

—Why not Wagner Geiss for Register? He is accurate, methodical, a good penman and in every way qualified to make a splendid official.

—Quite a little building boom is being launched in Bellefonte. It is none too soon for the housing question here is a very serious one.

—Anyway we've all saved two weeks winter coal consumption by the warm weather. Last fall most furnace fires in the homes in this section were lighted the latter part of September.

—On page two of this issue is a worth-while article under the head "Let's All Strike." Read it and you will be impressed with the vein of reason that crops out all through the fine humor in it.

—If you are buying and laying away more sugar than your immediate need requires you are keeping your neighbor from getting his or her share of the commodity and doing your best to help boost the price of it.

—Senator Penrose has discovered another "mare's nest." His statement that President and Mrs. Wilson had accumulated a million dollars' worth of presents during their recent sojourn in Europe has brought out the fact that they received a few tokens of practically no intrinsic value.

—By publishing the list of the presents they received during their stay abroad the President and Mrs. Wilson have shown Senator Penrose up in a rather unenviable light, but they have rather disappointed the rest of us by disclosing that the gifts were far simpler than we had imagined them to be.

—Bill Brown has occupied the Recorder's office seven years and he wants four years more of it. Of course no one will blame Bill for wanting all he can get, but if all county officials held on that long a very few men of either party would have any of the plums during an ordinary life time.

—James E. Harter, of Penn township, should be the next Treasurer of Centre county because he is just the substantial, thoroughgoing, conservative type of man who would fill the office to perfection. He'd be on the job all the time and we fancy that Mr. Mayes would be so busy crying sales in the spring and handling his big marble business in the summer and fall that he would only be found in the office at such times as his commissions were to be figured out.

—The candidacy of John J. Bower for District Attorney has excited considerable comment that is very favorable to the success of his aspirations. He is so well known throughout Centre county, so Democratic in his manner and has been so unselfish with his time in doing kindly things for others that he is just naturally popular and, being a very capable lawyer, he has all the requisites that go to make up the kind of a District Attorney many people want to vote for.

—Wonder how Senator Henry Cabot Lodge felt while sitting in the convention of his own party and in his home State, last week, when he heard it pass a resolution demanding the immediate ratification of the peace treaty without amendments? Lodge has been the most obnoxious and obstinate of the Senators who have been holding up legislation at Washington and this rebuke by his own party in Massachusetts must surely have stung him to the quick, but it was deserved.

—If one good turn doesn't deserve another then all the meaning of gratitude is changed. Capt. Dick Taylor was so keen to answer his country's call that he went with a broken leg not entirely healed. Many another would have seized that as a very proper excuse for staying at home, but not Capt. Dick. He went to fight for your fireside and for ours and he left a fireside just as dear to him as ours is to us to do it. He would like to be the next sheriff of Centre county and it seems to us that a grateful people ought to rebuke anyone who would deny him that reward.

—Now, if never before, do we need men, not politicians in the commissioner's office. With state roads being built in all directions and new surveys damaging properties along their routes we must have good, level-headed men in the office where such matters are adjudicated. Men who will be fair to the property owner who has suffered as well as to the rest of the tax payers who will have to make up the damages. A man who "can be reached" isn't safe in any office, but he can be especially costly in the commissioner's office. Take no chances by electing a County Commissioner who can be bossed by some politician who wants to "put something over."

—For years Centre county has had most efficient Prothonotaries. They have been men invariably schooled in the duties of the office through service as assistants in the court house. The office is one that can be a great comfort to attorneys especially or it can be a serious handicap to them in the prompt and accurate handling of the business of their clients. It needs a man conversant with court rules and forms and for that reason, and many others that might be mentioned, Harry N. Meyer is the logical man. He has been commissioner's clerk long enough to be well acquainted with the work in the Prothonotary's office and starts in the race with this distinct advantage over his opponent.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION

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Vares Have Adopted Hampy.

