

—Speaking from a purely personal view point the event that looms biggest in 1921 will happen on April 15th.

—At the present price of eggs and chickens a four pound hen that is laying will pay for herself in two and one half weeks.

—The thing that we desire most from you is your good will and co-operation in making the "Watchman" better in 1921 than it has ever been before.

—Tuesday was the shortest day of the year. The price of coal has been falling so we don't view with such alarm that old saying that as the days lengthen the cold strengthens.

—Among the new leaves that will be turned over next Saturday the one with the picture of the water-wagon on it will not be pondered over so hesitantly as it has been in the past.

—If it were ours to give your Christmas season would be the very happiest you have ever known and your New Year would make all the air castles you have ever built turn real.

—Make the little folks happy tomorrow. Let them know why it is a festive season. They will be the men and women of the land two decades hence and as the twig is bent so the tree inclines.

—Maybe next year the price of paper and other essentials will be down to the point where the "Watchman" can resume the issue of the Christmas editions that featured this season regularly before the war.

—Brownsville, Texas, will vociferously swell the sob chorus that is coming out of Villa's new principality in Mexico, because some one stole two hundred of his horses. The old bandit was probably walking in his sleep and did it himself.

—The Altoona Times-Tribune remarks that "liquidating one's debts to society is a pleasant holiday pastime." Does this mean that president Henry W. Shoemaker and treasurer John D. Meyer have been invit'g paragraper Schwarz round for an occasional "hot scotch."

—A cute gentleman in a small community up in the northeastern part of the State got the public endorsement for postmaster of the village because he promised to sell three postage stamps for a nickel. He was appointed and made good by giving his backers two twos and a one.

—Keep your eyes open, everybody. The proposed new law for the relief of the farmers looks good in print and sounds good to the ear, but in operation we fear neither the farmer nor the consumer will derive any of the benefits. Such measures are usually for the relief of the speculator and the broker.

—The first meeting of the League of Nations has adjourned and all reports from Geneva are to the effect that more real constructive work was accomplished than the most sanguine of the delegates thought possible. As a killer of such things our Uncle Harding hasn't proven a great success, thus far.

—During the war we were urged to give until it hurt. We were giving of material things then. Only foolish persons would think of giving that way at Christmas time, for there is no need of it. The real Christmas gift is your good will and you can give and give and give of that and the more you give the less it will hurt.

—If there is a new congressional apportionment made on the basis of the census just completed Pennsylvania will gain eight members in Congress. As near as can be determined the central part of the State will be entitled to one of them, but just how the new District will be carved out of the one now existing is left to conjecture.

—And now Prof. Taft has made the happy discovery that his party would be willing to take the United States into the League of Nations if we Democrats will only refrain from reminding them that it is President Wilson's League. Poor Taft! Once these columns greeted him as a man who had broken the shackles of partisan politics and was finding his way into the light of great statesmanship. He must have wandered round in a circle.

—Our Christmas present to you is this copy of the "Watchman." This year happened to have fifty-three Fridays in it and so we couldn't very well drop three issues in order to keep our volume down to fifty numbers for the year, so there was nothing left for us to do but publish a gratuitous edition. As subscription and nearly all of the advertising space in this paper is sold on the basis of fifty numbers in a year you will understand that the extra Friday means that we publish a paper this week for which we receive practically no return.

—Tomorrow will be Christmas. It is a day apart from all others of the year, for it is the natal day of the Christ. The world is troubled and full of sorrow. Social, financial, business cataclysms are flashing on the horizon and, whether they prove real or illusionary, what matters it so long as hope remains to us. The babe of Bethlehem is the world's hope child. When He came the lamp of the soul was lighted. With it burning your tomorrow will be joyous, no matter what troubles lower. With it gone out Christmas day and all others will be black despair.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Important Events Present and Future.

