

—And this is almost the last of January.

—Doing today's chores today makes the load for tomorrow that much the lighter.

—Everything will be running in high in Bellefonte next week, for we are to have our first motor show.

—About one forty-fourth of the residents of Centre county are illiterate and Dr. Finegan wants them lifted out of the darkness.

—Everybody wants to know who is going to be the next postmaster of Bellefonte. You tell 'em, wagon! You've got a tongue.

—The prices of furs are declining rapidly according to current reports so that every woman may have all she wants next summer.

—That grand-dame from Chicago who is paying a boy two hundred francs a shimmy at the "tea dansants" at Monte Carlo probably thinks that shimmies, even at that price, are preferable to "wall-flowers."

—If you see a lot of distinguished looking gentlemen limping around the streets of Bellefonte today don't inquire as to the cause. Just remember that they have recently returned from a pilgrimage to the east and the hot sands over which they had to travel probably burned some blisters.

—Some Solomon wants to know what has become of the old-fashioned young couple that took pride in owning their own home. We can tell him. There ain't no such animal anymore. They've all grown old while trying to save enough to buy a home at the fancy prices such things cost these days.

—The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters is going to stand sponsor for a lot of reform legislation that is to be presented at this session of the Legislature. The ladies have advanced a lot of good ideas and some of doubtful practicality, but we are right here to tell them that nothing they suggest will get any further than Senator Penrose permits it to go.

—The falling off in the consumption of whiskey last year, as compared with 1917, was eighty-four million gallons. Assuming that there are twenty-five million men over twenty years of age in the country and that half of them crooked the elbow on occasion this would mean that each one of them got along without four hundred and sixty-eight drinks during the year.

—Guy Kyle, formerly pastor of the Free Methodist church at Mt. Vernon, Ill., has just been arrested for assisting in the robbing of the mails to the extent of \$185,000. Approximately \$100,000 was recovered at his home. It was an awful thing for an ex-preacher to do, but then, judging from the salaries most of them get, we presume he thought he had a lot coming to him and got it when the getting was good.

—The trustees of The Pennsylvania State College did well when they made Dr. Edwin Erle Sparks president emeritus of that institution. Before his health broke Dr. Sparks brought much of honor to this great institution of learning and it was largely due to the terrific strain he was under at all times that he wore down the machine that now seems so difficult to build up. It is fitting, therefore, that his work and his worth should be thus recognized.

—York, Pennsylvania, should erect a monument of gratitude to the member of the council of that city who knew that a municipal franchise was a thing of value, too good to be given away, as is too frequently the case. York gets three per cent. of the gross business done in the city, by the company that has the lighting franchise there and the same percentage from the street railway company. The city's return on the franchise last year was \$22,319.

—More power to the women of the country who are awakening to the wave of vulgarity that has been sweeping over social functions with increasing indecency for months. What women mean by dressing as many of them are doing now is beyond explanation. On the stage they flaunt more naked skin than is covered and the pity of it is that the fashions of the stage are carried to the ball room floor by girls who seem to know not what modesty is.

—The advances along certain lines in medical science have been truly remarkable. Deaths from typhoid, scarlet fever, diphtheria and tuberculosis have been steadily decreasing during the past decade because of the research work of science that has resulted in the isolation of their germs and methods of combating them. While the percentage of fatality from these maladies has been noticeably declining that of heart disease and cancer has been on the increase. Last year eight and one-half per cent. of all deaths in this country were from heart disease, while cancer claimed two per cent. less. Hasty conclusions might suggest that heart disease and cancer will never be arrested, but we are of the opinion that they will be mastered, in a way at least, eventually by science. It is quite possible that the speed at which humanity is going has much to do with the increase in both and if we should stop running on high gear all the time there would likely be a decrease in both of these mortalities without any checking contributions from science at all.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 66. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 28, 1920. NO. 4.

Then and Now—A Contrast.

It makes a vast difference "whose ox is gored." For some time before our country joined in the world war, during the period of our participation in the war and since the end of hostilities, the stupid Philadelphia Public Ledger malignantly vilified the President of the United States at every opportunity. While preparations for the war were in progress experts in vituperation were employed by that newspaper to invent charges of inefficiency and extravagance against the administration and no accusation of atrocity was too absurd to find welcome to its columns. But as the time approaches for a change in the political complexion of the administration the tone of the contemporary is altered. That which was a civic duty then is now a grave crime.

