.

Concrete evidence of aid that the bankers of the State have given to agriculture in general, and to the farmers of their respective communities in particular, was reported by N. E. Robb, treasurer of the Bellefonte Trust company, Bellefonte, on his return from State College where the Pennsylvania Bankers Association committee on agriculture and the county key bankers held their fourth annual conference Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Examples of successful projects that had been carried out by banks in various counties of the State were recited in detail by the bankers who suggested that other communities might try them with profit to the farmer and the banker as well.

Sponsoring such projects, particularly in times of financial stress as at present, is one of the rural banker's chief responsibilities, in the opinion of those who addressed the group during the two-day sessions. Tours of the county by the county bankers' association, exhibits of farm products in the bank building, organization of club activities for boys and girls, advertising campaigns to stimulate consumption of a certain product, and assistance with cooperatives were pointed out as some of the more successful projects to be backed by a bank.

Organization of a bankers' association within the county was declared by the visitors to be almost indispensable in the furtherance of a successful banker-farmer program.

Underlying the entire agricultural situation in Pennsylvania is a feeling of confidence in himself on the part of the farmer, Mr. Charles F. Zimmerman, of Huntingdon, secretary of the State association, told the delegates in his address. This self-confidence is a trust that the banker must not betray when the farmer needs financial help. Mr. Zimmerman declared, and added that in his observation the Pennsylvania farmer has no intention of folding up and quitting in the face of adversity, but is digging in to see the job through.

Rural taxation problems were mentioned by nearly every speaker on the program. The general feeling on the part of the bankers is that there must be a revision of taxes to bring about a parity between farm income and the income from the industrial system before there is a complete restoration of the country's purchasing power. A tax program based on the earning capacity of the farm was recommended as a possible step to bring about stabilization.

Work that the Pennsylvania State College is doing through its agricultural extension service came in for praise by the bankers who agreed that it would be virtually impossible to carry out a project of farmer aid without the assistance of the county agents. M. S. McDowell, director of this extension work, urged the bankers to encourage members of the community to take part in this program, stating that the county agent and the banker could not do it alone.

One out-of-State banker addressed the group, Dr. Harold Stoiner, educational director of the American Institute of Banking, New York City. Among the speakers on the program who were assigned by Mr. William S. McKay, of Greenville, director of the conference and treasurer of the State association, to discuss various topics was: N. E. Robb, of Bellefonte.

"He kept us out of Communism" is to be the Hoover slogan, next year, a Washington correspondent announces. He kept us hungry would be a fitter statement.

The executioner is at work in Harrisburg. Fifty eight employees of the Revenue Department were dismissed in one day last week.

Green county, Indiana, is now the centre of population but Boston still claims to be the "hub" of the universe.

The cheerful news comes from Baltimore that "bivalves are plentiful and of good size" this year.

According to gossip Pinchot woes are multiplying. Even Sam Lewis is threatening to revolt.

All the political experts are predicting a break between Pinchot and Grundy.

When you read it in the Watchman you know it's true.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY

Items taken from the Watchman issue of September 9, 1931.

Miss Edith, daughter of John P. Harris, has gone to Boston where she will enter Wellesboro college. (The Watchman of fifty years ago probably didn't know that it was Wellesley and that it is not located in Boston—Editor's Note.)

Reports from Pennsylvania valley are to the effect that it is very dry over there and farming is at a standstill because the ground cannot be plowed. Springs are ceasing to flow and trees are dying.

The Bellefonte car works are now turning out an average of six cars a day.

Tuesday last was the hottest day we have had this summer.

Those abominations known as "hoops" are in style again. If ladies knew how much bet. e. they look without them they would be discarded entirely.

William H. Decker, of Walker township, while plowing in one of his father's fields, a few days ago, turned up a nest containing 36 snake eggs. He left them exposed to the sun while he plowed several rounds and then discovered 36 tiny snakes emerging from them.

