

The high cost of bidding was in evidence at a public sale in this county during the week when chickens were run up to two dollars and a half apiece.

Wood's Hole is the place at which the President and his family will spend the summer. No, dear reader, it wasn't named specially for Woodrow Wilson.

Why all this fuss and expense over finding out whether the navy was or was not prepared for the war? Certainly it did all that could have been expected of it.

After his years of brilliant achievement in food conservation it shocks our sense of the proprieties to see Herbert Hoover starting in to spill the Republican presidential beans all over the country.

Early yesterday morning (April first) a gentleman brought to this office one full dozen quarts of Three Feathers and four bottles of Three Star and presented them to the editor with his compliments. Weather permitting we are going fishing April 15th.

Grover Bergdoll, speed fiend and draft dodger, has been sentenced to a term of five years in a Federal prison, dishonorable discharge from the army and loss of citizenship. How lucky. If the public had had the sentence to pronounce it would have been fifty-five years.

No one seems willing to prognosticate. It feels like spring is here and, naturally, we expect settled weather after Easter, but there must be a lot of snows to come, if we are to run through the misery and mud of the saplin' bender, the onion snow, the poor man's manure and all the other varieties of late falls of "the beautiful" that have to be endured before we can settle down to real gardening, farming, fishing and golf.

Along with the many other symptoms of unrest that we are seeing in the Republican political camp there is a very pronounced agitation against our present Congressman, the Hon. — let's see, what's his name? Oh yes, the Hon. Evan Jones. It appears that some think that Jones isn't making noise enough in Washington and that this would be as good a time as any to start a movement to get the District on the Congressional map.

Just because the Democratic county committee in his home county of Dauphin wouldn't stand for Vance McCormick as their candidate for National delegate Vance has bolted the reorganized organization and opened headquarters with a committee of his own. Talking about party wreckers, as Vance and his Patriot have done until they are nearly blue in the face, it would seem that Mr. Bonniwell hasn't anything on them in the effort he has made to get them out of a position in which they are very evidently not wanted.

The "Watchman" today devotes considerable space to the programs for Easter services in the churches of Bellefonte. Let us hope that those of you who are within attending distance will read them and be so interested that you will be seen in one of the places of public worship next Sunday. Talking about saving the world for democracy; it can't be done with armies, or liberty bonds or food contributions. Love and unselfishness are the only instruments that will effect that longed-for event and the world will never come into possession of them until it learns to spend more of time on its knees at the shrine of the Prince of Peace.

Melville Gillette, of Smethport, spent part of the week in Centre county in the interest of his candidacy for delegate from this District to the Republican National convention. We understand that Mr. Gillette is not on the machine slate. He is, however, a mighty likable fellow, with a brilliant record for fourteen months in the air service on the other side and is out with a pledge to vote for that candidate for President whom the majority of the people prefer, as expressed by their ballots at the primaries. Such a pledge ought to appeal strongly to the Republicans of the District, especially when made by a man of the character of Mr. Gillette, but we fear that he, like our other soldier friend, Major Terry Boal, who would also like to go to Chicago, will find out that Penrose tells the Republicans of the Twenty-first who they shall send and they send them.

Somebody must have thrown a few shovels of coal under the local political pot, for it has been boiling furiously for the past few days. The Hon. Harry B. Scott, of Philipsburg, has made two mysterious visits to Bellefonte within a week and now Tom Beaver is a candidate for the nomination for the Legislature against the Hon. Ives Harvey. Such a sequence of events makes it look as if our Republican friends have a notion that the Hon. Ives, having cast his vote for ratification of the Eighteenth amendment, is needed now at home more than in Harrisburg. Of course Mr. Scott thought that two years ago and rumor has it that he was thinking seriously of trying to put an end to further legislative perignations of our local county Sabbath school factious, but why he let the thought perish we have not been able to learn. We shall watch Tom's candidacy with much interest, for we know he is going to have the time of his life running with the dry hares and chasing with the wet foxes.

