

—And the biggest trout got away today, as usual.

—Hundreds of trout were yanked right away from the nursing bottle yesterday.

—Many a fisherman's creel yesterday suggested the thought that every little one added to what I've got makes a little one more.

—It will take seven hundred and twenty-eight votes to nominate the Democratic candidate for President in San Francisco next June.

—Judging from the Michigan primaries A. Mitchell Palmer seems to be far more of a success at vote reducing than he is at price reducing.

—If the fourth coming census report fails to show a normal increase in the population of Bellefonte don't blame it either on the enumerators or limited housing.

—Anyway private management of the railroads is having ample opportunity to find out why government control didn't bring better service than it did.

—Lots of fellows were fishing yesterday who didn't keep their minds on the business of catching trout near as much as on the possibility of some prohibition officer catching them.

—They say a new one is born every minute, and we believe it. The fellow who paid twenty-three dollars for a common turkey, at a sale in this county last week, accounts for one of the minutes, all right enough.

—Where are the fellows now who were constantly damning government control every time a train was late, or a car was not instantly placed at their request or an embargo was laid on shipments to certain points?

—Senator Penrose is home from Florida, fully restored to health. Isn't it fine. Now the Republicans will timidly begin to inquire as to "who are we to be for President?" without fear of committing the unpardonable sin of annoying the big boss when he is "out of sorts."

—Since Mr. Cox had himself elected Governor of Ohio three times it might be possible for him to have himself elected President of the United States once or twice. At this stage of the game Cox and McAdoo loom big to us as the most hopeful standard bearers of Democracy.

—France, England and Italy are all at peace with Germany while, technically, we are still at war with the Hun. The anomaly is intensified by the present movement of troops of the peaceful powers further into German territory while ours, representing the only country that is still at war, are sitting quietly on the Rhine wondering where they are to get off.

—We are curious to see the effect of Maj. Boal's announced candidacy for Republican District delegate on the Penrose contingent of his party. His platform should have the effect of smothering many of them out who are his professed personal friends. If the candidacy of Governor Sprout, for whom Penrose has declared, is anything other than of the "stalking horse" brand the Major's friends, who are also friends of the Senator, will have little excuse for not supporting him. If they do not it will be very apparent that Penrose and his lieutenants are not for Sprout and are using his name only as a means of keeping votes away from Gen. Wood.

—Well, it has happened. Major Theodore Davis Boal has announced and is a regular candidate for District delegate to the Republican National convention. The Major is not going to pussey foot any, either. He is not a "trust me" candidate. He is right out in the open for Governor Sprout, first, and if Pennsylvania's "favorite son" should prove a prophet without honor save in his own country then he is for Gen. Wood. Certainly a fairer platform could scarcely be demanded by the Republicans of the Twenty-first. And just as certainly the Major's great personal popularity and public spiritedness should make him a strong contender in the contest now on.

—Washington political big wigs are predicting that Mr. Palmer will make an unfavorable showing in the Pennsylvania primaries because the state Democracy is "wet" and Mr. Palmer is "dry." Mr. Palmer will have no opposition in the Pennsylvania primaries, but he will fail to receive the votes of thousands of Democrats who will attend them, not because he is "dry." There are other reasons for the alienation of these votes, far removed from the question of prohibition. Mr. Palmer's arrogance, his super-egoism and his supreme selfishness will be the causes of the most of whatever unfavorable showing he will make in the primaries of his home State.

—It is greatly to the credit of our local railroad men that they have refrained from joining the strike that has tied up traffic all over the country. No one seems to know what the strike is for or what the strikers want and since they will not say what they are after themselves the public, the greatest sufferers, are almost forced to the conclusion it is the work of radicalism boring from within the Unions. If this conjecture is right all the more are the loyal workers who are handling the freight and passengers in this section to be congratulated on the sanity of their attitude. They are the men who may save enough respect for the railroad Brotherhoods to prevent their complete disintegration.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 65.

BELLEFONTE, PA., APRIL 16, 1920.

