

—Yes, its time to have a report on the Delaware peach crop.

—Let us hope that there will be none of this winter lingering in the lap of spring business.

—If President Harding leans a little more to the League of Nations he'll lose his balance and fall into it.

—The Germans seem to be able to do worse things to Bergdoll's would-be captors than we were able to do to the arch-traitor, himself.

—Judging from its action on the Martin bill one might assume that this Pennsylvania Legislature isn't so desperately dry as its predecessor was.

—If the new ruling on beer as a medicine stands the sick man will find it possible to procure more lager each month than the well guzzler could hold in the times when prescriptions weren't necessary to get it.

—Anyway the Hon. Thomas Beaver spiked the guns of the friends of the Hon. Ives Harvey by voting for the Martin bill which would make Pennsylvania as dry as was the farm that the Hon. Tom manipulates before he drilled a well on it.

—With the thermometer flaring around 80 degrees on the first day of spring those who shed their heavy woollens found it a little chilly Wednesday with the ground frozen and white with frost and the mercury dropped to 26 degrees.

—Many a fellow who was hitting only the high spots a year ago, when his pay envelope made him think that Rockefeller was only a piker in comparison with his wealth, is now trying to horn in for a sponge on far sighted relatives or friends who knew there must be a rainy day coming.

—The Hon. Thomas Beaver is the sponsor for a bill that was introduced in the House Tuesday that, if enacted, will make it unlawful for road contractors to close any portion of a public highway without orders from the authority maintaining the highway and then only after satisfactory detours have been established.

—Mr. Bryan was sixty-one years old last Saturday. As a birthday greeting to the world he announced that his forty years in politics has made him an optimist. Possibly they have but certainly 1896, 1900 and 1908 were ones during the waning months of which he saw more of the holes than he did of the doughnuts.

—The local Business Men's association is considering hanging flower baskets from Bellefonte's street light poles next summer. Certainly they would doll the town up a lot, but gentlemen, if you decide to do it, remember that flowers must have constant care and it should not be undertaken at all unless provision is made to have them as well cared for at the end of the season as they were at its beginning.

—When we consider the promptness with which the Senate confirmed the elevation of Dr. C. E. Sawyer, a homeopathic physician of Marion, Ohio, to the rank of Brigadier General and then hark back to its bickering and grudging consent to make Dr. Cary T. Grayson a Rear Admiral we are all the more convinced that during the past eight years the Senate acted more on the instigator than the suggestion itself.

—If the industrial stagnation is to last throughout the summer there will be more personal return for the unemployed man in an intensively worked garden than there was during the war when wages were high and jobs were everywhere. Then he had money to buy potatoes and onions and cabbage but he doesn't have so much of it now and a good garden will produce many a meal for the family that has no where else to look for one.

—Governor Sprout is most persistent in his determination to put a tax on coal at the mouth of the mines. His first proposal to tax only anthracite died a bornin' because it would have been adjudged unconstitutional, as was a similar bill passed several years ago. Attorney General Alter has evidently come to his rescue with a draft of a bill that is believed would pass the acid test of Supreme court analysis. The latest plan is to tax all coal that is sold for five dollars or more a ton at the mouth of the mine. This would insure revenue from all anthracite and catch bituminous should it soar again as it did last year. The founder of the "Watchman" years ago publicly advocated a tax on natural resources. His ideas were based almost wholly on personal knowledge of lumber and coal fields; their development and decadence. During the development and operation thriving communities are built up requiring vast outlays for roads, schools, homes, etc. Then when the lumber was cut off or the coal worked out, all the natural wealth gone, the community becomes pauperized because its location is often not fitted for any other industrial activity and those who can move out, leaving a burden too great for those who have put all their savings into homes, to carry. Of course, Governor Sprout's idea of where such taxes should go is very different from that of the late P. Gray Meek and in that difference there is possibly less justification for his proposed tax on natural resources. The former would scatter it broadcast through the State's varied appropriations. The latter would have refunded the major portion of it for the schools, roads and welfare work in the townships from which it accrued.