In a recent issue the Ledger goes into a paroxysm of distress because of some comparatively speaking mild criticisms of the President-elect from whom the publisher of the Ledger expects some favors in the line of periodical postage rates. Listen to its tale of woe: "In this country the forked tongue of sedition, anarchy and the doctrine of force still leap from unexpected crannies to lick the body politic. The foundation of peace and tranquility upon which the nation sits is insecure. In every community crass ignorance, stupidity, perverted intelligence and prejudice await the touch only of a vandal hand to be galvanized into riot and disorder. In the heart of every loyal and perverted intelligence our government and our system is under suspicion, and the evidence against it is believed to be convincing. In the situation every flouting word aimed at the President-elect is a fuse under stabilized government. Every leering phrase kindles the spark of hate, distrust and rebellion."

During the war, while agents of the German Empire were planning sabotage throughout the country, sowing the seeds of discontent in every industrial centre and invoking every sinister expedient to destroy the morale of public sentiment the Public Ledger was viciously maligning the President of the United States in every issue. More than at any other time in the history of the country "the forked tongue of sedition" worked harmful results and "crass ignorance, stupidity, perverted intelligence and prejudice" encouraged "riot and disorder." But because the Postmaster General cut out graft of a few million dollars a year for publishers of certain periodicals those evils were a virtue then, though a vice now in the estimation of our Philadelphia contemporary.

Palmer's Lame Defence.

Attorney General Palmer's reply to the charges against his conduct of the offices of custodian of alien property and Attorney General, recently made by Samuel Untermyer, a distinguished New York lawyer, assumes somewhat the form of a plea in confession and avoidance. Mr. Palmer doesn't even attempt to deny the charges. He simply protests that his accuser is not up to the high moral standard and patriotic level of the best citizenship. During the war, the Attorney General alleges, Mr. Untermyer was in sympathy with the aims of the German embassy in this country at the time and gave legal advice free of charge to some of the German Imperial government agents stationed here.

Mr. Untermyer accused Mr. Palmer of malfeasance as alien property custodian and with inefficiency as Attorney General. Similar charges have been made frequently by others, based upon the records of both offices. The public has little if any interest in the character of the accuser. But it has intense interest in the accuracy or falsity of the charges. In defending himself, the Attorney General ought to have refuted the charges by presenting evidence that they were false. Instead he accuses Mr. Untermyer of infidelity to the country at a time when patriotism was essential to good citizenship and allows the public to form its own estimate of the truth or falsity of the charges.

It is well and widely known that while serving in the capacity of custodian of alien property Mr. Palmer made that bureau of the government a sort of asylum for political lame ducks who were devoted to his ambitions. It is equally well known that his personal friends were favored in various ways. That is substantially what Mr. Untermyer charged against him and his reply contains nothing to refute it. As Attorney General he has signally failed to fulfill every promise of relief from high prices which were freely and loudly made. That is practically Mr. Untermyer's charge. If it is true in both instances it doesn't matter much what Mr. Untermyer did for Boy-Ed or anybody else, at any time.

Profligacy in Washington and Harrisburg.

While Governor Sproul was denouncing the administration in Washington on every "stump" available from Maine to Missouri for profligacy, last fall, the fiscal officers of Pennsylvania seem to have been reveling in extravagance and rioting in expenditures. The expenditures of the Washington administration of which the Governor complained so persistently were for war materials and the health and comfort of the troops who had volunteered for hazardous service for the honor of the country. The profligacy which is revealed by the necessity of deficiency bills already introduced in the Legislature has not been explained but it is safe to say that the money spent was for less worthy purposes.

The appropriations made by the Legislature of 1919 were several millions of dollars in excess of those of any previous Legislature in the history of the Commonwealth. In fact they were so exorbitant that Governor Sproul felt it his duty to veto items in the general bill and entire other bills to an aggregate amount of about two million dollars. But the expenditures for the two years have exceeded the appropriations by upward of four million dollars and deficiencies for educational and other purposes for which supply bills have not yet been introduced will increase the total to the vast sum of nearly seven million dollars, an amount equal to the entire expenses of the State a quarter of a century ago.

But the full measure of the profligacy of the Pennsylvania State government during the two years covered by the appropriations of 1919, is not expressed in the deficiency bill. They have been "eating up" money down at Harrisburg and at various other points so gluttonously that the Governor has been compelled to inaugurate search parties to dig up additional objects of taxation. He has discovered objects which he hopes may be made to yield twenty-six millions, but if the Legislature provides a bonus for the soldiers of the late war even that will not be sufficient to meet the requirements. Of course there could be a lopping off of several millions, but that would leave insufficient oil for the machine.

—If John Sylvester Vierick does not get something "equally as good," Harding is not only an ungrateful but he is a hard-headed man.