Supt. Samuel Rine informs us that the drought has caused the Big Spring to fall three and one-half inches, but as it is still flowing at the rate of 14,600 gallons per minute there seems to be no cause for worry. (Evidently either the calculation of the spring's flow fifty years ago or that today is in error. If Supt. Rine's figures were correct the flow was twenty-one million gallons daily at that time whereas now it is only eleven and one-half million. So far as our observation is concerned its flow has not decreased a bit in that period.—Editor's Note.)

On Tuesday afternoon last the grass on the lawn of the Daniel Rhoads home on West Linn street spontaneously combusted and the fire was very threatening for a while. It was finally beaten out before any buildings were set ablaze. It was so dry and hot that it might have been a case of spontaneous combustion, but we question that.

The Mattern Bros. have opened a general merchandise store at Scotia.

Thermometers in Bellefonte registered from 102 to 104 last Tuesday.

A forest fire swept in to Houtzdale last Tuesday and before it could be stopped about half of that thriving mining town was licked up by the flames. Scarcity of water rendered impotent the efforts of those who tried to stop it.

William Long, of Bennezetette, is in jail for stealing a watch chain at Weidman's jewelry store in Lock Haven. He was caught because a Nittany Valley girl to whom he had given it left it at Martin Fauble's jewelry store to be cleaned and Mr. Fauble, thinking there was something suspicious about her actions, notified the authorities.

Gum Boo is the name of the first Chinaman to locate in Bellefonte. He came here from Pittsburgh, on Tuesday, and will open a laundry in the McAfferty block on west High street. (The McAfferty block in question was a one-story frame building that stood approximately on the site of the present Potter-Hoy Hardware warehouse on west High street. It had four store rooms fronting on High and three fronting on Railroad—Editor's Note.)

Nearly all of the Berwind White and Co's hands in the Snow Shoe region are out fighting forest fires. On Wednesday the railroad trestle near Snow Shoe caught fire and only their most heroic efforts saved it from destruction.

Donation Week For Presbyterian Home.

The annual donation to the Presbyterian home, at Hollidaysburg, has been set for the week beginning October 19th, and a call has been extended to members of all the churches in the Huntingdon Presbytery. Everything in the line of farm and garden produce, groceries, etc., will be acceptable.

The home needs an abundance of small fruits for pies and desserts. Last year, or from February 14th, 1930, to February 14th, 1931, a total of 64,000 meals were served. Every room in the home is now ready to be occupied and admission papers have been prepared and accepted. Two new residents will be admitted this month.

At present the home accommodates 51 accepted guests and to operate it requires the service of a superintendent, matron, nurse, two infirm attendants, laundress, two cooks, an assistant cook, two dining room girls and two housemaids, a total of 64 people to feed and care for. The needs of the home are much greater this year than ever before and in order that no donations may be overlooked trucks and cars will be sent around among the members of every church to gather up the donations.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles during the past week withdrew the cards of 90 drivers. Of the total 15 were revoked and 75 suspended.

Attaches of the State Game Commission are working on the job of trapping about 250 beaver on the watershed of the Lewisburg Water company because of complaints made against their presence. Up to last Friday thirty of the animals had been trapped.

H. G. and J. L. Probst, both of Lock Haven, have opened a mattress factory under the name of the Lock Haven Mattress company, which is housed for the present on the second floor of the H. E. Probst building on east Church street. The new company will manufacture and repair mattresses.

Henry Summers, 20 years old, of Flemington, lost the end of the middle finger of his left hand, one evening last week, when a bull he was hauling on a truck in a crate became infuriated and pulled the rope which was around the animal's neck and also about Summers' wrist. Summers' fingers were drawn between the slats of the crate.

With only sixty-seven cases reported so far this year, the Pennsylvania State Health Department has little fear concerning the infantile paralysis situation in the State, Health Secretary Theodore B. Appel said on Monday. The disease is not considered serious, he said, except when more than 250 cases appear in the State in a year's time.

Charles Fashion, 42, Altoona roadhouse cafe owner, wanted for the murder of his brother, Joseph Fashion, 32, of Twin Rocks, and the wounding of his wife, Mrs. Angelo Fashion, 34, Altoona, was arrested late on Tuesday, at Newark, N. J. The arrest followed the broadcasting of a message through the police teletype system. He is said to have admitted to the shooting.