NO. 16.

The Contest for Supreme Judge.

There being but two candidates qualified for the office of Justice of the Supreme court this year the result will necessarily be determined at the Primary on the 18th of May. Under the act of 1915 any candidate for Judge of any court of record who shall "receive a number of votes greater than one-half of the total votes cast at such primary shall be declared the sole nominee for such office," and "no other names shall appear upon the ballot," at the ensuing election. The candidates certified for the Primary ballot are Judge George Kunkel, of Dauphin county, and Judge Sylvester E. Sadler, of Cumberland county. One or the other of them will "receive a number of votes greater than one-half of the total."

Judge Kunkel began service on the bench in January, 1904. He had previously served two terms as District Attorney of Dauphin county and three terms in the House of Representatives of the General Assembly. In both of these offices he won the cordial approval of the people though not the favor of the party bosses. He was defeated for Speaker of the House at the organization of the last session in which he participated, under direct orders from the "Throne." His masterful conduct of the capitol graft cases increased rather than diminished the opposition to him of the party managers and when he became a candidate for the Supreme bench in 1914, in response to a wide-spread call, all the resources of the machine were required to defeat him by a small margin.

We have no word of censure to utter against Judge Sadler. He has had four years experience on the Bench of Cumberland county and may deserve all the praise his friends bestow upon him. But it must be admitted that there is a vast difference in the qualifications of the two candidates. As President Judge of the Dauphin county court for more than a decade Judge Kunkel has tried many cases of the highest importance and most intricate character. Following such distinguished jurists as Pearson and Simonton his reputation suffers nothing in comparison with his predecessors in office. He measures up to the highest standard of legal learning and ability and has fulfilled every obligation of his office with distinction to himself and entire satisfaction to the public.

But it is neither invidious nor improper to say that the people admire Judge Kunkel "for the enemies he has made." If he had been subservient to the party bosses or even responsive to the exigencies of political conditions, he would probably have been "cata-pulted," to employ a term used by the late Senator Quay, onto the Supreme bench long ago. The shrewd party managers who manipulate the government of Pennsylvania have not been oblivious of his fitness for the office, but they have been and are afraid to let him occupy a seat on the Bench of that court, and if there were no other reasons why the people should prefer him to his opponent, that fact is sufficient.

—Herbert Hoover appears to have miscalculated the strength of the conscript force in the Republican party. He is not likely to get further than the "others ran."

—Just now when Bellefonte is on the verge of a business boom, the biggest eyesore in the town is the old steam heat and gas plant at the corner of Spring and Lamb streets. Standing idle as it has for over a year, with no source of revenue and little hope for the future, not only the plant but the buildings that house it, are going to rack and ruin without any thing being done to prevent the loss. Just who is the real owner of the property is problematical, but it would really seem as if something could be done to prevent such a valuable property becoming a dead loss. The exceedingly high price of coal and the deteriorated condition of the plant as a result of its lying idle for so long almost precludes the possibility of its ever being revived as a city heating plant, and yet every former customer of the plant would gladly return to city steam if he could feel assured that he would get good service. But the point we wish to make here is that something ought to be done to either utilize the property in some way or junk the plant and dispose of the location as building sites. A block of nicely-appointed residences would improve that part of town amazingly and ought to offer a fair return on the investment. Another corner that is also becoming an eyesore in the town is the old plant of the Bellefonte Electric company, now the property of the State-Centre Electric company.

—Eugene Debs is the only Presidential candidate who is the unanimous choice of his party.

—Mr. Bryan is keeping quiet for some reason but he isn't lost.

Coal Prices and Miners' Wages.

The claim that the high price of coal is ascribable to the high wages of miners got a hard jolt in the wage conference now in progress in New York, the other day, when the representatives of the miners submitted some statistics on the subject. It was shown that while the price of coal has increased 167 per cent. within a short time the increase of wages during the same period amounted to only 48 7-10 per cent. "The mine owners entered vehement objections to the introduction of such data," the Associated Press correspondent reporting the proceedings of the conference states. They questioned "the right of the workers to draw into the controversy the subject of their profits."