Emergency Tariff Bill Doomed.

An impression is growing rapidly in Washington that the Fordney emergency tariff bill will not get through the Senate, notwithstanding the sudden conversion of Senator Penrose to its support. It would not have become a law in any event, for President Wilson's veto power would have prevented that national misfortune and the tariff-mongers are not strong enough in the present Congress to carry it through. "The objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding." But the passage of such a measure would have worked harmful results, nevertheless. It would have set a movement of commerce in other directions and curtailed the markets for American products after readjustment is completed.

The Fordney bill is simply a step toward the fulfillment of promises made to campaign contributors during the recent contest for President. Its effect would have been to keep up prices of commodities and prolong the high cost of living until such time as the new Congress, with the assent of the incoming President, is able to enact permanent legislation on the subject. The aim of the Republican managers is to reduce wages without decreasing the expenses of living. That policy will hasten the enslavement of wage earners. Men with hungry stomachs and starving children are not good fighters, and low wages and high cost of living soon produce that condition in life. It is an inevitable corollary.

The decrease in wages may and probably will be followed by a reduction in prices. But it is not the only or even the best way to achieve that result. Prices may be decreased by increasing efficiency as well as quantity in production and through the free action of competition. Good wages are the surest means of attaining efficiency in production. Fair recompense creates contentment and fidelity and these promote both energy and interest. But these methods are not in accord with the ideas of the tariff-mongers. They believe in the processes of force, the potency of compulsion. To accomplish these results they bought the election of a Republican President and Congress by buying the votes of their victims.

—Of course Germany will not be able to meet the conditions of the treaty of peace until she tries.

When Wilson Will Act.

In his note to Paul Hymans, president of the League of Nations assembly concerning Armenia, President Wilson sustains his splendid reputation for clear thinking, broad mindedness and sublime patriotism. Great Britain had suggested that the President be urged to assert his influence in the direction of pacification. England having practically recognized the Soviet government for selfish reasons, and strengthened it in some measure thereby, complains to the president of the assembly of the League of Nations of Bolshevik aggressions in Armenia and asks that the United States interpose to check the evil. President Wilson replies with characteristic vigor and wisdom.

President Wilson declines to instruct the American High Commissioner, Hon. Henry Morgenthau, for the reason that the principal powers have failed "to define the conditions under which he would endeavor to mediate." But he plainly indicates the main causes of the disorders which exist along the Russian borders and the reasons for them. Russia is justly or unjustly suspicious of the great powers because she believes that they are responsible, in part at least, for the troubles of which they complain. "The great impediment to peaceful reconstruction," he writes, "is caused by the utter confusion between defense and offense. Unless this distinction can be clearly defined, there is not only small hope of peace, but no hope of a clear perception of who is responsible for new wars."

The President believes that the small nations bordering on Russia would not undertake hostile operations against that great power unless encouraged by the promise of help in certain emergencies from the large powers. He believes, moreover, that it is the duty of the great powers to refrain from holding out such hope to the weaker nations inclined to make disturbance. In other words, President Wilson is of the opinion that a solemn declaration on the part of the great powers guaranteeing the integrity of Russian territory, would stop the disturbances of which Great Britain and the other great powers complain. Whenever this is done President Wilson says he is ready to act.

—If the annual banquet of the Centre county association of Philadelphia, fixed for Saturday night, February 12th, at The Rittenhouse, does not come up to the expectations of the committee in charge it will not be for lack of enthusiastic announcement on their part, according to the letter sent to this office by William S. Furst Esq. In fact the declaration in the very first paragraph ought to catch most Centre countyans, in the words "come ye, who thirsteth." And the reservation is only \$2.75 per plate, which probably includes the antidote for the "thirsteth." Candidly speaking it is a well gotten up appeal to all Centre countyans in or near Philadelphia at that time to attend the annual banquet, which will be the seventeenth since the organization of the association, and we have confidence enough in the ability of the committee of arrangements to make good all their promises to advise everybody who ever breathed the pure air of Centre county as an infant in arms or since then, and who is within reach of the Rittenhouse on that date to attend.

—The Hon. Thomas Beaver has been given some very good committee assignments in Harrisburg. He is a member of Agriculture, Roads, Forestry, Fisheries and Game. All of these have to do with matters that our Member is particularly interested in.

—When Mr. Bryan starts out to reorganize the Democratic party those of that political faith who live in Pennsylvania should remember that he was the main figure in reorganizing the party in this State eight years ago.

—The Republican Senators will confirm no appointments made by President Wilson, no matter how urgent the need of such action. The average Republican Senator has no thought above the level of spoils.