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Cause of the Change.

The new Secretary of the Treasury appears to be following closely the lines laid down by his predecessor in office. The new Secretary of State seems to think that the policies pursued by his predecessor are in the interest of the country. The new Secretary of War and the new Secretary of the Navy are following in the footsteps of their predecessors and the President declares his "mind is open" on certain foreign policies adopted by Woodrow Wilson. Even the League of Nations is now treated as an enterprise of possible merit and though the title is offensive the purpose is admitted as within the pale of reason. What has caused this change in the official mind?

General Jan Christian Smuts, Premier of South Africa, and one of the most efficient of the participants in the peace conference, has inadvertently, probably, but nevertheless certainly given the reasons for the change in an article published in the New York Evening Post on Woodrow Wilson. "The position occupied by President Wilson in the world's imagination at the close of the great war and the beginning of the peace conference," General Smuts writes, "was terrible in its greatness. It was a terrible position for any mere man to occupy. Probably no human being in all history did the hopes, the prayers, the aspirations of so many millions of his fellows turn with such poignant intensity as to him at the close of the war. At a time of the deepest darkness and despair he had raised aloft a light to which all eyes had turned. He had spoken divine words of healing and consolation to a broken humanity."

The denunciation of Wilson following this frame of the public mind was simply an expression of the conspiracy of the small minds of Lodge, and Taft and others who envied the distinction Woodrow Wilson had attained. They couldn't endure the light which his name gave to the world and set out to destroy him by malice and falsehood. Everything he did they denounced bitterly and with such persistence that finally the public mind was perverted into the belief that charges against the President were true. The adoption of his policies since the change of administration is proof positive not only of the falsity of the charges but the insincerity of those who made them.

—The emergency tariff bill is to be rushed through Congress at high speed, according to Washington dispatches. The Republican leaders seem anxious to check the downward tendency of necessities of life.

Able to Pay and Must.

When the German army was running its devastating course through Belgium no questions were asked as to ability to pay the heavy tribute levied on the stricken cities. It was a billion francs in one place and twice that amount in another and the time limit for payment never exceeded a couple of days. It was a case of pay or suffer and the operation involved both. But the conquering Huns felt no sympathy and expressed no compassion. They were proceeding on the high tide of prosperity and gave no thought to the future. The work of destruction seemed like a labor of love to them and they rejoiced in the distress which their cruelties entailed.

It will not do to say that this was the work of a cruel War Lord whose absurd ambition to dominate the world blinded him to the consequences of the cruelties inflicted. The German Kaiser was not entirely responsible for the atrocities that attended the German invasion of Belgium and France. He was urged on by the crafty and covetous junkers who hoped to coin profits for themselves out of the miseries they were inflicting. The Kaiser may be as black as he is painted and as cruel as imagination makes him. But the atrocities of the German army as well as the responsibility for the war is on the German people and the penalty should be placed where it belongs.

The council of the victorious allies have appraised the damages of the war and fixed the terms of payment. It may seem hard to put such a burden upon a people who seemingly had little to do with the cause. But it is just and justice is quite as great a virtue as generosity. The German junkers will have to pay and they are not only able to pay but should be willing. They engaged in a speculative enterprise that was as wicked as it was wanton and there is no reason why they should not be compelled to pay the damages. They have been generously treated in the adjustment of the accounts and we can see no reason for sympathy or relaxation in the matter.

—Great Britain is strong on civilization, of course, but considerations of that sort must give way in the interest of commerce.

Women Workers and the Governor.

