

—Are you reading the interesting serial that is running in the "Watchman?"

—It's a funny condition of affairs when the freight costs more than soft coal does at the mines.

—It is cheaper to work at any wage than to loaf. Never lose sight of the fact that every little bit helps.

—A big blizzard is raging in the northwest but whether we are to get any of the overflow remains to be seen.

—Centre county is over the half-way mark in providing for her Armenian children. Let's go the whole way and do it quickly.

—Before we know it marbles and baseball will be occupying the attention of the boys, while the old man gets that little piece of garden ready for onions and lettuce.

—The retail price of cigars is coming down in Bellefonte and elsewhere, but so far there has been no noticeable improvement in the flavor and quality of some of them.

—A few more than half of Centre county's one hundred and forty-six Armenian children have already been provided for. Let us guarantee that the others will have food and clothes for the next year and get it done with.

—One member of the state constabulary squad located here has a balky mount. This is a tip to our boot-legging friends that they stand a good chance of making a get-away if they can dope out the animal that balks and then do their traffickin' on its beat.

—At last Philadelphia has found a head for her public schools. The brand of politics they have in the Quaker city and the habit of letting it run amuck in the school board didn't appeal to educators big enough for that job and they had a lot of trouble finding one willing to take a chance.

—Surely we expected to hear of Col. Leitzell's having been kissed on both cheeks when that D. S. C. was pinned on him Sunday afternoon, but he didn't even get kissed on one. It remains for another distinguished soldier who was present to explain the discrepancies between his generosity at Birmingham and his osculatory tightness at home.

—Pity poor Lonnie Eaton. The sheriff of Ouchita Parish, Louisiana, was so busy that he forgot to hang him on February 4th, the day set by the Governor for Lonnie's execution and now everybody down there is up in the air because a parallel case is not of record. Lonnie is probably greatly disappointed that he didn't get that ride into eternity at the end of a piece of hemp on scheduled time.

—Of course national chairman White wasn't responsible for our defeat last fall. Our number wasn't up to win, but if a really earnest effort is to be made to reorganize the party we think there ought to be a new deal with a cold deck. And then some of the fellows who are lined up behind Mr. White don't sound very hopeful for a reorganized Democracy in Pennsylvania.

—Texas nearly drowned Mr. Harding when he went down there for rest immediately after his election. Now he is in Florida to rest up before his inaugural and his boat is stuck in the mud of Indian river. Of course the fact that Texas and Florida are Democratic States couldn't have anything to do with the discomforts the President-elect has had to suffer every time he has ventured away from his front porch.

—Just because George Glenn had to go and get tonsillitis all of Bellefonte was thrown into an uproar on Wednesday morning and three men are in jail. If George had had those bad tonsils cut out long ago he wouldn't have had tonsillitis and Charley Barney wouldn't have had to succeed him as fireman of the Brockhoff house heating plant and Charley wouldn't have been so near that cache of whiskey in the postoffice cellar that he couldn't resist the temptation to get some of it. Moral, don't get sick when you have a job near a booze cache.

—We rather like that fellow Dawes. He told them a few things in Washington that grated on the congressional ear, but a lot of Congressmen, who think they are being heard from, have been mussin' into the army and navy ever since the armistice was signed and they needed a few hot ones. Nobody ever supposed that Congressmen whose greatest business achievement is mailing government seed to their constituents could ever grasp the whys and wherefores of wartime expenditures and the country is getting mighty tired of useless investigations at its expense.

—Of course Secretary Baker may know some reason that the rest of us don't for keeping our standing army larger than 175,000 men, but generally speaking we are glad Congress passed the resolution ordering the cessation of recruiting even over the President's veto. The reason that most foreign countries always were so impoverished was because the tax payers had to carry so many soldiers on their shoulders. If we are sincere in what we recently fought for let us show our sincerity by reducing our armament to the lowest possible point, for should an emergency arise we can meet it again as we did in 1917.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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President Declines to Intervene.

In declining to intervene in the pending dispute between railroad employers and employees with respect to wages and working conditions President Wilson gives reasons which ought to satisfy all concerned. The matter is in the hands of a board created by law, composed of intelligent men and presumably fair. "It would be manifestly unwise," the President states, "to take any action that would interfere with the orderly procedure" of the Railroad Labor Board. Such action would be much like influencing a jury engaged in the investigation of a cause in court. If the constituted authority fails to function intervention might be justified but in no other circumstances.