Governor Sproul and General Atterbury, vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, were in Marion, Ohio, on Monday, where they spent three hours in conference with Senator Harding and enjoyed his hospitality at luncheon. The incident was in response to an invitation from the President-to-be, in pursuance of his plan to assemble the "best minds" of the country to discuss administrative policies. A day or two before William Jennings Bryan and Senator Reed, recreant Democrat of Missouri, were guests and simultaneously with the visit of the distinguished Pennsylvanians the perfidious Senator for Tennessee, Mr. Shields was with him. The association of these party traitors with Governor Sproul is not intended as an aspersion.

Governor Sproul and General Atterbury were somewhat reticent upon the purpose and effect of their visit to Senator Harding upon their return to Pennsylvania on Tuesday. They admitted however that the personnel of the Harding cabinet as well as the policies of the Harding administration were discussed. It will be remembered that Senator Penrose in one of his recent Atlantic City interviews suggested Mr. Atterbury as an available for the office of Secretary of War. Mr. Atterbury protests that he has no ambition in that direction. In fact he knows comparatively little about cabinets but is an expert on railroads and possibly his talk was in relation to the federal administration of railroads and wages of railroad employees, a subject to which he has given much thought.

While Governor Sproul was equally "close-mouthed" upon the conference, upon his return to Harrisburg, we learn from our esteemed Harrisburg contemporary, The Telegraph, that he dropped a hint of ominous character among his capital city chums. That is he intimated that he has been made the bearer of a message from Harding to Senator Penrose which he is to deliver in person. Some of the recent Washington dispatches have contained comments upon Penrose's frequent interviews to the effect that they have not been pleasing to the party managers. Possibly the Harding message is along that line and in view of the recent harmony deal between Penrose and Sproul, in that event it might become a matter of considerable public interest. We shall await developments with some impatience.

—The late Mr. Barnum must have had Russia in mind when he said "the people like to be fooled."

Mr. Taft's Baby Plea.

Our fat friend, William Howard Taft, complains that the Democrats of the country are making it impossible for the Republicans to put the United States into the League of Nations. Some Democratic newspapers are insisting, he says, that no matter what amendments are made to the League, if the United States joins it, President Wilson will get credit. When the League was first formed and the covenant presented to the Senate for ratification, the former President was very enthusiastically in favor of it. But at that time President Wilson seemed to be the idol of the world and it looked as if he might have an opportunity to name a Justice of the Supreme court. Later party prejudice changed public sentiment.

In a series of speeches made by Mr. Taft while the treaty was under consideration in the Senate, he said it was the paramount duty of the United States, not only to our own people but to the world, to enter the League. At that time not only a few Democratic papers but the whole world freely gave President Wilson credit for creating the League and writing the covenant. But that fact didn't impair its value in his mind then. He wanted a seat on the Supreme bench and Wilson might have had an opportunity to appoint a justice. Now he knows President Wilson will never have a chance to appoint a justice and one opposed to Wilson and the League will have. Therefore the name of Wilson is anathema.

This sudden but complete change of attitude creates a standard by which William H. Taft may be justly and accurately measured. He is a professional office seeker. Almost from the day he emerged from college he has been on the pay roll, and having accidentally slipped off when Woodrow Wilson was elected President he is ready and willing to sacrifice both principle and conviction to get back. But we hardly expected him to put up the baby plea in justification of his present absurd attitude, that we can't join the League of Nations for the reason that President Wilson would get credit by the act. President Wilson's place is fixed and no word from Taft can either take from or add to it.

Wrong Policy of Steel Makers.

The arguments which labor leaders have presented from time to time in favor of what they call "the closed shop," have not been convincing. The right of a man to work at whatever price and in whatever place he can find employment that suits him has never been shaken. Like those of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," it is unalienable. Industrial agitators might argue until blue in the face to the contrary without making an impression upon well-balanced and rational minds. But the recent action of the certain makers of structural steel will go a long way toward justifying the policy for which the labor organizations contend. The monopolists have done for labor what its friends couldn't do.