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Sounding a True Note.

Those Democrats who assembled in Philadelphia last Saturday for the purpose of devising means to rehabilitate the party in Pennsylvania struck the nail squarely on the head in the declaration that "the Pennsylvania Democracy ought to be the rallying point for all patriotic citizens. This enviable position can only be had by the overthrow of those sinister influences which have kept it in the past and recent years a dishonored auxiliary to the Republican machine. We call upon all true Democrats to purge their party of the selfish and treacherous leadership, based solely upon the management of patronage, which has withered our great party."

Following the inauguration of President Wilson in 1912, Mitchell Palmer and Vance McCormick set up a political trading post in Washington with a branch office in Harrisburg to dispense party favors on a purely commercial basis. Party service and personal fitness were entirely eliminated and servility to the bosses made the basis of appointments. This destructive practice worked such havoc in the party force that it soon ceased to be even a respectable minority. Two years ago a number of courageous Democrats overthrew this sinister combination at the primary election and a corrupt partnership with the Republican machine was formed, by which the minority patronage of the State Republican administration was mortgaged to Palmer for Democratic votes for his college chum.

There was more than an even chance for the election of the Democratic candidates for State offices that year until this traitorous compact was publicly declared at the meeting of the Democratic State committee for organization. That incident made Democratic success hopeless and a substantial element committed to the support of our candidates withdrew. But Palmer and McCormick exacted their recompense for recency and McCormick, who covets office as a miser craves for gold, is now enjoying the fruits of a distinguished office by appointment of Governor Sproul. He is a member of the commission to revise the Constitution of the State and in full sympathy with those who favor capital, right or wrong, against labor. It is an important if not a lucrative office.

Mr. Palmer is said to have selected all the minority members of this Revision commission, in pursuance of his bargain with the Republican machine, and had himself named at the head of the list. But McCormick felt that he was being neglected, and as the "angel" of Palmer's political ambitions, that created a menacing situation. So Palmer declined the honor and McCormick was substituted. The only difference is in the personnel. Palmer does the thinking and McCormick foots the bills, except such as are paid out of the pockets of the office-holders, who are always under tribute. It is small wonder that real Democrats want to get away from this condition.

We have now entered upon the month of April, farmers have begun their ploughing, a few early gardeners have gotten in their work and the disciples of Izaak Walton are planning an invasion of the streams of Centre county on the opening of the trout fishing season which is now just thirteen days away. Verily the first catch this year ought to be a good one as fishermen will be able to devote all their time to the trout in the absence of the "big inducement" that prompted many a man to take the day off.

That Washington clerk who saved \$100,000,000 by correcting errors in a naval appropriation bill earned the thousand dollars voted to him by Congress and yet a capable Congress ought to be able to write an appropriation bill.

We'll just bet the hole in a doughnut that a constitutional amendment abolishing the United States Senate would "run like wild fire" over the country.

The deported anarchists are running along hard lines in Russia. Most of the people they meet are as lazy as themselves.

The center of population is coming eastward, according to census reports, but prices are still tending toward the north.

The first of the month being her moving day Mrs. Hohenzollern can be Queen of the May in her new home anyway.

Governor Sproul has issued the regulation proclamation designating April 16th and 23rd as spring Arbor days.

And March went out without slamming the door.

"What is a Democrat?"

The esteemed New York World, a high authority on political ethics, dispairs of framing an answer to an inquiry by a woman correspondent as to "what is a Democrat?" and "How does he differ from a Republican?" A fundamental difference existed in the beginning in that "a Democrat in government is concerned primarily with personal rights and a Republican is concerned primarily with property rights," our contemporary observes, and adds: "The Democratic party is essentially a party of decentralization and the Republican party is a party of centralization." But neither party has been true to its professions in late years, and in the opinion of The World both have ceased to exist as "coherent organizations."

