

—Chautauqua holds the center of the stage in Bellefonte this week and our intellectual side is being well fed up.

—Harding hoped that President Wilson and Governor Cox would throw chairs at each other, and the disappointment of the hope has made Harding silly.

—The suicide habit struck the wrong end of the Hohenzollern family first. The head instead of the tail of the dynasty ought to have "shuffled off" by that route.

—Governor Cox promises that he will appoint a real farmer as Secretary of Agriculture after his election, which justifies the hope that he may appoint a real lawyer as Attorney General.

—Anyway if Sir Thomas and his Shamrock IV should lift the cup we will all see it depart from our shores with less of regret because of the sterling sportsmanship of the Irish baronet.

—The President and the next President had a very pleasant conference on Sunday morning and, we presume, Governor Cox took a few side glances to see what his next home looks like. He isn't human if he didn't.

—The recently published Col. House letters reveal what adds all the more to the moral greatness of the Allied cause in the war. They prove beyond peradventure that the armistice was agreed to for no other purpose than

—A half-a-loaf is better than no bread at all so that we should all be correspondingly happy over the announcement that Council has decided to cut five mills from the street tax. Possibly the borough solons found the public gagging at the allopathic doses of additional taxes prescribed for it lately.

to save further loss of life among our soldiers. When many civilians thought that the Germans should have been crushed by force of arms it is fine to know that the great military chieftains at the front were not thinking of the glories to be won for themselves. They were thinking of the dead heroes who would be lying in the fields over which they would have to fight for the crushing defeat that the stay-at-homes thought the Germans should be given.

—The effort of the Anti-Saloon League to force Mr. Cox to declare himself on the Prohibition question proves beyond question that the Anti-Saloon League is merely an adjunct of the Republican machine. For if it is pertinent to the forth coming presidential contest that Mr. Cox declare himself why should not Mr. Harding Prohibition is not and cannot possibly be affected by the election of any man for President. The House and the Senate are the only agencies through which a change might be made in the Volstead act and all a President could do, in any eventuality, might be through the exertion of problematic influence over either body.

—Nobody has taken the platform adopted by the Republicans at Chicago seriously for the reason that it was principally subterfuge and evasion. A nice milk and water pronouncement of everything in general and nothing in particular. It is therefore not surprising that the Republican National Committee has seen fit to drop one of the adopted planks from the copy of the platform published for campaign purposes. It is the plank bearing on the enforcement of law and order and just what the motive has been in suppressing it is beyond our ken unless they are making a bid for Bolshevik votes by disclaiming any intention of enforcing the laws of the land if they get in power again.

—In discussing notable changes of popular opinion with a friend a few evenings ago the writer brought up the instance of the defeat of the fifty million dollar road bond issue in this county in 1913. Many of you will recall that the Watchman was the only paper in the county that supported amendment No. 1, in that contest. The late P. Gray Meek was a pioneer in advocacy of good roads and we recall many a heated discussion in this office during his attempts to show certain gentlemen we might now name the folly of their opposition to the measure before the public for approval or disapproval. It was defeated by a majority of over 800 in the county. Time rolled on, the Nittany Valley highway was completed, automobiles became more common on the roads than horses and the farmers of the county saw a great light with the result that the next time the amendment came up it was carried with a majority of 659. The change was brought about not so much by education as by self interest. The farmer had discovered that the automobile was just as possible to him as it was to what he called "the city sport" in 1913 and when he got his new car he got a new vision of the road question as well. Then my companion gave the whole question a new and very interesting slant by raising the point of the actual economic loss to the State of the failure to ratify the Amendment in 1913. Have you thought of that? Have you thought that if the bill had gone through when first proposed probably three times as much road could have been built with the fifty million dollars as is being built now; for the labor and materials were at least sixty-six per cent lower than they have been during the past year or are likely to be for several years to come.

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Harding a Cheap Demagogue.