The women temperance workers of the State have been trying to force Governor Sprout into an ugly hole. Some months ago, in a speech delivered in Pittsburgh, the Governor declared "there is one deformity in Pennsylvania which must be erased. The State is licensing people to do a thing in violation of the laws of the Republic. We will have to change that. Our enforcement laws must conform to the national law." He was speaking of the enforcement of the Volstead act of Congress. The women workers interpret his statement as a declaration in favor of the repeal of the Brooks' high license law and are trying to hold the Governor to his self-imposed obligation on the subject.

For some reason the Governor has changed his mind on the question. He now declares that the Brooks' law ought to be amended but not repealed. He has not given his reasons for this change of front on the subject of vital interest, other than that he was not fully informed when he made his Pittsburgh speech. The women are not inclined to accept this excuse. In a circular issued recently and widely circulated among the law makers of the State at Harrisburg they quote his Pittsburgh speech literally and extensively and claim the Governor's support of repeal measures they are pressing. And this fact is in the face of a declaration to the contrary made to them a week ago.

The women temperance workers may be wise in thus pillorying His Excellency. In most instances they have shown considerable sagacity in political operations and hoped to put this one over on the Governor. Recent incidents in his party relations with Penrose indicate an absence of that vertebrae that wins victories. But at this distance from the scene it looks as if they have organized a bitter fight that will end in disaster. Upon the question in issue there is not the unanimity in public sentiment which carried everything the Prohibitionists desired a couple of years ago and the women workers have been going a trifle strong during the present session of the Legislature.

—Centre county is lagging lamentably in the drive for the relief of European children. We have done our share to the starving tots of Armenia, but we haven't helped Mr. Hoover out with those three million other ones that he set out to feed.

Unjust Complaint of Favors.

Complaint is made in various sections of the country that Pennsylvania is getting more than a just share of the spoils of office under the Harding administration. The State gets two members of the cabinet, which is out of proportion but not without precedent, but that fact is not the disturbing element. It is the other offices that are being handed out to Senator Penrose's friends that are objected to, for some of them are peculiarly attractive. Among those in this class is that of Ambassador to Spain, which is one of the highest salaried diplomatic posts in the service and one of the softest. The Ambassador to Spain has little to do except enjoy himself and the best environment for doing so.

But Republicans have no right to complain because the followers of Senator Penrose are being favored in the distribution of patronage by the Harding administration. Senator Penrose is not only the inspiration but he is the inventor of the Harding administration. Of course our big Senator had willing and efficient help in his enterprise to make Harding President through the co-operation of Attorney General Daugherty, of Ohio, and chairman Hays, both of whom have been rewarded by cabinet appointments. But reduced to the last analysis it was Penrose who picked, groomed and nominated Harding and it is eminently fit that his efforts in that direction should be generously rewarded.

Besides in the selection of Cyrus E. Woods for the office of Ambassador to Spain Senator Penrose chose so wisely as to command assent. Mr. Woods is a diplomat by nature and has cultivated the art to a degree. He has served as Secretary of the Commonwealth under the administrations of Governor Brumbaugh and Sprout and though these chiefs are as opposite as the poles he has managed to give entire satisfaction to both of them. He has even managed to retain the personal support of Senator Penrose while satisfactorily serving Brumbaugh and Sprout and it must be admitted that that is a great achievement in diplomacy. No other politician has been able to accomplish it.

—Let us hope that the sly French diplomat, Viviani, will not put anything over on President Harding, during his coming visit. But Root would have been a safer guide than Hughes in such cases.

Taxing Everything in Sight.

The Legislative League is in favor of taxing everything in sight. The League is composed of fifty or more Representatives in the Legislature known as "up-State" members. At a meeting held on Tuesday morning Auditor General Snyder informed these gentlemen that unless additional revenues were provided for not more than \$100,000,000 would be available for appropriations this year. The Auditor General suggested various subjects of taxation that might be invoked. Among them is the infant industry of "boot-legging," in which he said, one-fourth of the citizens of the State are engaged. He also suggested taxing gasoline, municipal utility plants, coal and royalties on oil and gas lands.