The Labor Board is composed of three representatives of labor, three representatives of the carrying corporations, and three representatives of the public, an element which sometimes suffers more than either of the others in labor disputes. It is one of the features of the Esch-Cummins law which created dissatisfaction. The wage earners never had confidence in the integrity and impartiality of tribunals so organized. President Wilson was not favorably impressed with the law and approved it only because it was the best Congress would give. The pending conflict will determine whether the suspicions of the workers are justified or not. But in any event there is no excuse for interference in advance of action.

As we observed last week General Aterbury was arrogant and domineering in his demand that the board revoke agreements summarily. Contractual obligations are binding on both sides of an agreement. He was equally arrogant in asking the President to intervene to influence the board in his behalf. But the President was wise as well as just in declining to act in behalf of either before the constituted authority had revealed its purpose. He believes that the board will be fair and so long as that confidence remains he could not interfere. If injustice is done to the wage earners within the period of his tenure of office, however, it is safe to say he will be heard from.

Germany hesitated in signing the peace treaty and shows tardiness in accepting the decision of the reparations council. But Germany will pay the indemnity.

Legislative Jockeying at Harrisburg.

The session of the Legislature is developing some signs of intense jockeying in the near future. The three and a half million dollars deficiency bill has again been referred to the committee for the purpose of pruning and no one is able to conjecture what will be done to it. Under direct orders from the Governor upward of three hundred thousands of dollars were lopped off a couple of weeks ago in the hope of silencing complaints of profligacy but that doesn't seem to have satisfied some of the objectors. Accordingly it was recommitted last Monday evening after the adoption of a resolution withdrawing it from the Senate, to the calendar of which it had been messaged last week.

But the evidences of discontent are not limited to the provisions of that measure. The Governor has a legislative program of his own and a good deal of his time and energy are being spent in an effort to carry it through. One of his pet measures is a bill to provide for a constitutional convention in order that the work of his committee on revision may be embalmed in organic form. It is said that he yielded to Penrose in the organization of the Legislature in consideration of a promise to support his ambition to create a fundamental law and that he has since entered into agreement with Senator Vare for the same reason. But the friends of Penrose refuse to "stay put" and the result is in doubt.

The Governor's tax legislation is also threatened with bitter opposition and probable defeat. The scheme to tax coal is ridiculed as a pipe dream which creates no hope of revenue and the proposition to levy a tax on manufactures is openly denounced as a wanton violation of the policies and traditions of the party from the beginning. The fostering of manufacturing industries has always been the excuse for tariff legislation and more or less other inequities, and the proposition to alter the policy of the party so suddenly is repugnant to the mind of Joe Grundy, who as the slush collector of the organization for many years, cannot be ignored, as well as to some of his contributors.

It may be assumed that Senator Knox is responsible for the Mellon in the cabinet but chairman Hays will preside at the cutting.

The proposed law to prohibit hip pockets is an unnecessary precaution. It will soon be impossible to get anything to put in them.

Our Millionaire's Club.

Referring to the personnel of the Harding cabinet, as indicated in current rumors, one of the Washington correspondents states that Mr. Mellon, of Pittsburgh, the prospective Secretary of the Treasury, is "the second richest man in America," only John D. Rockefeller exceeding him in wealth. The prospective Secretary of War, John W. Weeks, of Massachusetts, according to the same authority, "is a very wealthy man," and Frank A. Lowden, who is scheduled to be Secretary of the Navy, is among the top-notchers in wealth, as was indicated by his expenditures in the primary campaign for the Presidential nomination a year ago. All the others chosen for seats at the council table are rich men.

It may be assumed, in view of these facts, that the government of the United States during the four years after next month will be a rich man's organization. And it is eminently proper that it should be, for the rich men of the country procured it at a vast expense. The report of chairman Hays fixed the receipts and expenditures of the Republican National committee at something like four or five millions of dollars. Since the election a deficit of two million dollars has been reported. The expenses of the congressional committee, the several state committees and the county and local organizations would amount to several million dollars and all of this money came from the rich men.

It may be assumed, therefore, that we are entering upon a new era of national life. The Republican party has always been dominated by capital and during the administrations of McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft the corporations were the potent forces in the direction of public affairs. But this is the first time that the government has been made a millionaire's club and that wealth was made the consideration in the selection of important public officials. But the selection of Mellon, Weeks and Lowden to fill the leading seats in the cabinet leaves no doubt on that point. They have no other reasons to offer or recommendation to present. But being the second richest man is something.

We are worried about Senator Penrose a good deal more than we like to admit. The failure of the Fordney emergency tariff bill was such a disappointment to him that his health may give way under the strain.

Meeting of the National Committee.