The Vares, of Philadelphia, according to the newspapers of that city, have at last acknowledged the nomination of Mr. Moore as the Republican candidate for Mayor. They exhausted every expedient before the primaries and caused the expenditure of thousands of dollars of public money since, to prevent that result. But it was an impossible undertaking. A majority of votes had been cast and counted for him and there was no escape from the consequences. If the Vares had refused to acknowledge the fact they would have been the losers. Moore will be elected in November and be inducted into office in January in any event and the Vares are wise enough to make the best of a bad situation.

But though Moore has been nominated and will be elected it can hardly be said that the Vares have been defeated. Their candidate for the nomination against Moore has been thrown on the political scrap heap. He will be remembered for a brief period as the servile instrument the Vares employed to renew their franchise to loot, and then forgotten. But the Vares will not be disposed of in that way. They will simply adopt Moore as their own and move and manipulate him precisely as they would have used Mr. Patterson if he had been nominated. The late Mr. Corrigan, in his time boss of Kansas City, pointed the way for them. "If you can't lick 'im jine 'im," expressed his political philosophy and it is theirs.

The same issues of the Philadelphia papers that convey the information of the Vares' acknowledgement that Moore has been nominated also let the confiding public into the secret of Vares' purpose. They couldn't lick Moore but they can jine him and apparently on their own terms. That is they intend to let Moore join them and have already issued the invitation which he has promptly accepted. The event will be staged in the rooms of the Vares City committee in the near future and it is expected that the ceremonies will be interesting if not exactly impressive. The traditional entertainment of the innocent fly for the voracious spider will be surpassed with the sweet music of Moore's throat added.

—Having been practically shoved off the front page Attorney General Palmer has come to the sensible conclusion that public opinion is the instrument which must be depended upon to bring down prices.

British Strike Settled.

The peaceful settlement of the railway strike in London removes a grave menace to the peace and prosperity of Great Britain. For a considerable period the business life of the city and all the industrial sections of England was disordered by the enforced idleness of transportation facilities. But the danger has been averted by an agreement among those concerned upon a basis that satisfies both and gives victory to neither. Premier Lloyd George adopted the plan suggested by President Wilson for the adjustment of the Steel workers' strike in this country. It remains to be seen whether the same methods will achieve the same result in this country. It is a problem which puts intelligence to the test.

There is no just reason for the Steel workers' strike in this country at this time. There are many reasons for believing that it is the result of a mischievous agitation on the part of selfish men for ulterior purposes. There is a vast difference between the attitude of Judge Gary, head of the Steel corporation, and Lloyd George, head of the British cabinet. Judge Gary imagines that an appeal to force is the remedy while Lloyd George knows that an appeal to reason is the surer remedy. On the other hand, however, the British strikers were under the guidance of conservative and capable men while the discontented steel workers here have been listening to the sophisms of advocates of anarchy.

A conference similar to that in which the British labor troubles were settled on Sunday is now in progress in Washington and it may yet be hoped that it will prove equally successful. Unfortunately the President's illness will prevent his participation in the work, though it is the product of his mind, but with Gompers on one side and the constructive leaders of capital on the other, it is possible to reach a wise conclusion and an enduring settlement of differences. But the anarchists as well as the slave-drivers will have to be kept out of the conference. They are equally destructive of peace and tranquility.

—Now don't lose sight of Will Hays, the Republican National chairman. Like Artemus Ward's kangaroo, Will is "an amusin' little cuss."

—The Vares machine in Philadelphia dies hard but it lived badly and ought to suffer.

Significant and Promising.

The most significant as well as promising incident of the week in Washington was the defeat, by substantial majorities, of the thirty-six amendments to the peace treaty, proposed by Senator Fall, of New Mexico, and approved by the Senate committee on Foreign Relations. The amendments were puerile but the purpose of them was vicious. Senator Fall, just previous to our declaration of war against Germany, tried in every way to embroil the country in war with Mexico in order to keep us out of the European conflict, thus proving his sympathy with the plans of the Kaiser and the militarists who controlled his actions. In his efforts to mutilate the treaty he is following the same lines.