The "up-State" law makers didn't give full assent to the taxing program of General Snyder. The suggestion to tax royalties probably jarred them. But they went voraciously for a manufacturing capital tax, a tax on coal and the Phillips' natural resources tax, which includes taxes on oil, cement and other mineral products of the soil. Out of a levy on all these objects it ought to be possible to raise enough revenue to give every member a local appropriation of one kind or another and establish his reputation for statesmanship. That the burden would be upon the ultimate consumer makes no difference to the urban or suburban Legislator. What he wants is "the old flag and an appropriation."

At the suggestion of Governor Pennypacker some years ago the Legislature levied a tax on anthracite coal which was collected by the coal mine owners with much care and assiduity for some time. But the money was never paid into the State Treasury. It was simply held until a vast amount had accumulated and upon the petition of the mine owners was declared unconstitutional by the court. But it was not handed back to those who had paid it. It was divided among those who had collected it with the addition of an enhanced price, and that was the end of it. Are the "up-State" law makers preparing another bonus of that sort for somebody? If so the public ought to be taken into their confidence.

—Our friend Al Dale thinks that the editorial "And Nero Fiddled" that was published in the "Watchman" last week was a classic. We can understand this decidedly flattering comment only in the light of bread cast on the water. Some years ago Al was the Memorial day orator in Bellefonte and his oration so impressed us that in a news story of the day's observance we stated that it was the best one ever delivered in the Union cemetery. We hadn't heard them all, of course, but we meant what we said all the same. Al must have believed us for after reading "And Nero Fiddled" over again we can't understand how else the bread could have returned.

—We notice that our old friend, John F. Short, of Clearfield, has eight hundred cases of bonded whiskey, valued at eighty thousand dollars, for sale. John, you know, is United States marshal for the western district of Pennsylvania and by order of Judge Orr, of the United States district court of Pittsburgh, the eight hundred cases of whiskey recently seized by prohibition agents at Pittsburgh have been turned over to Marshal Short to be sold.

—S. Webb Kerstetter, of Curwensville, but formerly of Bellefonte, has been appointed postmaster at Curwensville to succeed George Kittleberger, who is incapacitated from looking after the business of the office owing to serious illness.

—Over in Philipsburg the police raided a poker joint early Sunday morning and confiscated the jackpot which totalled \$60.50. The participants of the game were then taken before the burgess and fined in addition to losing the jackpot.

—President Harding doesn't think as well of a separate peace with Germany as he pretended to during the campaign. His views on various other questions are changing also.

—Events prove that Germany has long lived in "a fool's paradise." She depended upon her army whereas her strength lies in her diplomacy.

—Dame Scandal is working over time in New York high life but Dame Scandal never did belong to the union.

—Henry Ford is doing his best to justify all the mean things that have been said about him.

—Happily Penrose allows Governor Sprout to sign his name to laws enacted by the Legislature.

Tariff and Taxation.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Our esteemed contemporary, The Literary Digest, advises us that as Congress will meet in a few days, "now is the time for the press of the country to declare its views, while the program is in a formative stage, and before it is too late to influence it by public opinion." Wherefore it asks us to contribute to a symposium our answers to these questions:

Which do you think Congress should raise first, the tariff or taxation? If the tariff, what sort of a measure do you favor?

If taxation, what change do you advocate? Should Congress abolish the excess-profits tax? Change the income tax? Raise the exemption limit? Reduce the surtax? Enact a sales tax or other taxes to make up revenue loss?

Prefacing our answers with a modest disclaimer of the idea that an overwhelming Republican Congress is breathlessly awaiting the advice of a Democratic newspaper, we endeavor to reply categorically:

We think Congress should take up taxation first. Obviously, any change in the tariff will be in the direction of an increase of duties. Equally obviously, any increase in duties will tend to diminish imports. Europe owes us, in addition to \$9,700,000,000 of government loans, a sum variously estimated at from four to nine billions. She cannot pay it in gold, and we would not wish her to. She can only pay it in goods. If we cut down the volume of our imports, we cannot go on exporting. And our future prosperity will largely depend upon our export trade. There is a serious flaw in the economic reasoning which seeks to improve our position by preventing our creditors from paying their debts to us.