Testifying before a committee investigating building conditions in New York, the other day, Mr. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel company, declared that his corporation and the Steel trust had agreed upon a purpose to refuse to sell structural steel to any builders who employed union labor. Modern building in cities is practically impossible without structural steel. There is an old adage that bricks cannot be made without straw. It is equally certain that "sky-scrapers" and big business blocks or buildings are impossible without structural steel. A twenty or thirty story building of stone or brick without the reinforcement of structural steel would be a menace to life.

Therefore the labor leaders may justly argue that if the structural steel makers may join in a policy such as that declared by Mr. Grace organized labor may unite in a purpose such as is employed by the "closed shop." It is true that two wrongs fail to make a right but reprisals are justified when self-preservation is the object in view. It is safe to say that a majority of wage earners throughout the country are members of labor unions. It is probable that in the cities in which structural steel is so important an element in building operations, two-thirds of the working men belong to unions. The policy announced by the makers of this material is therefore rankly and frankly wrong.

—Coal profiteering may be a national disgrace, as an esteemed contemporary declares, but the profits in profiteering in coal go a long way toward electing a President of the United States.

Doubtful Economic Expedient.

We very gravely doubt the wisdom of the pending legislation to levy a heavy tariff tax on certain agricultural products, especially wheat, potatoes and live stock, for a limited period of time. The purpose of the legislation, according to those responsible for it, is "to shield agriculturists from further price decline." The high cost of living has so endeared itself to certain Congressmen that they have become alarmed at the first sign of a break in prices. Naturally their sympathies go out freely and effusively to the farmer.

We own to a deeply-seated and broadly-bound sympathy for the farmer. He is easily "the salt of the earth" and the fountain of industrial prosperity and social contentment. During recent years he has had a pretty nifty time of it. To be sure he has had to be content in a few instances with a Ford "fiver" which was sometimes passed on the improved highway by a Packard or other expensive car occupied by an acquaintance. But our probably too provincial mind runs on lines limited to Centre county and adjacent territory and we are unable to see how a tariff tax limited to one year will benefit the farmers within that area while the effect of naturally increased prices of necessities on the community is clearly perceptible.

While we have few if any of the statistics at hand it occurs to us that most of the western and southern wheat of the last harvest is already in the hands of speculators and the live-stock securely penned up in the corrals of the beef trust. If that be true the grain speculators and the beef trust stand to win more from a tariff tax on agricultural products within the next year than the very considerable majority of the people who stand in the relation of "ultimate consumers." Of course the Republican machine owes a good deal to the grain speculators and the beef trust for generous campaign contributions and gratitude is a fine virtue. But paying debts with other people's money is not entirely commendable.

—If Lloyd George really wants to settle the Irish question there are various ways but the most promising is his retirement from public life.

—Anyway so long as the Blue laws are on the statute books there is not much danger of painting the town red.

First Session of League a Success.

The League of Nations closed its first session at Geneva on Saturday evening under most favorable conditions, according to the associated press dispatches. In farewell speeches Paul Hymans, president of the Assembly, and Dr. Guiseppe Mottay, president of Switzerland, the report declares "told the delegates that the first assembly had proved the League as a living organism and a success." The delegates who participated most actively in the work of the assembly concurred in this view and expressed the opinion "that it has done all that could be expected of it, if not more." This must have been unpleasant information and unwelcome intelligence to the Republican machine of the United States.

In fact the entire record of the session must have been a sad disappointment to those in the United States Senate and out of it, who hoped for the contrary results. If the assembly had failed Senators Knox and Lodge would have been ready with the traditional "I told you so." When the Argentine delegates withdrew from the body both those gentlemen promptly expressed their gratification. The incident was interpreted by them as a sign of disintegration. But nothing of the kind happened. Instead every day and every act strengthened the organization and added to its stability. In fact among the closing events was the addition of four nations to the roster bringing the membership up to forty-six.

