

-This doesn't seem to have been a good year in politics for the Connollys. Joseph has just been defeated by a Republican for mayor of Portland, Maine.

-How gracious and how tactful was Mrs. Wilson when she invited Mrs. Harding to tea at the White House on the occasion of the latter's recent visit to Washington.

-We notice that among the contributors to the last Republican state campaign fund appeared the names of Charles H. Rowland, of Phillipsburg, and Charles E. Dorworth, of this place; each for \$100.00.

-Were the doors locked or were they not, threatened to become as much of a puzzle in Bellefonte as "how old was Ann," some years ago, until the "Watchman" discovered that they were not locked, merely barred.

-In the light of some rather unpleasant incidents during the last week we are inclined to believe a lot of people who don't take the "Watchman" because they don't like it spend much of their valuable time poring over news that some-one else has paid for.

-Congress is in session again and already "Manana" is being heard in Washington. Nothing is to be done at this session but "clear the decks for action for the next." That wasn't what we were promised two months ago, when prompt and drastic relief from all the country's oppressions were the pet phrases of the Republican spell binders.

-President-elect Harding has made his much talked of visit to Washington and the world is no wiser as to who are to be invited into his cabinet. Not that it was a matter of present importance but we are sure Senator Harding would have made several gentlemen, at least, very happy had he merely dropped a hint that they are among the elect.

-While the Governors of many of the States of the Union, who had been in conference in Harrisburg, were visiting Philadelphia last Friday, they were given a trip on the Delaware. In describing the entertainment in honor of the distinguished visitors the North American said: "Following the proffer and acceptance of some very agreeable and much appreciated hospitality, especially appropriate because of the chilly day, etc." Now why didn't our contemporary talk plain English and say: The Governor of Pennsylvania said to all the other Governors just what the Governor of North Carolina once said to the Governor of South Carolina.

-Governor Sproul's administration has been notable for the number of good men he has called to his assistance in the government of Pennsylvania. Not always is the man of exceptional ability the proper one to occupy high public position. Besides that he should have moral and political character such as to command and retain public respect and confidence. Rarely has an Executive of Pennsylvania surrounded himself with so many men of this type as has Governor Sproul and the wisdom of his choosing has been reflected in the popular satisfaction with his administration. The announcement, Wednesday, that he has named the Hon. George E. Alter, of Springdale, to succeed Hon. William I. Schaeffer, elevated to the Supreme bench, as Attorney General will be particularly gratifying to the people of Pennsylvania who know Mr. Alter as a fine lawyer and a man of irrefragable character. He has been prominent in Republican politics in Pennsylvania for years, but never a politician, because his ideals have always been above the sordid things that are necessary to power in politics in our State.

-Just what did John A. McSparran, Master of the State Grange, mean when he said in Philadelphia, on Monday, "Unless the State College of Agriculture recognizes the Grange the Grange will refuse to recognize the college." If his reference was to The Pennsylvania State College, school of agriculture, it is obvious that Mr. McSparran is determined to keep to the fore that pre-historic contention of the Grange that the great Centre county institution should function solely as a school for farmers. Years ago, when the College began to give some real attention to mechanic arts, one of the purposes for which it was founded, the Grangers, as an organization only, were unable to repress their resentment, or might we call it jealousy, and openly attempted to restrict the development of the institution. For years, if the State Grange was not antagonistic, it was at least apathetic. The College has grown, notwithstanding, and it has very little of that growth to thank the State Grange for. All the while it has kept its department of agriculture to the fore and thousands of farmer's sons have been receiving the benefits of it. At the annual meeting of delegates to elect trustees county granges and agricultural societies and engineering societies of the State name the delegates and if this isn't recognition of the Grange by what name should we call it. The people of Pennsylvania maintain The Pennsylvania State College for the young men and women of the Commonwealth and if some of them want an education along other lines than that of agriculture the College cannot justify its existence if it does not give it to them.

Democratic Watchman

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Congress in Session.

Little of value may be expected from the last session of the Sixty-sixth Congress which assembled in Washington on Monday. The assembling was a tame affair, according to the press dispatches, the only unusual incident being an address by President-elect Harding, who appeared in the capacity of a Senator for Ohio. The feature of the address was an admonition against wasting time in pursuit of partisan advantage and strangely enough Mr. Harding addressed himself to the Democrats of the body. After the delivery of his homily a committee was appointed to notify the President that Congress was in session and the Senate adjourned for the day.