As to taxation, we occupy a waiting and receptive attitude. The new Administration was elected on a pledge to reduce taxation, and we would be the last to wish to put any obstacle in the way of fulfillment. There are sound reasons for lightening the excess profits tax and any others the efforts to evade which tend to divert money into unproductive channels; but until the Republicans achieve the economies which they promised, the reduction of the sum total of taxation must prove extremely difficult, and an effort to make up a deficiency in the revenues from direct taxation by a resort to high protective duties is bound to add to the complications already attending our enormous "favorable" balance in foreign trade.

If there is anybody who believes that the Republican party is really going to reduce taxation, now is the time for him to prepare himself for a crushing disappointment. If there is anybody who believes that the collection of our foreign debt will be facilitated by rejecting the only currency with which the foreigner can pay, he is in for a disillusionment that is going to be very costly to the world's greatest creditor nation.

In the Matter of George Harvey.

From the New York World.

What is the meaning of all this talk about Republican opposition in the Senate to the appointment of Colonel George Brinton McClellan Harvey to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James? How can a Republican Senate repudiate Colonel Harvey without repudiating itself?

Colonel Harvey framed the foreign policy of the Senate. He wrote the "Hymn of Hate" against Woodrow Wilson and set it to music and taught Henry Cabot Lodge to sing it in a high falsetto voice for greater dramatic effect.

It was in Colonel Harvey's room in the Congress hotel, in Chicago, that the best minds assembled on that historical June night when they "put over" Warren Gamaliel Harding—to use the eloquent words of the Hon. Harry Daugherty. During most of the campaign Colonel Harvey was the Mayor of the Front Porch, author and public statements. Indeed, it is whispered about in the higher spheres of the Republican party, and commonly believed by the Republican intelligentsia, that it was Colonel Harvey who prepared the foreign speech of August 28, defining the foreign policy of the Republican party, and that he had much to do with the inaugural address, which still stands as the classic of Pollyanna politics.

The Republicans won the election by capitalizing the national grouch, and George Harvey is the super-grouch of the Republican party. Some of his critics pretend that he has not been a Republican long enough to have earned the Ambassadorship of St. James, but they forget how quickly the balance can be redressed by the zeal of a new convert.

George Harvey embodies the foreign policy of the Harding administration, and if he is not fit to go to London the policy itself is not fit to go there. Who else is so well qualified to tell the British government what Mr. Harding thinks as the man who told Mr. Harding what Mr. Harding thinks?

—Since Harvey is to get one important diplomatic post it is just as well that Hearst shall get another. That will make a clean-up of newspaper scavengers.

—Mr. Bryan is sixty years old and if he will take his proper place on the retired list some of his past blunders will be forgotten and all of them forgiven.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—As George Sheets, 81, was mounting the steps to the entrance of the Williamsport hospital to undergo treatment for heart trouble, he dropped dead.

—The body of Edward P. Seibel, of Sayre, was found on Monday suspended by three ropes in the upper floor of a barn near his home. There was a rope around each foot and the third rope was twice wound around his neck. Friends say he had been testing a physical training device and that death was accidental. He was 45 years old, a tinsmith and active in fraternal orders.

—Two four year old boys, George, son of Andrew Toth, and Alfred, son of J. H. Career, of Jorytown, Northampton county, were burned to death last Saturday when a building in which a motorcycle was stored was destroyed by fire. The children climbed through a hole in the rear of the structure, and it is believed they were playing with matches and set fire to gasoline that had been stored there.