—There is not much in view in the future to inspire confidence, but the information that there will be no increase in the number of Congressmen is comforting at least.

—The big appropriation for the inaugural ceremonies is available and it is a safe bet that every dollar will be spent whether the ceremony is simple or elaborate.

—There is little comfort in the assurance of a coal supply for 6000 years when the price is so high as to make it inaccessible to shivering consumers now.

Sentence Suspended on State College Students.

For one hour on Friday morning two young wives waited in fear and trembling in the corridor of the court house while the fate of their husbands was hanging in the balance at a special session of the court held before Judge Quigley in the grand jury room, and when the court finally decided to suspend sentence and place the young men on parole for two years there was a swish of skirts and a rush to the improvised court room, and immediately thereafter there was a hasty exit of the court and all the spectators.

The case in question was that of Harold Bowman, of Clarion, and J. B. Sparrowhawk, of Beaver, the two students arrested two weeks ago for robbery, the story of which was told in last week's paper. As both young men plead guilty to the indictments against them a special session of court was held at eleven o'clock last Friday morning to dispose of the cases.

The young men were not represented by legal counsel. In extenuation of his crime of robbery Bowman told the court that aside from his tuition and books he had been working his way through college, doing anything he could get to do, which included washing dishes and waiting table. He claimed that his temptation to steal came with his urgent need for clothing and being successful in his first attempt at robbery led to others until he had secured the clothing and equipment he needed. He told his story without any apparent effort to cover up his misdeeds, but with a manifest degree of conviction of his wrongdoings. Bowman is twenty-two years old and was a Junior at State before his dismissal on January 11th.

Sparrowhawk, who was twenty years old last November, was a Senior at State and was assistant instructor in physics, hence stood high in his studies. He was also married to a girl of State College, the two having gone to Cumberland, Md., last June for the ceremony. Like Bowman, young Sparrowhawk told the story of his various robberies with little or no hesitation, only that he gave no satisfactory excuse for stealing, as he admitted to receiving an allowance of about seventy-five dollars a month from home. Neither one of the students attempted to put the blame on the other, neither did they reveal the fact as to how they plotted and planned their various robberies.

Sparrowhawk's father, who is construction engineer for the American Bridge company, of Pittsburgh, was present in court, and though he had little to say, was very much affected over his son's actions. Dr. Willard, of State College, told the court that up until the present trouble he had always considered Sparrowhawk an exemplary young man, and he knew him quite intimately. Two students also gave testimony favorable to both Bowman and Sparrowhawk.

Before passing sentence the court took occasion to point out to the two erring students the gravity of their case and the short step that intervened between them and the electric chair. The court admitted that the disposition of the case was a most perplexing one. The young men deserved punishment, not alone for the crimes they had committed, but as a warning to others. On the other hand each of them has a young wife to support and there were other reasons for a merciful judgment. Under the circumstances he announced that if they would restore the stolen goods, or make financial restitution, pay the costs in the case, sentence would be suspended and the young men paroled for a period of two years; but they would be required to report to court either personally or by letter on the first of every month just what they are doing and how they are getting along. If they do this and behave like men at the end of two years they will be free of the charge. But failure to live up to the provisions of the parole or any digression from the straight path will result in their being brought back for sentence.

Both young men were able to make arrangements for the restoration of the stolen goods and payment of the costs and were given their liberty.

—Some unknown individual has evidently had in mind the destruction of some of the young maple trees in the Catholic cemetery, and to accomplish his purpose cut deep rings through the bark around about two dozen of the trees. Just why any man should resort to such vandalism is a mystery, and so far no definite trace of the individual who did the work has been found.

—Those politicians who imagine they will get rid of Woodrow Wilson on March 4th, are making the mistake of their lives. That day will simply release the President to engage in a work of greater public value than any he has yet achieved.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Colonel William T. Miller, an employee of the Altoona Tribune, is the oldest resident of that city, it is believed. He entered the service of The Tribune in 1859.

—A thief stole the entire chicken flock owned by J. B. Harmon, of Mead's one night last week, together with twenty-five bushels of oats and two bushels of wheat to feed the fowls.

—A committee of Newberry citizens have selected the design of G. Moretti, a Pittsburgh sculptor, for a war memorial in the form of a piece of statuary to be erected on a public square. The cost of \$10,000 will be borne by public spirited residents.

—Ross Martin, a carpenter, employed in the construction of the new paper mill at Lock Haven, was almost instantly killed on Monday by falling down steps, a distance of eight feet, to a concrete floor. His neck was broken in the fall. A widow and two sons survive him.