In the absence of information as to the moving cause, it is not easy to appraise the value of the proposed meeting of the Democratic National committee next month. The recent campaign was a sad failure and mainly for the reason that the party organization was inefficient. But it is not certain that the chairman, chosen by the candidate for President, was responsible. Therefore, if the purpose of the proposed meeting is to rebuke or repudiate chairman White, it would better not be held. With the machinery under his control and the facilities at his command chairman White probably did as well as any other man could have done. But the machinery and the facilities were rotten.

If on the other hand the purpose of the meeting in contemplation is to strengthen the organization by eliminating "dead wood" and substituting "live wire" the call should be welcomed cordially by every Democrat in the country. There is no use in denying that resentment against President Wilson was one of the main reasons for the overwhelming defeat of the party last fall. Nobody questions his ability or patriotism. Both will stand the acid test. But he was not always faithful to the traditions of the party, he was frequently defective in his judgment of men and persisted in favoring men who were obnoxious to the rank and file of the party and this weakness counted heavily.

President Wilson will always justly occupy a high place in history. His conduct of our share in the greatest war of all time was perfect. So long as reason holds her place his services to his country and the world will be held in sublime admiration. But his adherence to men unworthy of such confidence cost the Democratic party a vast number of votes in the last Presidential election and if the purpose of the proposed meeting of the National committee is to organize on a better basis than that upon which that campaign was conducted, it will be worth while. Trading in public patronage is a poor way of building up an organization and unhappily that method became the rule.

Germany still seems to imagine that treaties are scraps of paper. But the instrument in writing which emanated from Versailles a couple of years ago refuses to be scrapped.

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Pershing Declines to Testify.

General Pershing has declined an invitation to appear before a congressional muck-raking committee, according to Washington news dispatches. This fact is much to be regretted. The same committee, or one of similar import, visited France while Pershing was there preparing for his return home and subpoenaed him to explain about the disposition of certain surplus supplies and he practically told it to "chase itself." The recent invitation was sent in a more friendly spirit, however. It was given by Representative Flood, of Virginia, and was probably intended to give the General an opportunity to follow the example of the Chicago gentleman who expressed his opinion of congressional muck-rakers the other day.

In declining to appear before the committee General Pershing said that every charge that has been made against the administration of the war service abroad has already been fully refuted and that further answers would be a waste of time. That is literally true. But such a rebuke as a bluff old soldier might give to a bunch of mischievous muck-rakers, under the circumstances, would do a world of good and thoughtful persons will share in our regret that General Pershing didn't avail himself of the chance. He could have shown them what a despicable figure they cut in digging up scandals which have no foundation except in the debased minds of muck-rakers.

It is said that since Mr. Dawes, of Chicago, expressed his more or less profane opinion of congressional muck-raking there is less disposition to indulge in scandal-mongering in Washington. If that be true there is not much cause of complaint because of the expletives he employed. A milder form of expression might never have reached the spot and there was great need for something that would achieve that result. The accusations which have been invented and disseminated for political purposes since the close of the war are shameful, and anything that will abate the nuisance is a public service. Black Jack Pershing could have supplemented the work of Mr. Dawes most admirably.

The Public Spirit, of Clearfield, owned and published for many years by Matt Savage, has passed into the discard. The plant was sold last week to Messrs. Mallon & Butler, proprietors of the Commercial Printing company, who discontinued the paper and will use the plant in turning out commercial job work. The high price of paper and everything that enters into the publishing of a newspaper as well as the growing scarcity of practical printers were a handicap the Public Spirit could not overcome and editor Savage wisely decided to sell and in the future devote all his time to his coal development and real estate business.

Senator Fred A. Service, of Beaver county, has introduced a bill in the State Senate providing for an appropriation of \$200,000 for the erection of a memorial to the late ex-Governor James A. Beaver, at Washington and Jefferson college, Washington, Pa., of which institution the late General Beaver was a graduate.

We violate no confidence in announcing, unofficially of course, that Mr. Charles G. Dawes, of Chicago, will not be a member of the Harding cabinet. He uses such words too freely and tells the truth too frankly.

It is significant that Mrs. Harding is going along with her dress makers just as if the inaugural ceremonies were to be on the elaborate scale originally planned.

The new Governor of Indiana has decided to dispense with a personal staff, thus hopelessly impairing the infant industry of creating Colonels.

The reduced price of meat in Chicago is of comparatively little interest here so long as the increased price remains in this neighborhood.

When Russian laborers ask for more pay they are taken out and shot. That shows that Lenin has a way of his own of solving labor problems.

The secret of Gibbon's interest in Bergdoll's buried gold is revealed in the statement that it was to be divided among his lawyers.