During the recent campaign former Justice Hughes and other opponents of the League held up before the eyes of the voters a bogie of six votes for Great Britain against one for the United States. As a matter of fact throughout the proceedings the representatives of the British dominions asserted their independence and on the closing day of the session a controversy between the delegate for England, Arthur J. Balfour, and those of Canada, C. J. Doherty, and of South Africa, Robert Cecil, featured the proceedings and Mr. Balfour was finally compelled to yield to the opinion of the majority. This shows that the Republican contention was false and fraudulent and that President Wilson was right.

—Up to the present time there has not been enough snow in the mountains and woodlands to cause any hardship to small game in the matter of getting enough to eat, and this is a good thing for the game. During the small game hunting season very few pheasants were killed hereabouts and quite naturally hunters were of the opinion that the birds were very scarce. But during the past week men who have been in nearby woods on the hunt of Christmas trees ever before, saw more pheasants than ever before. Such being the case these birds should be looked after during the winter, especially, if a deep snow falls. Sportsmen should unite in putting out feed for them so that they may survive until next year. If they are so plentiful now, with sufficient feed to keep them over ought to result in plenty of birds and good shooting next fall.

No Paper Next Week.

For six months the employees of this office have worked hard and faithfully to give the very best paper possible to produce to "Watchman" readers. Now that the Christmas season is here it is only right and proper that they, too, shall have a holiday, and for that reason no paper will be issued from this office next week. Therefore when you fail to get the "Watchman" next Friday morning, don't be disappointed, but look for it on the morning of the 7th of January. The "Watchman" office, however, will be open to all its friends next week, just as usual. In the meantime we wish for all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

—Probably the real reason the Republican machine opposed the League of Nations lies in the fact that it requires members to raise the standard of labor up to the standard in this country rather than dragging that standard down.

—Congress is determined to keep prices up even if it has to put a tariff tax on every necessary of life. It looks as if the Republican party wants nothing to come down except wages.

—While exact figures are not at hand the Christmas business at the Bellefonte postoffice this year has exceeded any former year.

—Constantine may get on the Greek throne but he will have a hard time getting gasoline to run the machine.

—Two years ago at this season, we were saying good-bye to the Central Railroad of Pennsylvania.

Running True to G. O. P. Form.

From the Philadelphia Record.

It is rather diverting to note that a lot of Republican women, some of whom before the election were extremely voluble and foolish in their chatter about Providence being on the side of the G. O. P. and its splendid leaders, including Senator Penrose, are now in a flutter of excitement lest the gang should prove reactionary at the coming session of the Legislature. They fear that Grundy and his fellow-manufacturers may attempt to repeal or emasculate the legislation passed for the protection of working women and children, and they are begging Democratic women to stand with them in opposing any such backward steps. Having aided in flimflaming the voters by floods of twaddle about "Wilsonianism" whatever that may be, and misrepresentation of the peace treaty and the League of Nations, they are now apprehensive lest they themselves fall victims of the sweeping victory secured by such unfair means.

So long as Governor Sproul, who is a liberal-minded man, remains in office it is not at all likely that he will allow the Grundyites to tear to pieces the laws that limit the hours of work for women and that prevent the exploitation of child labor. The antagonism that exists between the two Republican factions, the Sproul-Crow and the enrose-Grundy, is a further protection against retrogression in this matter. But it is significant that no sooner are the Republicans firmly seated in the saddle than talk begins of undoing all the beneficent work of the past ten years. The other day the United States Senate passed a bill intended to prohibit strikes by railroad men, sailors and others engaged in the service of common carriers. The New York investigation of abuses in the building trade has brought out the significant fact that that distinguished Republican, Charles M. Schwab, is engaged, through the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, in pushing a movement intended to crush trade unions by debarring their members from work involving material made by his company and others associated with it. They want an open shop for their products, but when it comes to the employment of labor they are emphatically for a closed shop. It would be difficult to imagine a more intolerant and arrogant attitude.