In the House of Representatives, amidst confusion, similar steps were taken to let the President know that the statesmen were in town for an annual talkfest and that body likewise adjourned for the day. On Tuesday the President's annual message was read in both chambers and a vast number of bills on a great variety of subjects were introduced. But nothing of importance was done in either branch. It will take three or four days for the new members to get acquainted with the old members but by the middle of next week the legislative mill will be grinding to full capacity. But the product will be political chatter and buncombe of interest only to the Senators and members themselves. It will have no value.

There is much legislative work to do and some of it is of grave importance. A year ago the President urged needed legislation to reduce taxes and abate other evils resulting from the war. But instead of doing that Senators wasted their time in doing the things which Senator Harding now admonishes them not to do at this session. Possibly they will be able to consider and pass the necessary supply legislation to keep the government machinery in motion but if they do that much it is all that may be expected of them. If they fail in that public indignation will administer just punishment and this will be the last Republican Congress within a generation.

-If the educational improvement plans are carried out by the Legislature an appropriation of six million dollars will be none too much for State College, for after all State College is the hub of the State educational system.

Democracy Achieved a Triumph.

During the session of the League of Nations on Saturday the question of the interpretation of Article X of the Covenant was considered and a unanimous decision rendered and recorded that it should be construed literally and means that the guarantee of territorial integrity is against "external aggression" as President Wilson declared it to be. Ex-Justice Hughes and our fat friend Taft, who are governed more by prejudice than principle and know more passion than law, insisted during the campaign, that it pledged territorial integrity both internal and external and thus deceived some well meaning voters friendly to Irish independence to vote for Senator Harding for President.

Of course Justice Hughes and Mr. Taft knew better but having been bribed by the hope of seats on the Supreme court bench they distorted the facts and discredited their reputation for integrity and intelligence. They may get the rewards hoped for but at a price which honorable men would refuse to pay. No man governed by just principles can ever again hold them as worthy of respect and whether on the bench or off their names will go down in history as having failed when the real test came. We regret this fact for we stood among the admirers of William Howard Taft and would have preferred to continue that admiration to the end of time.

The New York Times of Sunday commenting upon this fact says "if it is better to be right than to be President, then the Democratic legions and their leaders achieved a brilliant triumph in the campaign that ended on November 2nd, for they were eternally right and their Republican opponents hopelessly wrong in regard to the meaning of Article X. The fiercest fight was over the interpretation of that article. The unanimous declaration of the League at Geneva settles that dispute for all time, and settles it by an express repudiation of the construction put upon Article X by the opponents of the treaty in the Senate." And it sets down Taft and Hughes as merely politicians, not statesmen at all.

-The Secretary of the Democratic State committee, Mr. Warren Van Dyke, has resigned and thus the party loses the only part of its organization that was worth keeping.

A Lay Preachment.

The wave of excitement over the proper Sabbath observance that is sweeping the country will probably subside without much, if any, change in our present customs. Some people are becoming hysterical over it. Others are interested, but the great majority view it merely as a passing incident and go on their way without giving it serious thought. Really it is a momentous question. So far reaching in its eventualities as to require the profoundest thought. The "Watchman" has always been of the opinion that the love of Christ can't be legislated into the human heart. And, in the last analysis, the manner of our observance of the Sabbath day depends wholly upon how much of that love we have. Then, too, we must not lose sight of the fact that no two individuals find the fullest expression of their feelings through the same channel. And in this dissimilarity in humanity is found the crux of the whole question.

Does a man have no love of Christ, no concern as to his future merely because he doesn't go into retreat on the Sabbath and spend the day in spiritual introspection? Most of you will naturally answer by saying that such an inference should not be drawn. Yet those who are suffering with the present hysteria will say that it should.

We have long held the view that a man can be a Christian and never go near a church other than his own private place of worship, be that where it may, but we are also of the opinion that such an one should be affiliated with a church because it is the only organized exemplification of what he stands for and what he must naturally be trying to impress on his fellows with.

We inject this question of church attendance because we believe that down at the root of the present agitation, stripped of all its camouflage it will be found as actuating the movement of the Lord's Day Alliance. But are empty church pews wholly due to a slipping away from the tenets of our fathers? We think not. Bellefonte, for example, has a population of a fraction under four thousand. In the various places of worship in the town there is comfortable seating capacity for thirty hundred and fifty people, or practically eighty per cent. of our entire population. At the last general election the total vote, of men and women above the age of twenty-one in Bellefonte, was only 1623, little more than half enough grown-ups to comfortably fill the churches of our town.