The Fall amendments would not have defeated the treaty, even if they had been adopted, or greatly impaired its force. But they would have delayed the restoration of peace and continued the uncertain condition of industry and commerce until after the next Presidential election, thus giving the Republican party the advantage which invariably follows popular discontent. It was a vicious political enterprise for it involved the sacrifice of the industrial life of the country on the altar of party spoils. Fortunately there are not enough Senators so perfidious as to perpetrate the crime but to the shame of Pennsylvania it must be said that both of our Senators were willing to share the infamy.

The Johnson amendment reversing the action of the Peace Conference on the Shantung proposition remains a source of danger but the decisive defeat of the Fall amendments justifies the hope that it will be disposed of in the same way. The adoption of that amendment means war is certain as fate. It is above all things what the military autocrats of Germany desire for it will solidify Japan and Germany in a purpose to punish the people of the United States. Of course their efforts would be futile but they would cost millions of lives and billions of treasure and set a standard of atrocity never even dreamed of by the brutal Huns. Senators Fall and Johnson are serving this evil end.

—It's rather a mean thought but an esteemed contemporary suggests that D'Annunzio is simply working a rather daring advertising scheme.

Hope-Inspiring Amendment.

At a meeting of the Democratic National committee held in Atlantic City last Friday an announcement was made that "the committee realizes that its function is to elect and not nominate, and that there would be no Presidential candidates discussed or groomed during the meeting." This is easily the most hope-inspiring declaration that has come from that source in recent years. Of late a pernicious practice has come into vogue, in both parties, of the organization spending its force and exhausting its energies in the primary contests for candidates. Naturally this developed factional enmities among the voters. It is gratifying to find that the Democratic National committee has set its face against the evil.

In Pennsylvania the Democratic party has suffered especially from this political crime. Two years ago, after the so-called State organization had misappropriated thousands of dollars collected from voters to put across a favorite who was particularly obnoxious, the member of the National committee for the State repudiated the nominee, thus making certain the election of the Republican candidate who happened to be a personal friend and college chum of the perfidious committeeman. Other instances of the evil effects of organization activities in primary contests might be cited but what's the use. If it is stopped they may be forgotten. In that event "let the dead past bury its dead."

But there are reasons to apprehend that the good resolution of the National committee as expressed in the Atlantic City announcement is not to apply to Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania member of the committee was not present when the announcement was made and he is likely to assume that it is not binding upon him. In fact it has been alleged that his State committee is already levying assessments upon and collecting tribute from Federal office-holders to be used in electing delegates favorable to him as a candidate for the Presidential nomination and securing State committeemen who will obey him, right or wrong, after the nominations are made. A Mitchell Palmer regards neither honor nor morals in public.

—Don't wait until the last moment to urge voters to go to the election. Like Christmas shopping that ought to be attended to early.

—When the world series ball players count up their earnings for the week Mr. Rockefeller will have reason to turn green with envy.

Plain Hint to Senator Lodge.

Unless Senator Lodge is more stupid than he looks the action of the Massachusetts Republican State convention on Saturday admonishes him to change his course. That convention for which Lodge pretends to stand in the Senate declared for "the prompt ratification of the treaty of peace without amendments." Senator Lodge has been working over time for three months to prevent prompt ratification and to amend the instrument. It would seem, therefore, that he is not in harmony with his party in the State he represents and is leading for a defeat. The convention added an expression of pride in Senator Lodge because of "his efforts to bring about prompt action on the treaty."

This sort of Pickwickian endorsement must make the Senator feel that it is about time to back-pedal on the Johnson-Borah stuff. The egging of Senator Reed, in Oklahoma, may not show Reed the trend of public sentiment or teach Senator Gore the plain lesson it implies, but it ought to strike Senator Lodge as indicating the desires of the people and taken in connection with the declaration of the convention of his party in the State in which he lives, influence him to justify the statement that he has endeavored "to bring about prompt action on the treaty." He knows that the praise bestowed upon him in that way was not deserved and he may make up his mind to justify it in future.