Senator Harding reveals the mental agility of a rabbit in his statement on Sunday concerning the conference between President Wilson and his successor in office, Governor Cox, of Ohio. He said: "The President and the Democratic nominee for his successor are in conference today, and at the conclusion it will inevitably be announced that they found themselves in complete accord, that harmony reigns and that unity is established in the Democratic party." Then he adds: "There is just one way that one can establish accord between himself and the President—and that is by yielding his own opinion at every point to that of the President." If he had consulted his conscience that statement would not have been written. Obviously Senator Harding has adopted the view of Senator Lodge that a political victory may be won by traducing the President of the United States. In his opening speech at the Chicago convention, Lodge followed this line of thought from start to finish and the platform of the party, inspired by the Lodge malice, pursued it with equal fidelity. But expectations are not likely to be fulfilled. No man ever made an impression on rational minds by false representation and in the face of the public records of the past four years the statement, even inferentially, that President Wilson is obdurate or excessively opinionated is false and malignant. With respect to the peace treaty he has made all reasonable concessions to the advocates of war. Upon his return from France with the tentative draft of the treaty President Wilson called leaders of both parties together and asked for suggestions. Lodge and others attended the conference, raised objections to certain features of the document and suggested changes. Thereupon the President went back to France and had such alterations made as were suggested. Before the amended treaty could be laid before Congress, however, Lodge called a caucus of Republican Senators and procured from them a pledge that ratification be withheld unless reservations which destroyed the instrument were accepted. It was plainly a partisan plan to prevent the ratification of the treaty for the only reason that it had been negotiated by a Democratic President. Still President Wilson made no sign of obduracy. He protested with the earnestness of an outraged heart against the sacrifice of the honor of the country by the violation of solemn pledges made in good faith by duly authorized agents of the government but expressed a willingness to accept reservations if they would not nullify the treaty. But the bitter enders of the Lodge type for whom Senator Harding offers to serve as a "rubber stamp" refused to accept the treaty with their own reservations and the purpose for which the war was fought failed because of the malignancy of the bitter enders rather than on account of the stubbornness of the President. The records clearly establish these facts and Senator Harding writes himself down a cheap demagogue.

—A fashion bulletin says women's shoes are to be higher and prettier next fall. On the leg or in the price?

Right Thing, Time and Way.

The generous tribute paid by the Democratic National convention upon assembling in San Francisco, to President Woodrow Wilson, was a just reward, from high authority, for faithful and distinguished service to the people of the United States. He has literally adorned the high office to which he was called seven years ago and he has "initiated and secured the adoption of great progressive measures of immeasurable value and benefit to the people of the United States," and the representatives of the people have fitly expressed their appreciation of his beneficent work. While suffering severely from infirmities of the body, the result of overtaxed energy in the service of the people, Woodrow Wilson has been a target of poisoned tongues and malignant minds. But he has borne all with sublime courage and without complaint. And every just man and woman will share with the delegates in the San Francisco convention in rejoicing in the recovery of his health and strength that he may continue to administer the government until the expiration of his term of office. The mantle of Jefferson and Jackson has rested fittingly upon the shoulders of Woodrow Wilson. He has preserved in full measure the traditions of their party and his wisdom and patriotism and the words of praise and approbation uttered within the hall of the convention carried into the White House in Washington such comfort that the scorpion-tongued partisans of the Senate will never be able to tarnish. It was precisely the right thing for the convention to do and was done in exactly the right way.

Running Along Wrong Lines.

So far as reconciling differences is concerned the conference between President Wilson and his successor in office, Governor Cox, of Ohio, was without significance. There were no differences between them to be reconciled. Governor Cox had always been a cordial supporter of the President's policies and the party platform adopted unanimously by the San Francisco convention expresses the hopes, wishes and aspirations of both of them. It was purely a matter of felicitation. The President sought the earliest opportunity to felicitate his successor in office on the great honor which has been bestowed upon him by the party they both love. It had been maliciously asserted on one hand that the President had coerced the convention to nominate Governor Cox as his successor and on the other hand that the President had been rebuked by the convention through the nomination of a man not in sympathy with his policies. In the conference at Washington on Sunday the lie direct was fastened indelibly on both these malicious stories. The President had taken no part in the selection of a candidate to succeed him and there was and is no difference between them as to policies foreign or domestic. They are both one hundred per cent Americans and equally good Democrats. The administration will pass from one to the other without a hitch. But the Republicans are welcome to their harmless delusion that there are vital differences between leading Democrats concerning policies and men. It does the Democrats no harm and can do the Republicans no possible good. But Republicans have nothing else to talk about. Malignant abuse of the President gets them no where and the absurd attitudinizing of their "rubber stamp" candidate for President is of no more advantage. So let them go on with their foolish talk about differences of opinion among Democratic leaders. As the campaign progresses they will find a solidarity in the ranks of the Democratic party that will spell victory in half a dozen languages.

—It is said that the Prohibitionists will nominate either William Jennings Bryan or Billy Sunday for President. This looks as if the Anti-Saloon League is overlooking a good bet. Herbert Hoover wants a job.

The Paramount Issue.