The profit question is one which the coal operators are reluctant to have discussed in public. When former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, recently referred to the matter they protested vigorously that he was exposing secrets obtained through the income tax returns and that a government official had no right to do such things. But the facts were indisputable as those revealed by the representatives of the miners in the New York conference are incontrovertible. The mine owners have been profiteering shamefully and the public has suffered cruelly as a result. But they cannot longer place the responsibility for high prices on the wages of the miners. It belongs in other places.

One trouble with the profiteering coal operators is that they are living in a past period oblivious of the intellectual advancement of those about them. It used to be that they could put any old story on the public and it was accepted at face value. Now the miners know quite as well as their employers what is going on about them and the public is not as credulous as it used to be. Mr. McAdoo positively declared that the wage demands of the miners could be met without depriving the operators of a just and even liberal profit and his statement on that subject is now supplemented by dependable statistics presented by the miners. And it is pretty proper evidence to give.

—Senator Newberry, of Michigan, is still exercising his voting prerogative by pairing but the chances are that Senators will refuse to pair with him after he actually gets behind the bars.

Whom They Delight to Honor.

The office of Delegate-at-Large to the party National convention has always been esteemed the highest honor which can be bestowed by a party organization. Since time out of mind the "Big Four" has been the distinguishing title of the Delegates-at-Large not only in Pennsylvania but in all the other States. They represented the United States Senators in the party parliament. Now that we have four members of Congress elected at large, the number is increased to twelve. But the dignity of the office is not impaired by the increase in number. It still expresses the estimate of the party leaders of the most worthy of the party membership.

The list of the Delegates-at-Large for Pennsylvania in the Democratic National convention in the last half century would form a fine galaxy of statesmen. It would include Governors and ex-Governors, United States Senators and ex-Senators, Congressmen and ex-Congressmen and others eminent in law, literature or civic achievement. To be a member of the "Big Four" in other States or of the "Big Twelve" in Pennsylvania, is a distinction which any living man might laudably covet. There is no salary attached but a recompense in honor that endures for all time. It is easily the first place in the confidence and affection of the party.

The moral level of a party management may easily and accurately be measured by the character of the men upon whom this great distinction is bestowed. The first name on the list of Delegates-at-Large chosen by the Palmer-McCormick leadership of the Democratic party is Charles P. Donnelly, of Philadelphia. Charles P. Donnelly has been conspicuous in every political scandal which has besmirched the Democratic party of Pennsylvania within a quarter of a century. His name is a synonym for party perfidy and political rottenness. Because of his party treachery the Democratic party in Philadelphia has been practically extinguished and this great honor is conferred as a reward for his bad work.

—While Mitchell Palmer is hunting votes in Georgia the duties of his office are being performed by subordinates. But it is a safe conjecture that the public suffers no loss on that account.

—France may have been a trifle hasty but the first law of nature is a powerfully strong force.

McCormick the Party Wrecker.

The Harrisburg Patriot, owned and presumably edited by Vance C. McCormick, habitually refers to such Democrats as refuse to follow the leadership of Mitchell Palmer, Charles P. Donnelly and himself, as "party wreckers." Since Mr. McCormick broke into public life by having himself elected Mayor of Harrisburg in 1902, three Governors have been elected in Pennsylvania. In two of these contests Mr. McCormick and his newspaper "bolted" the Democratic nominee. In the other case he was himself the party candidate and insisted on party regularity. The opposition of himself and those who followed his leadership defeated the party nominee in 1910 and 1918.

Except when he is himself the candidate, Mr. McCormick has never supported Democratic nominees. Previously to his assumption of control of the party in the Capital city the voting strength was nearly equally divided between the two parties. Now three-fourths of the voters are registered as Republicans, and according to the best information obtainable, three-fourths of the remaining one-fourth, are opposed to McCormick's leadership. If the postoffice employees, revenue officials and other federal officials were eliminated, Dauphin county Democrats declare, Mr. McCormick couldn't influence a single vote outside of his own family in the city of Harrisburg.