As President Wilson said in one of his western speeches, ninety per cent. of the people of the country favor the speedy ratification of the treaty and the covenant of the League of Nations. It is within the limit of reason to say that eighty per cent. of them favor the prompt endorsement of both without amendments or reservations. The fight against such action is the result of personal enmity against the President. His splendid administration of the high office has embittered the Lodges and others who have aspirations or ambitions to succeed him for they feel that his influence will prevent the election of a Republican President while he lives. But they are injuring themselves rather than him.

—It is not likely that Herbert Hoover will run for President at all but it is a safe bet that in the event he should develop that ambition he wouldn't tie up with Jim Reed and Hi Johnson, who are now shaping the policies of the Republican party.

No Railroad Legislation Likely.

There seems to be little hope of railroad regulation legislation during the special session of Congress. At the evening of the last session the President stated his purpose to relinquish government control at the expiration of the present year and urged the enactment of such legislation as would secure the public and the corporations from disaster. Months have passed since and the Republican majority of the House of Representatives has been holding public hearings and otherwise fooling away time, but nothing looking toward a solution of the problem has been accomplished. If the railroads are restored to the owners at the close of the year trouble is certain.

When the government assumed control of the railroads they were completely submerged in debt and other difficulties. At vast expense in money and labor they were rescued, or at least saved from collapse, by the intelligent and courageous management of the administration which operated under the greatest disadvantages. Railroad officials for selfish reasons threw every available obstacle in the way of success and finally forced Director General McAdoo to resign. Since that time matters of the railroads have been going from bad to worse notwithstanding the splendid efforts of Mr. Hines to avoid calamity. Now Congress has practically determined "let things slide," so to speak.

The Republican majority in Congress was bought and paid for by the railroad officials who want to renew their franchise to exploit and the stock brokers who desire to speculate in transportation securities and in refusing to enact needed legislation on the subject the Republicans are keeping faith with the railroad officials and stock jobbers at the expense of the public and the shareholders. But the result will be disappointing even to those who bargained for it. Wrecking the railroads will stimulate speculation, no doubt, but it will be followed by such industrial disaster as will be appalling. Those who voted in a Republican majority will be to blame, however.

—At the same time the recently developed love of Chinamen among Republican leaders is more or less surprising.

—Even rotten eggs thrown at Senator Reed, of Missouri, are wasteful. He isn't worth the trouble of assembling the eggs.

A Word to Voters.

From the DuBois Express. No citizen, man or woman, worker or employer, can fairly answer the question, "What has the special session of Congress done for me?" without a sense of regret at having voted last autumn to supplant the Democratic majority. More than two months have elapsed since President Wilson recommended to the special session the passage of certain statutes which were intended and required to curb profiteering, to reduce or at least stabilize the cost of living, and to restore business to the normal status of peace. Not one of the President's recommendations has become law; no substantial progress has been made toward their serious consideration.

In the House of Representatives the Republican majority is a composite of factions which are a unit upon only one policy—that of opposing the President. In every question of constructive legislation they are an incoherent aggregation of cabals and coteries, unable and unwilling to cooperate either with President Wilson or their own punitive leaders. The Senate's record of inaction and recalcitrance is known to all the world. It has become notorious under its reactionary Republican control, not for what it has done, right or wrong, but for all that it has refused to do.

Opposing peace under whatever guise of patriotism its partisan directors have chosen to assume, it has perpetrated every condition of war save that of certainty. What do the Republican masses think of their representatives in Congress? What do they propose doing to correct the evils which they voted upon the country—though perhaps unwittingly? They cannot escape responsibility for their party save by reforming or repudiating its leadership.

Why It is a Power.