The logic of events, the recent attitude of the Republican leaders and the language of the Democratic National platform combine to make the League of Nations the paramount issue of the impending Presidential campaign. The United States entered the war for the clearly expressed purpose of making the world a safer and better place to live in. Four million of our young men enlisted in the army and one hundred thousand of them sacrificed their lives to accomplish this beneficent result. In pursuance of this purpose the leading statesmen of the world prepared a plan to guarantee permanent peace as the certain means of compassing it. This plan was expressed in the covenant of the League of Nations. The Republican leaders subsequently entered into a conspiracy to defeat this purpose. They may have been influenced to this criminal action by any one of several reasons. It is commonly believed that the moving cause was enmity against President Wilson, who was largely instrumental in framing the covenant. Others believe and there are reasons for the conjecture that the munition makers and manufacturers and dealers in war materials are not willing to shut off their profitable operations and are using the Republican party to keep the avenues to war and pillage and profits open and ready for occupancy. In either event, the issue was made and the settlement of it is inevitable. Upon such an issue there can be no doubt of the sympathies of the people. The fathers and mothers of the country who have suffered the supreme bereavement during the late war will be a unit in the desire to abolish war and banish for all time the horrors that attend war. But if the enmity against President Wilson were made the predominant question of the campaign the Democrats would be equally certain of victory. President Wilson has done nothing during his tenure in the White House to justify the hatred which has been organized by the Republican Senators, and we firmly believe that upon such an issue the President would be sustained by an overwhelming majority.

—It would seem that the arm of the law which forbids restraint in trade ought to reach out and take the President of the American Woolen company by the throat.

—Probably the Anti-Saloon League has put one over on St. Swithin. In any event the weather has gone dry when it ought to be wet.

Prohibition and Prosperity.

Some of our esteemed contemporaries, with a solemnity hardly justified by the facts, are lamenting what seems to them a sign of national decadence because the percentage of increase in the population of the country during the decade just ended is not up to their expectations. The rate of increase during the decade ending in 1910 was twenty-one per cent, and that for 1920 only fourteen per cent. Therefore there must be something wrong with the people or with the figures and in either event they imagine the country is on the toboggan, headed for the "demition bow-wows." We hope our esteemed contemporaries will compose their perturbed spirits and find comfort in the fact that there is nothing the matter with the country, the figures or the future.

The greatest gain in population by percentage in the history of the country was in the decade between 1900 and 1910. During that period the country flourished like the proverbial "green bay tree." The marvelous success of our little incursion into the affairs of Spain in 1898 had vastly stimulated immigration and hundreds of thousands of foreigners came from all parts of Europe and as many from Asia and Africa as could get in. We were, during that period, absolutely free from pestilence and famine. The country was prosperous, the people contented, industry thrived, commerce expanded and population increased naturally. Everybody was getting everything he wanted. If the population had not increased under such circumstances there would have been ample cause for alarm.

An examination of the records shows that during the decade from 1860 to 1870 there was a slump in the ratio of increase in population and for precisely the same reason that caused the decrease during the last decade. The Civil war not only put a stop to immigration, practically, for a period of four years, but the casualties of battle and the pestilence of camps contributed materially to the diminishing process, while the forced removal of millions of men from peaceful pursuits diminished the birth rate and increased the mortality records. These hindrances were present in even greater force during the period from 1916 to 1918, and the census returns show national vitality rather than decadence.

—Speaking of Presidents, one might justly indulge the suspicion that President DeValera, of the Irish Republic is neglecting his duties for a rather prolonged period of time.

Campaign Auspiciously Opened.

Governor Cox sounded a true note in his address to the members of the Democratic National Committee at Columbus, on Tuesday, when he said "I will carry the cause to the people. We are not ashamed of the doctrines we proclaim. I assure them that, as God gives me strength, I will justify the confidence that has been reposed in me." Superstition interests are organizing a vast corruption fund to buy the election as the majority in the Senate was bought through the election of Senator Newberry, of Michigan. But this fact doesn't frighten Governor Cox. "We enter the campaign," he said, "not hopefully but in absolute confidence of victory because we deserve to win."

It may now be said that the first step in the campaign has been taken. At the meeting of the committee in Columbus, George H. White, of Ohio, was chosen as chairman. He is a man of fine ability and wide experience. He has served three terms in Congress with great distinction and is a man of business. He was active in the campaign for the nomination of Governor Cox and an intimate friend of President Wilson, having graduated from Princeton while President Wilson was at the head of that great seat of learning. While not the personal choice of Governor Cox it was the consensus of opinion in the committee that he was eminently fit for the work in which view Mr. Cox concurred.

The plan of campaign as outlined by the candidate will be equally acceptable to the Democrats of the country. "The platform of the Democratic party is a promissory note," he said, "and I shall see that it is paid in full—every dollar and every cent." That is the talk that appeals to the heart and inspires the confidence of the people. The colossal corruption fund of the corporations and special interests will make no progress in the face of such a purpose so expressed and the Democracy, in entering into the fight, shares in full measure the confidence of victory, which the candidate has so eloquently declared.