The McCormick organization, so called, has been nothing but a patronage trading post from the beginning. When its hand-picked candidate for Governor was defeated at the primary election two years ago he felt himself slipping and entered into a bargain with the Republican machine which added the minority patronage of the Republican State administration to his stock in trade. Under this agreement he is now occupying an important office by appointment of Governor Sprout and enjoys the privilege of selecting the minority appointments of Governor Sprout in every county in the Commonwealth. In the circumstances what right has he to call anybody a party wrecker?

—We are not so much "a world power" now as recently but so long as Senator Lodge runs the government we are probably getting all the consideration we are entitled to.

Penrose Again in Command.

The return of Senator Penrose, restored to health, scheduled for today, will probably mark the beginning of the real campaign for the Republican nomination for President. While he was in a sick bed at home some weeks ago, there was some activity among the "smaller fry" of the party leaders. But as soon as he got "able to be about" there was an abatement. Chairman Hays visited him at his home and a few days later, on his way southward, he conferred with Senator Watson, of Indiana, whereupon the lid was shut down. General Wood has been coveting some since and Governor Lowden issued some currency to lubricate the works. But nothing of importance has occurred.

But from this time on there will be movement in the political arena and it will be significant work. There are a good many Republicans who try to make themselves and others believe that Penrose is without influence in the party. Mr. Pinchot, who has been "roped" in a handsome and lucrative berth, was conspicuous among those who said mean things about the Senator's ability and character. But he doesn't talk along such lines now any more than the other fellows who had that habit. They are all willing to take orders from Penrose and obey them. He is the grand muck-a-muck, the high cockalorum of Republicanism, and eating out of his hand would be a real distinction.

We regret very much that Senator Penrose hasn't taken us into his confidence with respect to his party plans in the immediate future. It would be a great pleasure to present them to the public and thus fulfill the highest mission of modern journalism in a measure. But the Senator is secretive and we doubt if he has told anybody his full purpose. It can be safely predicted, however, that he will select a candidate who is one hundred per cent. against Wilson and enthusiastically in favor of a high tariff and an appropriation. Those are the things most fondly cherished by the Republicans of today. Wilson has kept them away from the pie-counter a long time and they are hungry.

—Senator Harding says "no man can make a party platform" which is possibly the reason Republican National chairman Hays has turned the job over to the school boys.

—We haven't much time for Mr. George Creel but it requires no great admiration for him to endorse what he says about Senator Smoot.

A Fitting Resurrection.

From the Philadelphia Record. How thoroughly illustrative of present tendencies in the Republican party is a dispatch from Chicago which states that ex-United States Senator William Lorimer, the so-called blond boss, "who lost his seat because of the improper use of money at the time of his election in 1909, by the Illinois Legislature, is again taking part in the councils of the Republican party in Chicago. There are rumors that preparations are being made to put up Mr. Lorimer as a candidate for the United States Senate.

And why not? It is a safe guess that Lorimer spent not nearly so much money in bribing members of the Illinois Legislature as Newberry expended in Michigan in debauching the electors there. Though he has been convicted of this crime and sentenced to two years in prison, the latter still retains his seat in the Senate and can be relied upon in an emergency to help the Republicans to secure a majority by casting his vote with them. In view of the Michigan developments and the unblushing expenditures of the Wood campaigners in seeking to control the approaching Republican national convention, Lorimer must feel that he was very shabby treated in being expelled from the Senate for spending a few thousand dollars on venal Legislators. He undoubtedly recognizes also that men of his stamp are now on top in the G. O. P. and that he would be in very congenial company if he could obtain his old seat.