From the Doylestown Democrat. The average man can live in a big city all his life and never see his name in the paper, but the farmer and the average man and woman in any small town will see their names in their local country newspaper at least ten times a year, and always some faithful service, something that connected with some worthy cause, brings joy all through life. The country newspaper is the paper that spreads happiness and content.

Don't you always want to read about the ball game you saw the day before? If you witness a fire you read the details of that fire with double interest. If you hadn't seen the blaze perhaps you would not read the story at all. Why is this? asks the Oelwein (Ia.) Iowan. It is because the things you know about are the things you like to read about. That is why country newspapers have such a tremendous hold on their readers. They tell them about the comings and goings of their friends and neighbors, the people they know. Nothing on earth is as interesting to the farmers and people living in town as the news of their babies, the marriage of their girls and boys, their social and church events, the illness and deaths among their friends. Year after year the country newspaper records the history of its community.

Is it any wonder the country newspaper is the most powerful advertising medium on earth? Just as its power is great in holding its readers' interest, so is it helpful in shaping thought and powerful as an advertising medium. It turns the printed word almost into the spoken word. No metropolitan daily, no magazine, no bill board, no farm journal—good as they all are—rings the bell with farmers and small town people as does their home newspaper. It is an integral part of the community that cannot be filled by any other medium.

Twice Repudiated.

From the Philadelphia Record. It is not given to every politician to achieve the distinction of being twice repudiated by his own party within three days, but Senator Lodge has made that record and seems proud of it. The Senate committee on Foreign Relations, of which he is chairman, had made through him a favorable report on thirty-six amendments to the peace treaty proposed by Senator Fall. Senator Lodge made a long speech in support of these amendments of which he expressed his strong approval. By majorities ranging from 15 to 28 the Senate on Thursday last contemptuously tossed the whole bunch into the waste basket.

Smarting under this reverse, the Massachusetts Senator hurried away to his home State, where Republicans held their convention on Saturday. There, after making a bitter fight to secure a complete indorsement of his course, he had the mortification of having to listen to the reading of a platform favoring "prompt ratification of the treaty of peace without amendment, but with such equivocal and effective reservations," etc. To save his face the great Henry had to insist that he would continue his policy unchanged, and such is his obstinacy that he will probably do so. He now knows, however, what a very large majority of his Senatorial colleagues and of the people of his own State think of his brand of partisanship. Such defeats would make a deep dent on an ordinary mind, but on a Lodge—!

—Everybody strikes except the Chicago ball players.

SPAWES FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—By the will of Miss Mary E. Smith, of Milton, who died last summer, that borough will get her estate said to be worth upward of \$25,000, for a hospital fund. Milton is the only town of any size in that part of the State that does not have such an institution, although it is an industrial center.

—Struck by a Lackawanna express train near Northumberland, five Jersey cows owned by Ira Churm were killed. They were valued at \$1500. The animals were being driven across the tracks by a boy, and when the train came into view they became frightened and huddled together on the tracks.

—Airplane advertising doesn't go in Altoona. A realty dealer in that place is \$20 poorer as a result of a fine imposed by Mayor Charles E. Rhodes. The real estate man flew over Altoona and scattered circulars in the streets against an ordinance of the city which requires that they be placed under the doors of homes.

—Furs which cost at wholesale nearly \$5000 were stolen from Meyer Jonasson & Co's store, in Altoona, last Thursday night. Police say the robbery was committed by professionals, who evidently carried off the goods in an automobile. The store was ransacked. All the cash registers were smashed, but yielded only about \$25.

—John Rockwell, aged thirteen years, of near Sellingsgrove, was near death last Thursday, when attacked by a big bull on his father's farm. The boy rode into the field where the animal stood grazing. The bull attacked and killed the youngster's pony. While its attention was directed toward going the pony the youth succeeded in getting outside the fence and making his escape.