All this is perfectly in keeping with Republican tradition; but the women are just waking up to it. Before long the workers also will find that the stand of the incoming Harding Administration will be very different from the eminently fair and sympathetic of the Democratic party under the Wilson Administration. If they have to put up a fierce fight to maintain the rights already won they will have only themselves to blame by reason of having taken any active part in placing reactionaries in power.

No Taxation Relief.

From the DuBois Express.

The business man might as well reconcile himself to the present system of federal taxation for at least one more year. There is not the slightest reason at this time to believe that the present Congress or the incoming one will be able to revise or reform existing taxes until late next summer or autumn. Even after this job is finished, the Treasury must have a few weeks in which to prepare the regulations and organize the collection machinery before a new tax system can be put into full operation.

It is quite true that both political parties by platform pledge and specific promises on the part of their candidates have held out the hope of an early overhauling of the war taxes which were imposed hurriedly to meet an emergency. But pledges are one thing and performance quite another. Political leaders might easily promise quick relief from burdensome taxes but parliamentary leaders know that it is not so easy to carry those promises into effect.

As a matter of fact, members of the Republican organization of the House and Senate are totally at sea upon the question of federal taxation. They are not sure, in the first instance of the amount of money it will be necessary to raise for the coming fiscal year. Nor are they sure of any means of exacting that revenue from the American people. Some of them talk blithely of a "billion dollar tariff," and yet most men who think at all must realize that any tariff which would net a billion dollars, on paper, would be so high as to become prohibitive, if put into operation. Traffic will bear just so much duty and no more. Imports will cease if the tariff is so high as to make them unmarketable in this country.

Again, the country has been told over and over that the tax upon business profits would be repealed, no doubt, but not until the House and Senate have found some substitute for that levy. The revenue derived from the profits tax is still needed and must be raised from some source, but no Congressional leader has yet appeared with a workable scheme for abolishing that tax and for the substitution of another as productive of federal income.

—If Harding doesn't show better judgment in seeking Republican sentiment than he did in searching for Democratic opinion, his conferences will have little value. Senator Reed and Mr. Bryan are not what you would call Tribunes of Democracy.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Michael Emig, 19 years old, was found dead in the bed of a boy friend, Roy Schroll, of New Haven, with whom he slept Saturday night. The death of the Emig boy did not become known until Sunday noon when Schroll went to awaken him. Heart failure is said to have caused his death.

—An unusual plea was made last Saturday by the American Car and Foundry company, of Berwick, for the employees to observe only one Christmas. Men of a dozen or more nationalities are employed, and each has his own Christmas, with the result that the plant always is badly crippled from December 25th to January 10th.

—Waybright Rice, aged 60, of Riglerville, Adams county, was found dead along the road between his home town and Ardreville. He had started in his auto mobile for Gettysburg when his machine stopped. He started to walk back home for some gasoline and had gone about a half mile when he fell. Several men from Riglerville coming along the road found him.

—The best industrial news that has come to Reynoldsville, Jefferson county, for some time came with the announcement that the Pennsylvania Hide and Leather company would start the tannery there within the next few days with a full crew of men. The tannery has been operating right along, but with only about one-fourth of the regular number of employees.

—Governor Sproul has issued death warrants fixing the date of electrocution of Charles C. Collins and Charles C. Reinke, of Adams county, for the week of January 31st. The week of February 7th has been set for James Davis and Anton Weber, of Allegheny county, February 14th for Frank Dombek, Allegheny county, and Sydney A. Brown, Delaware county, and February 21 for Antonio Insano, of Jefferson county.