There is another phase of the Illinois boss' candidacy that appeals strongly to us. If it should be successful it would mean the elimination of that pestiferous nuisance, "Larry" Sherman. As between Lorimer and Sherman, the former would seem the lesser evil. But can Illinois do no better than this? The State that produced Abraham Lincoln must have sadly degenerated when its dominant party can do no more than put forward as a Presidential aspirant a mere money-bags like Governor Lowden, while pigmies like Lorimer, Sherman, "Big Bill" Thompson, Congressman Madden and Mann, etc., fill the other posts of honor.

Who is Paying?

Who are financing the men in the fight for the Presidential nominations? The voters are entitled to know. A candidate's friends in politics give a better idea of the candidate's real principles than all the platforms ever written.

Voters study biographies of candidates. Why not biographies of the men behind the candidates? It is the invisible power that does most of the harm in American political life. There is a simple way to bring the backers of candidates for nominations into the open light of day. Let all candidates be compelled to publish week by week the names of the contributors to their campaign funds and how the money has been spent.

Last minute information is of little use. Public opinion should be given time to exert its influence. A weekly account showing receipts and expenditures, can harm no honest man. Publicity of expenses might reveal a candidate's methods to his rivals, it is true. But, if all the best methods stood open to everybody, the public would be protected against an inferior candidate obtaining a nomination through superior methods.

After it is known how much money is being spent to secure nominations and the way it is being spent, Congress can pass legislation limiting expenses to a reasonable sum.

Senator Borah has suggested such a law. He would limit the money which may be spent in behalf of any Presidential candidate. Such a law would stop the "buying" of nominations. It would give the poorer candidate an equal chance with his wealthier rival. It would keep "slush funds" out of the race. It would make it impossible for selfish interests to control the conventions, or the nominees. The Borah bill, or one like it, should be pushed through immediately—before this campaign goes much farther. Every person who favors fairness, honesty, and the people's welfare, desires publicity for campaign expenditures.

Will Get There Sooner or Later.

From the Clearfield Republican. Delaware upset the Suffragist calculation last week. The refusal of the Legislature to ratify the amendment leaves the total of States one shy. But the women will get there sooner or later. They will have earned their freedom. They are entitled to the ballot and will not be denied. Just what State will come across with the vote necessary is hard to guess. That they will vote next November is a pretty safe prediction.

"Poor Old Poland."

From the Houston Post. "Poland is to have a Senate like ours," announces a cable. Poor old Poland! Some slave, whose treason, like a deadly blight, has invaded Poland's councils of the brave and blasted them in their hour of might.

Wide Opportunity.

From the Dallas News. Also wouldn't it be fine if a lot of the wise guys who are trying to save this country would go somewhere and save a country that needs saving?

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Mrs. Lewis Magee, aged 55 years, of Lewisburg, died at the George F. Geisinger Memorial hospital, at Danville, last Saturday, of injuries she suffered when a barn door fell on her several days ago.

—The Tloga county Helvetia condensaries have fixed the price of April milk at \$2.60 a hundred pounds for 3.7 per cent. milk, with the usual 4 per cent. differential. The 1919 April price was \$2.95.

—Dr. James F. Trimble has been appointed county medical director of Westmoreland county, and Clair B. Kirk, of Mill Hill, chief of the state tuberculosis dispensary at Lock Haven to succeed Dr. Critchfield, appointed supervising medical inspector.

—White potatoes have disappeared from the menus of many hotels and boarding houses in Northumberland county, according to farmers, who have been supplying these commodities. Potatoes have reached the high price of \$3.50 per bushel, and with few to be had.

—The McClintic Marshall company, of Pottstown, has been awarded the contract for the erection of a complete steel plant for the Tata Iron & Steel company, a contract for the fabrication of 24,000 tons of structural steel, which will be made at its Pottstown plant.

—Burgess William C. Wagner, of Watsonville, complained to the Public Service Commission that the Lewisburg, Milton and Watsonville Street Railway had adopted a daylight saving plan and its last car left Milton an hour earlier than heretofore, causing much inconvenience. He wishes the schedule restored.