Andrew Israele, of 512 Burns street, Gallitzin, was instantly killed on Tuesday, at 4:05 p. m., in the Argyle Tunnel coal mine, a short distance east of Gallitzin, when he was walking beside mine cars which crashed into a mule, wrecking the cars against the wall of the mine and crushing him. He had finished his work and was on his way out of the mine when the accident occurred.

Nanticoke police broke up what they have reason to believe was a counterfeit ring which, according to the officers had flooded the United States with fake \$20 bills. Five persons, a woman, her three sons and a man, who gave their home city as Cleveland, Ohio, were arrested after three of the men tried to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill on a gasoline station attendant in Nanticoke. An engraver's steel plate, printing press and 101 counterfeit \$20 bills were confiscated.

Police authorities are seeking two highwaymen who late Tuesday night of last week held up W. J. Tate, Curwensville, and robbed him of \$100 on the state highway between the State nursery and Penfield. Tate, salesman for the Oswald and Heas Meat Packing company, of Pittsburgh, was enroute to his home in Clearfield when held up. He was stopped by a signal from a red light on the highway. He was forced to leave his machine and was relieved of his cash.

Newton Orendorff, farmer, of Pigeon Hills, York county, received a letter two weeks ago, warning him a large haystack on his property was to be burned. He disregarded the warning and the stack was burned. When he received another note last week saying his barn was to be destroyed, Orendorff took the hint and kept watch every night. Nothing happened and early on Sunday he relaxed his vigil after locking the barn doors. Soon after he left the structure was discovered in flames and despite efforts of firemen it was destroyed. His loss was estimated at \$400.

Within three weeks to the day they beat and robbed an aged farmer, Charles O. Edwards, 24, of Bedford, and Clifford Ashton, 20, of New Hope, were sentenced to long prison terms by Judge Hiram Keller, in Bucks county court on Tuesday. Edwards, who engineered the holdup, was sentenced to serve from nine to 18 years in the eastern penitentiary, while Ashton was given seven and one-half to 15 years in the same prison. The bandits held up James R. Hansell, 64-year old Buckingham farmer, on the night of August 12, taking \$4000 which he carried in a tobacco pouch.

Discovery of a ten-acre patch of marijuana, a rare weed containing a dangerous and powerful habit-forming drug, within the precincts Philadelphia, was reported last Friday by United States customs officials. The growth of the narcotic, commonly known as "loco weed," would have brought \$125,000 at underworld prices, narcotic agents said. Customs officials believe it was planted by persons seeking to evade the narcotic laws prohibiting its importation and use. The board of health department notified owners of the property, the location of which is being kept secret, that the weeds will be burned.

Daniel Latshaw, 22, of Dornisite, Northumberland county, is convinced he would make a good preacher. He felt a call to enter the ministry last spring, and decided to raise chickens to get funds for his education. Monday of last week he found a door of his coop broken and 150 of his 210 chickens stolen. He spurned police aid to recover the chickens, and secluded himself in prayer for three days. Saturday morning he found the lock on his coop broken again, and entered expecting to find the rest of his chickens stolen. Instead, he found his prayers answered. The thief had returned every one of the 150 stolen chickens unharmed.

Thirteen contracting firms on Tuesday submitted bids for construction work on the \$1,600,000 Pymatung Dam project in northwestern Pennsylvania, each bidder submitting figures for 30 different units of work. Officials of the State Water and Power Resources Board said that tabulation for the lowest bidder on the 900 units would require at least several days. The barrier will be an earth embankment 2400 feet long and fifty feet in maximum height. Other units in the construction of the dam include 570,000 cubic yards embankment, 130,000 cubic yards excavation, 5000 cubic yards concrete, 900 tons of steel sheet piling, 9000 cubic yards of riprap and 4000 cubic yards of stone paving. When completed, the river will be dammed up to form the largest lake in Pennsylvania with an area almost 3000 acres larger than that of Lake Chautauqua, in New York.