—Alleging that she sustained serious injury at the hands of the defendant on account of the over-crowding conditions of the car in which she was a passenger, Mrs. Nellie Murphy, in her own right, and George W. Murphy her husband, have entered a suit in trespass against the Altoona and Logan Valley Electric Railway company, through their attorney, R. A. Henderson, to recover damages in the sum of \$20,000.

—Dr. M. R. Derk, of Jersey Shore, a veterinarian, had an exciting experience the other day when he was called to the farm of T. E. Cotter, near Jersey Shore, to take a tuberculosis test on the cattle. Mr. Cotter has a large Guernsey bull that he chained in a stall but in some manner the chain was broken so when Dr. Derk went into the stall the bull turned on him, striking him on the right leg, the force throwing him across the stall. The doctor is able to be about on crutches.

—Alleging that his wife, Mary Coveley, not only threw dishes and stove fixtures at him, but attempted to poison him, John Coveley, a mechanic of Lower Macungie township, Lehigh county, caused her arrest and in default of bail, justified the peace officer, J. Butz, of Macungie, committed the woman to prison. At the hearing, Coveley testified that his wife is a frequent visitor at Emma's dance halls and that when he remonstrated with her because she had prepared no supper for him, the dishes began to fly and that later she attacked him with a butcher knife, causing him to flee. Mrs. Coveley is 23 years old.

—Mrs. George Geogel, the Elk county woman who is charged with a variety of crimes in connection with alleged mistreatment of a girl taken by her from the Elk county home, is having her own troubles in securing bail for her release from jail. Mrs. Geogel was originally arrested on two counts, for which bail was fixed at \$3000. The sum was secured and immediately a third count was lodged against her. Then the fourth and fifth until bail was boosted to \$5000, and secured. A sixth charge, alleging attempt to commit murder, was made and thus far she has not been able to secure the bail.

—By the giving away of the soft, rain-soaked earth at the edge of the road, a former Clinton county treasurer, and occupied by himself, his son and William Moxley, all of Renovo, left the road between Shintown and Renovo early Saturday morning, while the party was returning from their hunting camp. All were hurled into the Susquehanna river, ten feet below. The car was overturned and Fisher was caught under it. The water at that point is about five feet deep and he had a narrow escape from drowning. He was rescued by his son, who escaped injury. He was badly cut and bruised on the head, face and body, while Moxley suffered a dislocated shoulder.

—With the decision of Judge Charles Corbet, of Jefferson county, in the case of Winslow township against Amos Strouse ends. During the last four years the case has been before the court in a number of forms. During the years 1913 and 1915, Strouse was treasurer of the road fund and upon the settlement of his accounts the township auditors alleged that he was indebted to the township in a sum upward of \$2000. He was under \$10,000 bond, and action was brought by Thomas Wood, chairman of the township board of supervisors, against Strouse and the auditors to recover the alleged shortage. In his decision, Judge Corbet held that: "The defendants do not owe the plaintiff, viz., Winslow township, anything and judgment is therefore entered in their favor."

—Thomas Tavro, of Denholm, is in the Lewistown hospital suffering with paralysis. During the eleven years that he has been in America he has played the part of the primitive man, subsisting chiefly on roots, berries and fruit that he picked from the waste land in that vicinity. His companions say he has practically lived on frozen apples for the past month. He also gathered up scraps that were thrown from the dining cars of passing trains, claiming that he was living against the time when he could return to Italy and live like a gentleman. When section foreman Leonard, under whom he is employed as a laborer, went through his effects at the boarding shanty where he lived alone he found certificates of deposit aggregating \$20,000 in the bank of Rome and in addition to this he had \$102 about his person, \$50 on deposit in bank at Milltown and \$50 on deposit in bank at Milltown and it is known that he was a liberal purchaser of Liberty bonds during the war which he sent to a safety deposit vault in New York for safe keeping. Fellow countrymen of Tavro say that he is the owner of a large vineyard in Italy which is worked by his wife and sons who deposit the money thus earned in the bank of Rome and send the certificates to the husband and father in this country.