On the question of prohibition, for example, The World declares that "no Democrat could believe in the Eighteenth amendment because the Eighteenth amendment is at war with the whole Democratic theory of government as it has come down from the days of Jefferson. A Democrat can believe in local option. He can believe in State-wide prohibition, but he cannot believe in surrendering to the Federal government the police powers of the States and in permitting the Federal authority to tell the individual citizen what he may eat and what he may drink." The Jefferson idea of Democratic government was that such regulations, if tolerable at all, were functions of local authority or State control.

The Southern States which profess to be Democrats are mainly responsible for the Eighteenth amendment and the South never did take constitutional provisions seriously. The Fifteenth amendment, for example, has never been enforced South of the Mason and Dixon line though it has controlled important elections North and Southern statesmen probably imagined that the Eighteenth amendment, like the Fifteenth would serve a sectional purpose and do little harm elsewhere. Democrats of the North, who are law-abiding, view the subject through other lenses and are inclined to resent the infraction of the principles of their party by methods abhorrent in the extreme.

It is confidently expected that foreign travel will be greatly increased this year. The luxurious bars on the ocean liners are said to be very attractive to rich folk who neglected to lay in stocks.

Work of a Conspiracy.

Senator Williams, of Mississippi, in a speech before the Legislature of that State denounced the defeat of the peace treaty as the result of a conspiracy to discredit President Wilson. In support of his statement he cited the "Round Robin" circulated in Washington by Senator Lodge, before the treaty was completed. Before that event practically all the Republican Senators favored a League of Nations as the only medium of preventing future wars. Senator Lodge himself had taken advanced ground on this point and all the leading Republicans concurred in that view. But when the work on the treaty was approaching completion, for some reason, they reversed themselves and the conspiracy was formed.

The only purpose of the League of Nations was to guarantee peace throughout the world for all time. An effort to create such a compact with the leading nations of the world at The Hague was defeated some years ago, because Germany refused to join, though the representatives of the United States at that meeting unanimously and earnestly supported it. At the conclusion of the world war Germany was in no condition to resist and it was confidently believed such a league might be formed. But the munition makers and war profiteers of the United States appear to have meantime acquired control of the Republican machine and induced their representatives in the Senate to defeat it.

The proposition which was defeated in Holland some twenty years ago, was in no material respect different from that expressed in the Versailles League of Nations. It required each country signing to reduce armaments to a peace basis and combine against any attempt to make war by any nation. The American delegates in that convention were distinguished Republican statesmen and their action in signing and supporting the proposition was unanimously approved in this country. Before the organization of the Lodge conspiracy the people were equally unanimous in support of the treaty of Versailles. But Senator Lodge, acting for the munition makers and profiteers, has defeated their purpose for the present.

The suggestion that automobile maps be given to Congressmen for free distribution instead of garden seeds is in line with Republican habit. That party loves to feed the fat.

Senator Borah's Persistent Charges.

The persistence with which Senator Borah charges General Wood with conducting a corrupt campaign for the Republican nomination for President almost compels belief. The General's reply to the first accusation is not convincing. He said the only purpose of the charge was "to sway the voters of Michigan." A pointed denial would have been better. Of course Mr. Borah might have produced proof and that would have been embarrassing. But the feeble statement quoted is a sort of "confession and avoidance," and in the present frame of the public mind, that won't do. There has been too much boodle politics lately and the recent conviction of Senator Newberry emphasizes the fact.

In any event the Wood statement has not silenced the Idaho Senator. He admits that part of his purpose was to sway voters of Michigan but adds there were other and higher reasons for his charges. He alleged that certain sinister influences, including oil corporations looking for favors, had created a vast corruption fund to be used in buying votes for Wood's nomination and that the only way of preventing evil results is to make a frank statement of the money subscribed to his campaign fund and give the names of the contributors. Such a statement, properly authenticated, would settle the matter one way or the other. Borah imagines, moreover, that if the charge were false, the statement would be made.