Looking at it in the light of these cold figures is it not creditable if our churches are only half-filled on the Sabbath.

Bellefonte is typical of the situation the country over and when we are talking of it we know exactly what we are talking about. It has too many churches. The result being discouragement and alarm for those most interested in them as physical entities and because it is beyond the human resources of the town to fill them some people conclude that the world is going to the devil and the only way to save it is to make laws that will make it a crime to do anything else than go to church on Sunday.

So much for what we believe to be the real, underlying motive of the present agitation.

Putting the question of church attendance out of consideration, therefore, the one of proper Sabbath observance is so multiplex that it seems futile for the "Watchman" to attempt it.

If it is not wrong for me to take my family out for a walk on Sunday afternoon, is it wrong for my more fortunate neighbor to take his family out for a carriage or motor ride?

If it is not wrong for him to take his family for a motor ride is it wrong for a man and his wife or his son or daughter to go to the golf links for a little recreation?

If it is not wrong for a man to find recreation in golf is it wrong for others to seek it in a game of baseball?

If it is not wrong for the young man to play baseball on Sunday is it wrong for the one who doesn't care anything about motor riding, golf or baseball to arrange a horse-race with a party of his turf friends.

The steps are gradual, logical but devilishly insidious. And they might be argued along the above lines, with reason, out to the point where everything goes. So that the only thing that seems possible of placing a limitation somewhere is the individual conscience.

We once heard the late Rev. Dr. McGarragh, one of the most profound theologians, in the Methodist church, openly preach the doctrine that sin for one person is not necessarily sin for another. Of course his argumentation was predicated on the individual conscience and loyalty to it.

The observance of the Sabbath in America will be exactly as is the development of the American conscience and no man-made laws will have the slightest impression on conscience. As a general thing a man doesn't obey law because of the dictates of his conscience. He does it through fear of temporal punishment. He will respect and keep the Sabbath day holy for fear of spiritual punishment and his own conscience, if he have the love of Christ in his heart, will set the limitations on what he may and may not do.

You can lock a man up in his home or a church on Sunday but you can't thereby purge his mind of unclean thoughts or bend his knee in prayer. So long as the niche in his heart, that only Christ can fill, is empty you can write the statute books full of blue laws and effect no result.

It is lobbying with the individual for his soul that is needed. Not lobbying with the Legislatures and Congress for laws, that will make him rebellious.

Notwithstanding all of the turmoil and crime of these post-war days the "Watchman" is one that believes the world is better today than it was yesterday. It believes, especially, that the American conscience is awakened as it never has been before and it believes that in due time this awakening will bring about the voluntary placing of limitations on what may and may not be done on the Sabbath day.

-Sitting in United States court for the Middle district of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, on Monday, Judge Witmer fined four hotel keepers who had been adjudged guilty of violation of the Volstead act \$200 each and let them go. Fines of those figures will not worry such dealers much. From what we have been able to learn about the traffic \$200 merely represents the profit on about thirty quarts of whiskey and a fine of \$200 is a mere bagatelle in the profits of a few month's business.

-The women vote of Pennsylvania cost the Republican machine a lot of money but the big majority may have been worth the price.

-As a matter of fact Senator Knox has always been more ornamental than useful to the Pennsylvania Republican machine.

-With the expenditures of the National committee, the Senatorial committee, the Congressional committee, the several State, County, Women's, City and Ward committees added together it appears to have cost nearly as much money to elect Harding as to win the world war.

-Mince pies, plum pudding and other reasonable culinary tid bits are not lawful with a kick of more than one-half of one per cent. Yet without it they will not appeal as of yore to the folks who were accustomed to beatin' the devil round the stump through such delicacies.

-It would be hard to imagine anything worse for Greece than the restoration of Constantine to the throne, but if the people there want that sort of a ruler the principle of self-determination fixes it.

A New Tax Record.

From the Philadelphia Record.