—Nose-bleed with which he had suffered for five weeks almost continuously, caused the death at the hospital at Bloomsburg on Monday of Frank Brown, aged 89 employed on the bridge-building job at Shickshinny. He was taken to the hospital several days previous, so weak there was practically no hope for him.

With a thumb and two fingers missing from his right hand, Charles Guy, an eight year old boy of New Alexandria, Westmoreland county, was taken to the Latrobe hospital, following a disastrous experiment with two dynamite caps that an older boy gave him, with instructions to put them in the fire and see what happened. The lad put them on a hot stove and as he went to turn them around they let go.

—George C. Tompkins, of Philadelphia, convicted in the Blair county court last week of the charge of murdering Mrs. Caroline Humphries, near Carrolltown, Cambria county, July 15, 1917, was sentenced on Monday by Judge Thomas J. Baldrige to be electrocuted. Motion for a new trial was overruled. Tompkins also killed the woman's husband, Edmund I. Humphries, and their son, Edmund Jr., at the same time.

—United States Marshall John F. Short, with headquarters at Pittsburgh, if newspaper reports are to be believed, has enough confiscated whiskey on hand to relieve the drought of the State, and his friends, knowing that he doesn't drink anything stronger than coffee, are wondering whether or not they are to be remembered. Marshall Short has extended no invitations in his Clearfield Republican, a leading Democratic newspaper, to any of his friends.

—William Thorpe Schryver, pioneer lumberman, riverman and farmer, died at his home, Eau Claire Farm, Clearfield, on January 15, at the age of 83. He was the son of Dr. Abraham Schryver, who was graduated from Jefferson Medical College 85 years ago, and who was the first County Superintendent of schools in Clearfield county. Mr. Schryver, who was remarkably active for his years, is survived by his wife and two children, Emily and John, residing at home.

—Miss Ruby A. Dixon, aged 22 years, of Shamokin, believes a woman's perfect right leg is worth \$25,000, according to her suit brought in the Northumberland county court last Thursday. The young woman was a passenger on a train on the Philadelphia & Reading railway which figured in a rear-end collision several months ago. She claims her leg, perfect before the accident, was jarred, sprained and bruised so as to permanently injure it, as well as her back and side.

—On April 1st, the management of the Hotel Upegraff, one of the largest hotels in this section of the State, and one of the oldest in Williamsport, will pass to Chas. Weingardner, of West Chester, who will succeed E. B. Loop, who has been proprietor of the house since ten years ago, when it passed from the management of some member of the Upegraff family, by whom the business was founded. Weingardner was formerly proprietor of the old Duquesne hotel in Pittsburgh, and he also conducted hotels in New York and Philadelphia.

—Believing death to be near, Mrs. William Legg, of Old Forge, Lackawanna county, hurried to the Episcopal residence last Thursday to receive the last rites of the Catholic church. She dropped dead when about to enter the building. Accompanied by her son and daughter, Mrs. Legg went to Scranton to see a doctor. She was given treatment by Dr. McDonald, and then left the office. Reaching the street she felt that death was approaching. With her son at the wheel of their auto, the woman was hurried to the Episcopal residence.

—Wallace Ringle, a Senior in the Pittsburgh High school, and business manager of the High school paper, killed himself Friday morning by swallowing poison. Ringle was arrested on Thursday, charged with holding up a Pittsburgh store clerk Wednesday night. The police say he confessed to the charge as well as to several other crimes. He had been at liberty on bond. With Ringle were arrested two other youths, who also confessed to robbery. A note sent by Ringle to one of the other boys in school boasting of a robbery reached the police and caused Ringle's arrest.

—John H. Wilbert, a farmer near Hallfax, Dauphin county, has complained to the county commissioners that relocation of the state highway at that point would ruin his cow path. The proposed relocation cuts through Wilbert's farm, and he complains that a steep embankment will block the path which his cows now travel to their regular watering place to the spring. The commissioners have taken the matter up with the engineers of the State Highway Department to see if the cow path can be preserved. Wilbert does not want compensation, but he does want his cattle to have their pure spring water daily.

—In order to run no chances of losing the opportunity to get the State to build an armory in Lock Haven for Troop K, and recognizing the need of immediate action, a meeting of the board of directors of the local Business Men's Association, with members of the old armory site committee was held there on Friday. As a result of the conference, the Business Men's Association agreed to raise \$1000 of the \$3000 necessary to purchase the site. The task of securing the remaining \$2000 from the industries of the city will be undertaken later. The site selected, on which an option has been secured, is located at Prospect and South Jones streets, is admirably adapted for the purpose and has been approved by General Rickards, of the State armory board.