It is certainly true that the friends of General Wood have been conducting a very expensive campaign in his behalf. Now Wood has been in the army many years and there is a tradition that army officers don't save large fortunes out of their salaries. It is also fairly well understood that generous contributors to campaign funds expect some sort of substantial return from their investment and everybody knows that half our Mexican troubles are the result of disputes over oil concessions. Senator Borah believes that oil concessionaires in this country and Europe are investing in the Wood campaign fund with an understanding that they will get their money back in oil and he demands reckoning.

A Philadelphia thief was apprehended through the miscarriage of a letter he had forwarded to a friend urging him to come to that city because "things are so easy there." He must have been on the Vire staff.

Expedient Well Worth Trying.

The Supreme court of Pennsylvania is nonpartisan by law but partisan in fact. That is to say candidates for judges of the several courts may not be placed on party ballots but they are invariably voted for on account of their party affiliations. This year the pretense of nonpartisanship has been more openly and flagrantly cast aside than at any time since the nonpartisan law was enacted. Every Republican program offered for consideration contains the name of Sylvester B. Sadler, of Cumberland county. He is the personal choice of Governor Sproul and no Republican has thus far dared to suggest an opponent for the office. Moreover his name is as closely intertwined with the machine as that of Penrose.

Recent experience has shown that whoever is selected by the Republican machine leaders for seats on either of the appellate court benches is supported by all the Republican voters under control of the machine. Candor compels the admission that Democratic voters, as a rule, follow the same course. For that reason the judicial office is not, in fact, nonpartisan. But it may be made so this year if the Democratic voters will exercise wisdom in their action at the primary election. In the event that Republican voters as a rule support Sadler, the exceptions voting for, say Judge Kunkel, of Harrisburg, and the Democrats voting for a Democrat, and there are many available and worthy, the minority will be split and Sadler elected under the fifty-one per cent law. That will settle it.

But suppose the Democrats of the State offer no candidate of that party faith and with practical unanimity support Judge Kunkel, the chances are more than equal that he would be elected at the primary and the Republican machine would be as completely defeated, as utterly flabbergasted, as if a Democrat were chosen. Ever since the capital graft convictions Judge Kunkel has been anathema to the Republican managers. Six years ago all the force they could command, including ballot box stuffing in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, barely succeeded in defeating him, and he carried more than two-thirds of the counties of the State. It is an expedient worth trying and we suggest it for what it is worth.

Mr. Palmer insists that the price of meat is decreasing which must be surprising to the butchers.

The Other Way.

Those who fight against the legislation to curb rent profiteers, those who hold that prices must keep on rising, those who believe that labor should further increase its wage demands, are, after all, on a well-travelled economic path. There is another solution for the present problems forced upon the country by a mounting cost of living. What if rents are boosted without limit? What if profiteers are given full play with the prices of necessities? What if labor does demand more and more pay for less and less work? Sooner or later will come that other solution—grim but sure.

It came in 1907, with closing factories, paralyzed business, railroads laying off their crews, while breadlines formed and lengthened, lodging houses filled and the unemployed grew to an army of 2,000,000. It came in 1893, with 15,000 bankruptcies and suspensions involving a loss of \$570,000,000 and forcing 3,000,000 workers into idleness. It came in 1873, in the midst of an era of inflated currency, excessive railroad building and reckless land speculation, and caused collapse and failure to haunt American industry and business for four years.

One mysterious touch to credit puts this harsh solution to work. Confidence suddenly falters and shrinks. Extravagance shudders and hides its head. Spending ceases. Enterprise and expansion put up their shutters. Capital seeks its vaults. The whole structure of supposed prosperity comes down with a crash. Fear and want take charge.