"The Record" has heretofore alluded to the fact that the granting of the franchise to women makes it necessary for the next Legislature to solve a tax problem that is likely to give trouble. A news dispatch from the western part of the State calls attention to the fact that in a town near Pittsburgh where a 35-mill tax rate is in effect, and where occupations are valued for tax purposes, school teachers and stenographers, women as well as men, will have to pay \$14 a year tax for borough purposes, as well as \$2.60 a year for county purposes, or \$16.60 in all. In most of the boroughs and cities beyond Philadelphia this plan of taxation has long been in force, heretofore men being the only voters that were called taxpayers, except where women owned real estate or securities taxed for State purposes. Under our present laws, therefore, women in Philadelphia will be obliged to pay only 25 cents a year to qualify as voters, while in other parts of the State they will be obliged to pay the same tax as men before they can exercise the franchise.

Under the Nineteenth amendment, which enfranchises women, those of the female sex who may think that the cost of voting is too high and refuse to pay the tax can hardly settle the question in that way. Under our present laws they will be assessed the same as men, and whether they vote or not, the tax assessed against them must be paid. In many of the boroughs of the State where men have refused or failed to pay the tax assessed against them the tax collector has been empowered to seize their bodies and place them in jail. Many tax collectors in various parts of the State are most anxious about the problem of dealing with delinquent women taxpayers, and the Legislature no doubt will be besieged to take early action in an effort to relieve the tax-gatherers from threatened trouble with the female who refuses to pay her tax.

Governor Sproul, at the recent conference of Governors, had much to say about the tax question, but we fail to note any reference to the new feature of it in our own State forced by the enfranchisement of women. This is a subject worth his very serious consideration. It has not been helpful to the cause of good government to have 25 cents-a-year men in Philadelphia with the same rights on election day as \$25-a-year men in other parts of the State. The situation will not be improved if we are also to have 25-cents-a-year women in Philadelphia as voters with the same rights as \$25-a-year women in other parts of Pennsylvania.

Destiny Defies the Senate.

From the New York World.

Don't the statesmen of Europe ever read the newspapers? Don't they know that the League was scrapped a month ago today? Can't they understand that the President was overwhelmingly "repudiated" at the polls by the electorate? Have they altogether forgotten that the Senatorial syndicates sabotaged the treaty and that the people voted for the United States to resign from the world? Didn't they hear the Republican traffic policemen when they blew their whistles for the stars to stop in their courses?

Apparently not. For yesterday President Wilson's note to the Assembly of the League, accepting the proffer to mediate between the Turkish nationalities and Armenia, was received with unfeigned enthusiasm. Among the delegates were heard such expressions as "Wonderful news," "We have found the man" and "Poor old Europe will feel less abandoned." As if that were not enough, the Council unanimously voted to invite us to appoint an advisory member to sit on the commission which is drafting proposals for the reduction of armaments.

Of course it should not require a blackboard demonstration to show that any considerable limitation of armaments must be both universal and simultaneous.

And now, adding insult to injury, the forty-one nations of the League represented on the Assembly's membership committee have voted unanimously to admit Austria.

If the Geneva statesmen continue to act as if the League were not dead how can the Front Porch Peace Conference at Marion hope to succeed in organizing the promised "new association of nations"? Is it quite fair for the car of Progress to keep right on going and for Destiny to defy the Senate?

Panama Canal Tolls.

From the Springfield Republican.

As the Springfield Republican a paper as The Chicago Tribune asserts that "It is not good judgment, good diplomacy, good economics, or good politics, to free American ships from Panama Canal tolls." The Boston Herald admits that we are "bound by the Hay-Pauncefote treaty not to discriminate in behalf of our own ships." If Mr. Harding persists in carrying out his plan, he will be opposed not merely by the best opinion in the Republican party but by the most Republican opinion in it.

-Those Argentine swell-heads in Geneva understand now that "the tail can't wag the dog."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Lon Beach, aged 22 years, of Hawley, Luzerne county, was fatally wounded while hunting on Monday afternoon by a trap gun. The trap was set alongside a run near there and Beach exploded it when his foot caught in the wire fastened to the trigger.

-After being out for more than five hours, a jury returned a verdict in favor of Mrs. Mary J. Bowden for \$4000 against the Citizen's Light, Heat and Power Co., of Salisbury. Mrs. Bowden's husband was electrocuted several years ago when he came in contact with a live wire while working at the power plant.

-Yawning during a lull in the evening's conversation at the headquarters of the Rittersville Fire company at Allentown, Mark Bettle, a member, felt a sharp pain in one side. His suffering increased in severity, until his return home, when he fainted. A physician was called and made an examination, finding a fractured rib.

-Earl E. Hewitt, an ex-football star of State College, has been appointed postmaster at Dilltown, over in Indiana county. This is not the first experience of Mr. Hewitt as a postmaster, because years ago he was assistant postmaster at Falls Creek, Jefferson county, during the administration of his uncle, the late Captain W. J. Leahy.