—Stepping out of her kitchen for a moment probably saved the life of Mrs. William Lutz, of Hazleton, a bride of a few weeks, as the moment she had left the room the water back of the range exploded and flying fragments knocked jagged holes through the plastering in all directions and tore holes through the ceiling.

—William S. Leib, political leader of Schuylkill county, convicted last December on one count of four bills of indictment charging making fraudulent returns of duplicate state tax receipts, was refused a new trial last Friday by Judge Johnson, of Union county, sitting in quarter sessions court at Philadelphia. Leib was ordered to appear on April 16th for such disposition of the case as the court may make.

—When his arm was caught in the cog of a crane at the American Car and Foundry company plant at Milton last Saturday, James Doob, aged 20 years, of White Deer, used the other hand to throw off the power, and stood there pained until aid arrived. The big machine had to be dismantled to release him, which took more than three hours. The youth refused stimulants and chatted with friends until the last bolt was loosened and the cogs pried apart.

—Otto S. Good, a former farmer, and livestock dealer of the Elbrook section, near Waynesboro, was killed in Horse Valley, when a tree he was felling dropped on the back of his neck, breaking it. Mr. Good, with his son Harry, were in a wood near Chambersburg, chopping for the American Telegraph and Telephone company, when the tree in falling caught in the forks of an adjoining tree and in attempting to dislodge it fell upon him. He was fifty-four years old.

—Rysome Wayne, of Desiro, Jefferson county, was given a hearing before C. C. Rowan, justice of the peace, and fined \$5 and costs of prosecution for violation of the school laws. Another fine of \$30 is hanging over his head for school law violations. Mr. Wayne is a prominent citizen, and his offense consists in refusing to have his children vaccinated. He has appealed the two cases and they will be heard before Judge Charles Corbet at Brookville.

—Bruno Rizzo, the Johnsburg Italian found guilty of the murder of his sweetheart by a jury sitting in his trial at Ridgway last week, was sentenced to death in the electric chair, by Judge McCormick, on Thursday. Rizzo was found guilty on Tuesday evening after the jury had deliberated but two hours and returned a first degree verdict. He was too in his predicament calmly, asking if there was a possibility of appealing to a higher court when the sentence was interpreted to him.

—In advance of the May primary election the State Highway Department has issued the following statement: "Candidates for various offices in the coming primary election will conserve their resources, if they will refrain from posting advertising cards of all natures on state highways. The law very plainly forbids this practice and the department has issued instructions to its employees in every county in Pennsylvania, to remove from poles, fences or other places within the legal limits of the highways advertising of every nature."

—Colonel William Fairman, a well-known Punsuxatway lawyer, some time ago purchased forty beaver hides, paying \$12 each for them. Fourteen of them were made into an overcoat which Mr. Fairman wears, and which has attracted much attention. Efforts have been made recently to purchase the remaining twenty-six hides from Mr. Fairman, and as much as \$100 each has been offered, but Colonel Fairman refuses to part with them. Prospective buyers have been numerous, but even what appears to be flattering offers have failed to move him.

—Albert Chapman, aged 20 years, of Punsuxatway, Jefferson county, died in the Kittanning hospital Monday, from a bullet wound in his left breast. He had called upon Miss Mabel Claypool, of Kittanning, who says she had refused his offer of marriage. Chapman left the Claypool home, but returned shortly. When a shot was heard outside the house, an investigation found the young man lying on the ground with a revolver in his hand. Before dying, Chapman said he had been examining the revolver and it was accidentally discharged in his hand.

—Caught in a burglar trap in the store of J. B. Dymond, at Waymart, Wayne county, late Saturday night, Joseph Healey, aged 17 years, was fatally wounded. Within the past three weeks, there have been eleven burglaries in Waymart, the Dymond store having been entered twice. Planning to capture the mysterious plunderer, Mr. Dymond rigged up a shot gun pointing toward the window through which entrance was gained. It was so arranged that the raising of the window would discharge the gun, and Saturday night at 2 o'clock it was discharged. Investigation revealed the unconscious form of Healey a few feet from the building. He had received the contents of both barrels of the gun.