Nor are the warnings manifest save to the wise. Describing the state of the country just before the panic of 1873, the historian, James Ford Rhodes says: "Prosperity was written all over the face of things. Manufacturers were busy, workmen in demand, streets and shops were crowded." "Prices of commodities were high, demand pretty good; everybody seemed to be making money and nobody suspected for a moment that he was living in a fool's paradise."

Few suspect it now when after the most destructive war in the history of the world, they act on the theory that production can be slackened and wages and prices indefinitely increased.

The country is close to half a century older than it was in 1873. Its safeguards against panic are far surer and more developed. But can even the finest banking system a modern nation has yet evolved save the people of the United States from the consequences of treating a post war inflation of their national currency as if it were assurance of perpetual prosperity based on soaring prices, rising wages and boosted rents—with production a negligible factor in the background?

Intelligence and self-restraint may avert disaster, but they are not essential to the discovery or rediscovery of economic truths.

There is the other way of finding out that stone walls are harder than heads.

These Women Vote.

From the Williamsport Sun. Irrespective of the ratification of the federal suffrage amendment, there are 17,500,000 women over voting age who live in States that have already qualified women to vote in the Presidential election in November. Ratification will extend the privilege to about 9,500,000.

The States where women will vote for the next President include the fifteen full suffrage States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming; the thirteen presidential, or presidential plus municipal: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Ohio, Kentucky; the two primary suffrage States, Arkansas and Texas.

The total number of electoral votes in the choosing of which women will have a voice is 339, or nearly two-thirds of the total number of electoral votes.

Watching the South.

From the Philadelphia Record. According to the New York Sun "the eye of the campaign fund reformer is on the South just now," and they are "prepared to enter a prompt protest against repetition of the 1912 incident," when President Taft was renominated by the help of delegations from Southern States where the G. O. P. had not a ghost of a show. Between the scandalous use of money by the Wood and Lowden campaign managers and the prospective purchase of impecunious delegates from the territory below Mason & Dixon's line the approaching Republican National convention seems likely to have plenty of material for several first-class rows. In that respect it will only be running true to form.

A Very Old Woman.

From the Kansas City Star. Nebraska's oldest resident—a woman—is dead at ninety. She could remember when Mr. Bryan first ran for President.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

H. L. Conroy, J. Walter Westland and Delbert W. Lewis, of Warren, are arranging to leave May 1st, on a walk to the Pacific coast. In a formal agreement each pledges to forfeit to the other \$100 in the event of his failure to make the hike.

Receipts from automobile licenses for 1920 have passed the \$4,500,000 mark and gone almost \$1,500,000 above the revenue at this time last year. Thus far 315,000 licenses have been issued for pneumatic tired machines and almost 39,000 for solid tired vehicles.

Lewis Lott, a farmer living near Troutville, Clearfield county, was found in his barn Monday morning of last week with a self-inflicted gunshot wound in his forehead, from the effects of which he died a few hours later. No reason for the action is given. When the son made an effort to help the father he protested.

Trapped in a fire that spread from a pile of brush, William Brooks, seventy-five years old, was burned to death last Thursday on the farm of his daughter, near Quarryville, Pa. He was found in the midst of smouldering brush after neighbors had worked for more than a half hour fighting the rapidly spreading fire. Two farms were burned over.

An innocent prank played upon him by a schoolmate, who tripped him in the cloak room of the school four months ago, has resulted in the death of Charles Erdman, aged fifteen years, of Berwick. Erdman suffered a severe attack of noshleed at the time of the accident, and frequent recurrences of this trouble gradually sapped his vitality until death ensued.

Danner Nelson Good, 16 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Good, of Glen Rock, who said he was kidnapped by three strange men in an auto, on Sunday, who headed for the Maryland line, succeeded in escaping by jumping from the machine as it was going at a speed of forty miles an hour. He walked into Hanover and notified the police, who are now on the trail of the men.