—Those German statesmen may learn in time that a cheerful signer looks better than one who has to be coerced.

Important Business Transacted by Borough Council.

Seven members were present at the regular meeting of borough council on Monday evening. A written communication was received from the Business Men's Association setting forth the fact that many visitors in Bellefonte, especially strangers, have difficulty in locating the various streets in Bellefonte, especially the prominent streets in the business section of the town, and requesting council to erect suitable signs at every entrance to town and on street corners, giving the names of the streets; the association offering to co-operate with council in every way possible. No action was taken in the matter.

A communication was received from the Brooks-Doll Post of the American Legion asking permission of council to locate the German gun donated to Bellefonte in front of the armory as an inducement to stimulate enlistments in Troop L. Council granted permission so far as that body has any rights in the matter of locating the gun.

The Street committee presented the report of the borough manager which included the collection of \$49.50 for work done for private individuals.

The Water committee's report showed \$28.00 collected by the borough manager for work done and \$5 on the 1918 water duplicate.

The Finance committee asked for the renewal of notes as follows: \$1,500, \$2,000, \$2,500, \$3,000, \$500, and that a note at the Bellefonte Trust company for \$1,400 be increased to \$3,400 to meet current bills, all of which were authorized.

The Finance committee further recommended that the millage for street purposes for the year 1920 which had been fixed at 15 mills at a previous meeting be reduced to 10 mills, and council so voted.

Mr. Harris, of the Street committee, called attention to the fact that Thomas Beaver has a very durable and really beautiful granite watering trough which he is willing to donate to the borough if council will accept and place it, and he suggested putting it on the edge of the pavement in the Diamond in front of the Curtin monument. It would not only afford a place for watering horses but would also be very convenient for automobilists to replenish the supply of water in their radiators. He also suggested that the trough be further equipped with one or two sanitary drinking fountains. The matter was held under advisement until the next meeting of council.

Mr. Harris also called attention of council to the fact that contractor Murphy will this week begin pouring concrete on the Bishop street section of the State highway, and considering the probability that at some time or other council may want to adopt the parkway lighting system along that section of road, he suggested that one inch pipes be laid down across the street at the proper distance apart through which to string the wires if the system is ever adopted. The borough has plenty of old pipe on hand and the only cost will be the laying of the pipe on top of the ground before the concrete is poured. Council authorized the laying of the pipe.

Secretary Kelly presented the revised list of amounts of money due from contiguous property owners on account of the State highway on south Water and Willowbank streets, a total of \$4,072.65, and council authorized the sending of bills to the various property holders with a request for prompt payment.

Borough manager J. D. Seibert called attention to the fact that the present plans for a wall along the properties of George Sunday and the Prunier orphanage, but both Mr. Sunday and the managers of the orphanage protest against the plans for sewer drainage on Pine street were not what they should be and both matters were referred to the Street committee and borough manager with power to work out more satisfactory plans with the highway officials.

Bills to the amount of \$7,008.11, which included almost five thousand dollars on account of State road work, were approved for payment after which council adjourned.

—A DeHaviland plane of the U. S. army aerial service, manned by Capt. Johnson and Lieut. Bagley and equipped with three machine guns visited Bellefonte yesterday. The officers were on their way from Bowling field, Washington, D. C., to Camp Perry, Ohio, and stopped at the Bellefonte aviation field for oil and gas, while the men remained here for dinner. The plane left Bellefonte at nine o'clock and reached Bellefonte at 11:15. They left for Camp Perry early in the afternoon.

—There are many good county papers, but the real good one is the "Watchman."

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Mr. and Mrs. Romano D. Guild, of Titusville, have celebrated the seventy-first anniversary of their marriage. Mr. Guild is 96 years of age, and Mrs. Guild is 93.

—William S. Rollinger, who for 23 years has been employed in the maintenance of way department of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Tyrone, has been promoted to division accountant of the Tyrone division.

—William J. Roberts, 62 years old, of Lewistown, was instantly killed on Saturday when a large rock, loosened by a blast in the stone quarries of the Lewistown and Reedsville electric railway, rolled down the mountain side, crushing his skull.

—Mrs. Emma Grimes, 67, of Jeannette, Pa., was found dead on Saturday in the highway beside the carriage in which she had been riding, near the home of her sister, Mrs. Anna Shaffer, of Hays Grove, near Chambersburg. Mrs. Grimes was delivering milk when seized with apoplexy.