The discussion of the emergency tariff bill in the Senate is likely to open the eyes of the farmers whom it was intended to fool.

Even if the national debt is funded in long term bonds the interest account will require a good deal of revenue.

Get your job work done at this office and get it right.

Campaign Debts.

From the Doylestown Democrat. When the campaign of 1920 ended with the election of November 2, there was a deficit in the Democratic National committee treasury of about \$200,000. We are not excusing that deficit. It ought not to be there. The Democratic managers, by inference, at least, led contributors to the fund to believe that expenditures of the committee were not exceeding the income. It is unfortunate, therefore, that expenditures were allowed to overrun the receipts, even though the poverty of the committee might seem to justify it. Therefore, we cannot condone the deficit, though we have no doubt that the committee's debts will be paid, if they have not already been liquidated.

But, what can be said in justification of the Republican National committee's deficit of \$2,000,000.

Reprehensible as was the lavish use of an enormous fund in the election, a debt of \$2,000,000 after the election is a worse menace to good government. Chairman Will Hays made light of this big deficit and said the people would "respond handsomely" and soon wipe out the debt. It is now three months after the election and one month before the man whose election was made possible will become President, but Chairman Hays has collected only about \$240,000 of this 2,000,000 deficit, which is said to be in the form of loans. Naturally the chairman is worried and he and Mr. Harding, who wants the deficit wiped out before he is inaugurated have conferred upon a plan to take care of the debt. A dispatch from Washington says:

"Hays' plan, which is just being put into operation, is said to be the notification of certain prominent Republicans who are in line for recognition that their selection has been tentatively approved; that the fortunate ones can best show their capability for public office by promptly assuming the responsibility for seeing that their pro rata part of the fund to meet the deficit is raised without further delay."

If the report from Washington is correct, money will control the appointments. If the law can be invoked to have the names of contributors to the fund to wipe out this deficit made known, the names should be published.

Governor Miller to the Citizens of Massachusetts.

From the Springfield Republican. "As it is the duty of the citizens to respect and obey the law, so it is the duty of the States to promote law and order by compelling, as far as possible, obedience to law. The 18th amendment as interpreted by the Supreme court of the United States confers concurrent power on the States to enable them to discharge that duty. "The present conditions are intolerable. According to current reports, the law is being not only openly and flagrantly violated, but has become the cause of the most scandalous corruption. When war prohibition went into effect, the law-abiding in the liquor business discontinued the traffic. The lawless took advantage of the situation to make unlawful gain and the illicit traffic thus engendered disturbs the good order and corrupts the morals of the community. The State cannot remain indifferent to that condition. No citizen, who desires social order and well being can remain indifferent to it, irrespective of what his views on prohibition may be.

"The federal government can enforce such a law only at enormous expense and with an army of agents in every State.

"That manner of enforcement will strongly tend to break down State power, the maintenance of which is essential to our scheme of government. "The prohibition of manufacture and importation may most effectively be enforced by the federal government, but the other prohibition acts can best be enforced by local officers.

"The State may render effective aid in preventing all of the prohibited acts, thus lessening the necessity of federal enforcement and directly contributing to maintenance of law and order essential to the security of every citizen."

Then and Now.

From the Clearfield Republican. Forty and fifty years ago the kind of weather prevailing the past couple of months would have been considered calamitous. No snow, no hard freezing with thousands of river rafts to haul to the streams, and millions and millions of feet of logs to slide would have caused deep furrows on the cheeks of all our people and wonderment in the minds of everybody about where the money would come from to tide over the year. Now we are all saying it is delightful weather.

Confident.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. Explorer Shackleton says even Spitzbergen and Siberia have less snow and ice this winter. That about makes it unanimous and sure.

Going Up.

From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The ankle watch has been superseded by one worn on the thumb. Jewelry certainly is going up.

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SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The last of the machinery of the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company's saw-mill at Costello has been shipped from that place. This ends the operations of that company in Potter county for the present. Nearly all of Potter county's timber tracts have been denuded.

—Joseph Uwell, aged 52 years, was blown to pieces on a street at Grandville, Washington county, late Monday when a stick of dynamite, in the pocket of his overcoat, exploded. Mike Dooley, a boy who was standing near by, was injured. The cause of the blast has not been determined.

—Charles Edwin King Jr., of Bristol, Pa., was freed of alleged complicity in the death of Arline May Stout, in Philadelphia on Monday, by deputy coroner Sellers, who announced that the 17 year old West Philadelphia High school student died of "a gun shot wound, inflicted in an unknown manner," in instructing the jury as to a verdict.

—Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has announced that Governor Spruhl had designated April 15 and 22 as the spring Arbor days. Under the laws of Pennsylvania these days are also to be designated as bird days. Doctor Finegan will prepare outlines of suitable programs for the day and send them to schools for assistance in observance of the days.

—Edna May Wardell, of Moscow, Lackawanna county, in divorce court before Judge Maxey, at Scranton, charged that her husband, Ambrose Wardell, harnessed her to a cultivator on the farm and made her live all last winter on turnips. Frank E. Boyle, attorney for the woman, called a former wife of Wardell. She testified that she got a divorce after Wardell put her in harness on the cultivator.

—This State has received a check for \$425,000 from the United States government for payment of its share of the cost of the construction of post roads in Pennsylvania. The government contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for this purpose. The day the payment was made more than \$1,000,000 was received in automobile license revenue from the Highway Department for the highway maintenance fund.

—Floyd Smith, who with his wife, was found guilty of the murder of their one year old baby, was sentenced on Monday to be electrocuted at Rockview, Pa. Sentence was passed by Judge Maxwell, of Bradford county, and it is the first time any person from that county has been condemned to such capital punishment. The Smiths abandoned their baby after hiding it under a culvert near the New York-Pennsylvania border line.

—Joseph Eisenhauer and his estimable wife, residents of Kyrletown, Clearfield county, recently celebrated their fifty-eighth wedding anniversary. They were married at St. John's Catholic church, Bellefonte, in 1863, and have lived in that part of the State during their married life. They are the parents of ten children, all living. They have twenty-six grand-children and five great-grandchildren. All the children excepting one were present at the wedding anniversary.

—The Potter county commissioners have been asked to pay a fine of \$100 each by game warden McIntosh, for having eaten a doe sent to the Potter county home. It seems that a doe illegally shot, had been sent to the Potter county home to be eaten there. Superintendent Mitchell invited the county commissioners to the feast, which invitation was promptly accepted, and they partook of their regular monthly inspection. The commissioners refuse to plead guilty and pay the fine.

—Five hundred dollars for seven chickens was the price paid by a thief who raided the coop of John Alcorn, at North Bessemer, Allegheny county, Friday night. He left in haste when surprised by Alcorn, but he carried away seven hens. Alcorn went into the coop to take an inventory, and was counting the chickens when a roll of money on the floor caught his eye. It contained four \$100 bills and two \$50 bills. Alcorn believes that the thief dropped the roll in his haste to escape.

—Throwing a tray full of diamonds in the faces of two bandits who entered his store, and then using the heavy metal tray as a shield to defend himself against their bullets, saved William S. Sturmer, a West Philadelphia jeweler, his gems, Friday night. A bullet fired by one of the intruders pierced the tray and entered Sturmer's body four inches below the heart, and he is in a hospital in a serious condition, but physicians say his chances are good for recovery. The doctors say death would have been practically instantaneous had not Sturmer broken the force of the bullet with his improvised armor plate.

—Peter B. Madara, of Reading, is said to be the only surviving soldier of the Mexican war in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Laura M. Roberts, daughter of Mr. Madara, recently wrote to Washington for information in regard to the matter and received a reply that while there are 125 survivors in the entire country, her father is the sole survivor of that war of 75 years ago in the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Madara will be 96 years old on May 10th next. While feeling the infirmities inseparable from almost a century of life, and afflicted with almost total blindness, he still manifests an interest in the happenings of the day.

—Who is heir to the Butterfield millions? Is a query sent out from Mahanoy City. Sheriff Wyatt is in receipt of a message from Governor Earl Smith, of Portland, Ore., announcing the death of Arthur E. Butterfield in the northwestern city, several days ago, and inquiring whether or not there are any relatives of the man residing in Schuylkill county, and if so, to have them share in the fortune left by Butterfield estimated at millions of dollars. The deceased was a resident of Schuylkill county until eighteen years ago, when he went west and proved a successful prospector for silver and gold and came into ownership of a large ranch.

—James Williamson, of Madera, was sentenced last week by Judge Bell, in Clearfield county, to pay a fine of \$1, costs of prosecution and undergo imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than two nor more than four years. Williamson was caught in an attempt to rob the store of Dominick Amato at Madera on December 1, 1920. He was discovered by the proprietor who fired several shots at him. One bullet passed through Williamson's hat, another perforated the leg of his trousers, while a third ripped through the waistband of his trousers. Williamson had a narrow escape from serious injury, and as his previous record was not of the best, Judge Bell decided to give him time enough to think it over.