—The vicinity of Crosby, Tioga county, is gaining an unenviable reputation for holdups. While Mrs. William Carr and daughters were driving near there a man stepped from the bushes and attempted to grab the horses while Mrs. Carr held the whip to the beast, who quickly took them out of danger, nearly running over the highwayman. This is the second attempt made in a few days in that neighborhood.

—Elias Bader, an Altoona shopkeeper, was fined \$100 and costs by Judge Baldrige on Monday, for selling cigarettes to minors, following the entering of a plea of guilty. The prosecution was brought by John R. Bratton, trustee officer, for the school board. The offense charged is furnishing the "coffin nails" to school boys. Warning was given to dealers to carefully guard against the practice of selling this species of smoker to persons under 21 years of age.

—When the state police swooped down on a farm at Mount Zion, Reading, on Monday, they confiscated a considerable quantity of illicit whiskey, enough ingredients to manufacture several barrels of liquor, together with a modern up-to-date still. James Bariele was placed under arrest charged with operating the still. Moonshine whiskey has been finding its way into the mining towns of that valley for some time but previous efforts to locate the manufactory did not meet with much success.

—After a long illness due to shock produced by circus and vaudeville exhibitions, in which he used to catch heavy cannon balls on his neck and back, Elmer K. Krumbine, a professional acrobat, died on Saturday at his home in Omeisford, Berks county. Krumbine, who was 57 years of age, toured America, Europe and Asia for nearly forty years, becoming a circus performer at the age of 17 years, using the name "Rixford." The cannon ball trick was genuine and caused a spinal and nerve ailment which eventually ended his life.

—Believing that relatives were trying to get her money, Mrs. Mary Fell, an aged Doylestown woman, tied herself rather securely by a long rope to a guard rail near the Lumberton quarries, Bucks county, on Wednesday afternoon and waded into the canal in an attempt to drown herself, but was rescued by W. C. Young, of Lumberville, a canal foreman, and his men. Mrs. Fell in a perfectly calm manner pleaded with the men to allow her to die, but they took her to the shore and took her to Mr. Young's home, where her clothing was dried, and she was cared for until a friend arrived to take her home.

—You can't tell F. A. Ackley, of Westfield, anything about cholera death on a piece of meat. He has all but accomplished it himself, having passed into insensibility, his pulse disappearing entirely, so that the real suffering was probably over, though he was revived. It was at the supper table, one evening recently, when the accident occurred. The frightened family tucked him on the back, but his wife was being gradually shut off. A physician was summoned, but before he got there Ackley was unconscious. Relatives worked his arms and punched him until the meat was expelled, and though his heart had ceased to beat, to all appearances, they continued to work his arms and used artificial respiration until he recovered.

—The possibility that Ulster may become a gold mining center in Bradford county looms large in the sight of children that place since the find which Gordon Grant and Joseph Carr made while working on the state road recently. Near the Vandike farm about one half a mile below the town, the two men found some pieces of ore in the dirt which they lifted out of the road bed. As the substance looked very much like gold it was taken to the Elbert jewelry store where it is now on exhibition. So positive are Grant and Campbell that they have found gold that they are going to send the pieces away for a test. The result will be as eagerly awaited by people in that vicinity as the outcome of the alleged big discovery of potash deposits in Tioga county is being watched by the people of that section of the State.

—Deer in the Hoagland Run mountains of Anthony township, Lycoming county, have proved very destructive to the apple crop of Stephen Elder, of Stony Gap. Reports state that the deer eat fifty bushels of apples belonging to Mr. Elder and that they have destroyed other crops of the farmers in that vicinity. The Elder farm is located on the public road leading from Cogan Station to Salladasburg and his apple orchard adjoins the Hoagland Run mountains. Recently the deer came into the orchard and, not satisfied with eating the apples on the ground, got with a quantity of winter apples lying on piles besides many that were pulled from the lower branches of the trees in the orchard. The farm of Frank Fisher was also visited recently by deer and there they ate a large quantity of buckwheat before leaving. Three deer were seen at that time. The Fisher farm is within a mile of the Elder farm.