Jacob B. Showalter, of Akron, Lancaster county, slaughtered 199 porkers for 108 different persons during the past season. The total weight of the hogs was 55,671 pounds, average weight 279 1/2 pounds. The heaviest hog was 682 pounds, owned by George K. Smith. He also slaughtered a 1780 pound boar for Frank Rettew. There were doubtless many mazel soups given out in that vicinity.

As a testimonial of its appreciation for the part played by York, Pa., in the recent world war, the Italian government has presented to the city a mountain cannon which was used by the Italian army during the world war campaigns. The presentation was made to Ralph C. Busser, of York, American consul at Trieste, Italy. All arrangements for the shipment of the cannon to York have been completed.

One hundred and seven years old, yet as hale and hearty as most persons of 60, Mrs. Ann Eliza P. Hastings held a birthday reception last week at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Maurice R. Travilla. Mrs. Hastings met her guests with a smile and a pleasant word of welcome. Many prominent residents of West Chester, in places were among her callers, and she held a reception for them all afternoon. There were many floral gifts.

With goods all packed ready to be moved to Mount Union on Monday, the families of L. N. Richardson and J. C. Summers, of Mapleton Depot, were aroused at midnight Sunday night by alarms of fire. The Huntingdon fire department arrived in time to stop the flames from sweeping to adjoining buildings. The belongings of the Richardson and Summers families were almost totally destroyed. The loss is about \$5000, partly insured.

The will of John C. Williams, of Pittsburgh, a soldier in the American expeditionary force, was offered for probate in Allegheny county Tuesday of last week. The will was written on the eve of Williams' departure for France, and said: "I leave all I have to Fred Villella, of Puxsuttawney." Williams died in France, March 22, 1919, and his estate is valued at \$10,000. Fred Villella is a tailor employed at Puxsuttawney, Jefferson county, a brother of the dead soldier, who had taken the name of Williams, early in life.

J. B. Hanlon, registrar of vital statistics at Freehold, Pa., announces a tax on men and women over 30 who remain unmarried. The birth rate in his district has dropped from 600 in 1906, to 420 in 1919, a decrease of 30 per cent. In thirteen years. He wants bachelors taxed \$100 a month, and declares single women are growing prone to short hair and shorter skirts, while they want to start housekeeping with \$200 rugs and \$1000 pianos, instead of beginning married life with a rag carpet, a few chairs, a bed and a kitchen stove.

Walter Stringer, nine year old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Stringer, of Burren, shot his little niece, Louise Snyder, three years old, on Friday, while playing with a 22 calibre rifle. The lad was visiting at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Filson Snyder, near Allensville, and during the absence of the aunt went to the attic, where he took the rifle from the hooks and was playing with it when it was accidentally discharged. The bullet passed through the shoulder and left lung of his little playmate, who died at the Blair Memorial hospital, at Huntingdon, on Saturday.

Men's clothing made out of cow's hair will soon rival the wool taken from the sheep, declare agents of the packing company, who have been experimenting with the product at Pottsville. One of the employees of the Gensmer tannery is now wearing a suit made out of this material, and it is proving of as great utility as wool. The new cloth resembles chevrot in appearance, but it is said to have better wearing qualities. Cows cannot be clipped like sheep, but the hair can be taken from all cattle killed, which, it is said, would make clothing for half the men in America.

Clinging by his fingerends to iron framework beneath an idle locomotive that he was cleaning when it ran away in the railroad yards at Chester, Monday morning, Vincent Saponeri, 30 years old, was carried several hundred feet and escaped injury. The locomotive was brought to a sudden stop when it bumped into another engine. Railroad men who saw Saponeri was unharmed when it started to move were almost stunned with surprise when they saw him wriggle out from beneath the big machine. The engine was standing in the locomotive yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad company, apparently "lifeless," when it began to move down the siding. Saponeri was sponging journals, and realizing his danger grasped a bar of steel by which he dragged himself clear of the roadbed. A "leaky throt" is said to have started the runaway.