-Jacob Hait, aged 56 years, of Pine Swamp, Carbon county, was killed last week near his home by a bear which he had brought down with a rifle shot. Hait, under the impression that the animal was dead, had started to draw the bear's blood when it struck him down with a forepaw and sank its teeth into his face. The blow broke his neck. The bear died a few minutes later.

-Norwich, McKean county, is no more. With the discontinuance of the postoffice there this month, the town is officially wiped off the map. It was once a bustling lumber town of several hundred inhabitants. The mill has completed the sawing of all timber in that section, and has been razed and removed. Numerous houses formerly occupied by the mill hands have been torn down and trucked to other towns.

-The largest single check ever paid into the State Treasury department for inheritance tax was received on December first by State Treasurer Kephart, in partial settlement for the estate of the late Henry C. Frick. It was \$2,000,000. With the exception of \$44,000, which represented direct inheritance tax, the remainder was transfer inheritance tax. The sum of \$37,000,000, representing part of the estate, is still in dispute.

-George W. Pheasant, a resident of Allentown, a small village in Mifflin county, met death Sunday evening by electrocution when he attempted to put on an electric light bulb at his home. Mr. Pheasant had been sitting with his family in the living room and had gone down to the cellar to get some apples from the bin. He discovered the electric light bulb had burned out and went up stairs, got a new one and was screwing the bulb into the socket when he received the voltage.

-With his leg broken, his clothes almost torn from his body and suffering from ugly bruises and lacerations, Gerald Kreitzel, 14 years old, was found a short distance from his home at Roaring Creek, Columbia county, last Friday morning, following an accident which is shrouded in mystery. The boy had been hauling stone on a drag sled, and the horse hitched to the sled, stood near where he was found. The boy's sister found him, but the boy refuses to tell anything whatever about the accident.

-An overcoat belonging to Fred W. Brant, a coal operator of Garrett, containing \$2200, hung in a check booth at the Yough House at Conneville, for nearly two weeks, and when called for last Friday by the owner the wallet with the money intact was found just as it was left when he left the hotel. Mr. Brant offered the hotel clerk a generous reward. It was politely refused, with the statement that the money could not have been safer in the bank, and he was paid by the hotel to guard its guests against loss.

-Efforts are being made to secure a pardon for A. Grant Richwine, who in September, 1917, was sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of from five to ten years for embezzlement. Richwine was the leading figure in milking the stockholders of the Punxsutawney and Lindsay Water companies and of the Reynoldsville Water company, in Jefferson county. Hearing on his application for a pardon will be held December 15th. It is not probable that there will be opposition to the granting of the pardon from this part of the State.

-Leaping onto a train whose engine was spouting ten feet of flame while passengers were unaware it was running away, William Rider, of York, Pa., youngest son of the engineer, saved their lives by applying the emergency brake and bringing the cars to a stop. His father, Jacob Rider, together with the fireman, had already been forced to jump from the blazing cab of the locomotive, after being severely burned in trying to shut off the throttle. The runaway was caused when an explosion occurred as Fireman Roseburg was shoveling coal into the firebox.

-Death last Saturday stayed a divorce proceeding in the Northumberland county courts when Ezra C. Keller, aged 54 years, owner of a hotel at Weigh Seales, died in a bath tub. His troubles with Mrs. Keller have been numerous and two months ago, when she brought suit for a separation, Keller made no efforts to defend it. Doctors said heart failure was the cause of death. The Weigh Seales hotel was widely known during the days of the old Shamokin fair, twenty years ago. Keller had been a hotel man for many years, and was well known throughout central Pennsylvania.

-According to a Chicago news dispatch, Joseph McGrath, former postmaster at Falls Creek, Clearfield county, on the line of Jefferson county, has given himself up to federal authorities, because he disappeared from the Falls Creek postoffice, two years ago, September, 1918, with \$1000. When Joe McGrath left Falls Creek there was much apprehension, the belief generally being that he had suffered a relapse from an automobile accident at Brookville, while he was a student at law there. That belief is good to this day. Ever since the disappearance of McGrath there has been supposition of foul play. His relatives have visited many scenes where murder and suicide have been committed and inspected numerous bodies always to find that the disappearance of Joe was still a mystery. McGrath will likely be brought back to Pennsylvania by the federal authorities for trial.