—While on the running board of a trolley car going over a high trestle near Mount Carmel last Wednesday night, Lawrence Laughlin's head struck a guy wire. He fell fifty feet to soft, wet coal dirt below, which broke his fall. His only injuries were the loss of a tooth. When landing, a knee flew up and struck him on the mouth. He got aboard the car again and continued to Malsville to a dance.

—Motorists in Williamsport have a costly habit of breaking gates at railroad grade crossings. In the last year the Pennsylvania Company alone has collected \$190 damages from offenders, but that sum was not sufficient to repair all the gates broken or damaged. The company spent nearly \$500 more to make the necessary repairs. In that city and immediate vicinity, a gate was broken on an average of once a week during the year.

—Charles Maynard, 15, of Williamsport, was the perpetrator of a unique robbery when he hid under a seat in a moving-picture house while attaches were sweeping the theatre and locking the doors and then with a hatchet broke open all of the candy boxes attached to the rear of the seats. He collected a large sum of money, his expenditure of which attracted the attention of the police and led to his arrest. He confessed to the crime.

—Tired of working in a flower mill at Newport, Clarence Foltz, 22, entered the residence of a Pennsylvania Railroad employe, east of that town while the family was absent, appropriated \$500 worth of Liberty bonds and \$150 in cash and started for Chicago on a passing freight train. When the train reached Huntington Policeman Ernest Lavette Foltz to stop over and be searched. All the bonds and most of the money were found on his person.

—Hiking his own life, Harvey S. Binder, brakeman on the Reading railway saved the life of 9-year-old Joseph Hartline, of Boyertown, on Sunday. The boy was walking on the track, and Binder's freight locomotive, running backward, almost ran him down. Binder, riding on the end of the tender, swung out and with one arm threw him off the track. The boy was almost paralyzed by fear, but was unhurt. His weight almost pulled Binder under the wheels.

—During a baseball game at Duncansville a few weeks ago, a swarm of bees came over the hill and settled on a bush near the diamond. Some boys procured a net, knocked in the head and set it under the bees. A twist of the bush and into the keg went the bees. The improvised trap was turned up on some stone and the new inhabitants immediately went to work. Samuel Keller carried the new hive home and the bees are now filling it with honey.

An automobile from Scranton buzzed along past Jacobs, near Susquehanna on Friday. Suddenly six armed bandits held up the car. "Where's the booze?" queried one thing whiffing the air. A search of machine, occupants, gas tank and what not failed to reveal any concealed liquor. Then one crook began tapping the tires. He unscrewed a cap on an inflating stem and then cut loose with a yell of joy. The inner tubes were all filled with rum instead of air.

Six men made six trips into the packing house of Armour & Co., of Chester on Saturday. A watchman saw the thieves going in and out, but hesitated about calling the police fearing he might make a mistake. At the end of the sixth trip he took a chance and a detail of police found that 800 pounds of "best creamery butter" had been stolen. The watchman says the men took their time and did not fear detection. Two hundred pounds of butter were found along the railroad, dropped when they found they were discovered.

—One of the biggest coal land deals put through in the Gettysburg region in a number of years has just been consummated, whereby John E. Laing, of DuBois, has taken over the Craig estate, near Winterburn, north of the Buffalo & Susquehanna railroad. The tract includes 1,000 acres, under which are three veins of coal, one of which is 3-1/2 feet thick. Mr. Laing will drive a drift at once, erect a tippie, and will completely equip the mine. It is planned to ship 1,000 tons of coal a day within a year, and a new town will spring up near the mine.

—Last week was one of misfortune for William Fryer, of near Kimberton, Chester county. On Monday, while harvesting hay, one of his horses was stung by an insect, and is still in a serious condition. Mr. Fryer then fell from the floor of a straw mow, and was badly cut and bruised. During the afternoon, Mrs. Fryer fell from a cherry tree and was injured severely. All moved along quietly on the farm until Saturday. In the morning a cow gave birth to twin calves, but three animals died later. During the night, another of his horses became entangled in a strap of a halter, fell and broke its neck.

—A suit was entered Wednesday at Sunbury by Harry M. Dentler, of Milton, against Walker D. Hines, who was Director General of Railroads in 1918, claiming damages to the amount of \$30,850 as a result of a grade crossing accident there. The plaintiff asks \$30,000 for personal injuries and \$850 for his Dodge automobile, which was demolished in the accident. The accident in question occurred on August 1, 1918, when a freight train struck the automobile at the accident Mr. Dentler claims he was permanently injured. He declares the Railroad Administration was operating the train at too fast a speed, and that the crew was negligent in that it did not sound its whistle for the crossing.