—The contract for the sinking of the twin shaft at Cramer, Jefferson county, by the Northwestern Mining and Exchange company, has been let to a Scranton firm, and work has been started on the job. This coal operation, the company states, will be the largest in the United States, and \$1,500,000 will be expended in completing the mines. It will be equipped for an out put of 3000 tons every eight hours.

—With the river at Clearfield at flood stage, Thomas, Melvin and Robert Graham, Lawrence and Cecil Cuper and Clyde Wallace, dropped into the Susquehanna in a cage ferry Thursday morning when the cable broke. Fortunately the top of the cage was open, and as it struck the water the men were floated out on top stream. Two of the men could not swim, but Lawrence Cuper succeeded in landing them safely on the shore.

—David Brandt, who was found dead in bed at Meyersdale, on Saturday, a short time ago, fearing the security of his money in a bank, drew out his savings, said to have amounted to \$1000, and is thought to have buried the money. He died with his secret, as his relatives have been unable to locate the hidden hoard. He leaves his mother, aged 96; a brother, Ludwig Brandt, of Pittsburgh, and a sister, Mrs. William Daberko, of Meyersdale.

—Mrs. Frank Loy, of Houtzdale, while working in her kitchen last Thursday saw a child sink in Beaver run, which passes her house. Without a moment's hesitation she rushed from the house, vaulted the five foot fence, and rushing to the stream's edge dove into the ice-cold water and rescued the 18 month old child of Mrs. Jules Frelin, which had fallen into the rushing waters. The baby had gone down for the third time when the woman rescued her.

—Judge Cummings, of Northumberland county, on Friday directed the sale of the Sunbury and Solingrove Electric Railroad company, the Sunbury, Milton and Lewisburg Railroad company and the Chillisquaque Connecting Railroad company which have been in receiver's hands for more than seven years. The order of sale of the three properties was made to satisfy mortgage bond claims of more than \$600,000 upon which interest has been defaulted for eight years.

—Mrs. Laura M. Pressler, of Mount Union, has been awarded \$8000 for the death of her husband, killed in the performance of his duties as a carpenter near Mapleton, October 13th, 1919. He was repairing water troughs for the Pennsylvania Railroad and was run down by a train. After action for damages had been brought in New York State, allowable under Federal control, a compromise was reached. Under Pennsylvania compensation laws the widow would have received \$3500.

—William W. Virtue, of Pittsburgh, was arrested at Lebanon last Friday by the police, after a spectacular chase. When located in the home of his mother-in-law in that place, Virtue leaped from a second story window and avoided the police, only to return there and be apprehended by policeman Reed, who disregarded Virtue's threat of violence and followed him into the cellar of the home. Virtue is wanted in Williamsport for forgery and may be also wanted for automobile thefts.

—Eight dozen raw oysters, according to spectators, were gulped down after a Sunday dinner by Anthony Cataldo, a machinist, of Elwood City. The feat was performed on a bet of \$5. Cataldo was observed in the home of Peter Lassari, who mentioned that later on there would be a little oyster supper. This prompted Cataldo to declare he could eat more raw oysters than any other man present. A bet was arranged between the host and his guest. The sixth dozen was Lassari's Waterloo. Cataldo dropped twenty-four more oysters down his gullet.

—Two widely known men of Buffington township, Indiana county, killed themselves within ten hours by shooting themselves with shotguns. William Campbell, of near Dilltown, a farmer with a large acquaintance, took a gun out into his barn, rigged it up so that he could touch the trigger with a pick, and later his wife found him dead. James Cravens, a merchant of Creekside, was the other unfortunate individual. He had been ill, but he seemed to have been in such excellent spirits just prior to the time of his death that his friends believe that his death was due to accidental discharge of the gun.

—Mistaken for a burglar, Harold, 18 year old son of Councilman Commodore Bodine, of Berwick, was shot late Saturday night and is dying in the Berwick hospital with a revolver bullet in a lung. He was accompanying Miss Margaret Smethers to her home, and as he stepped around the corner of the house, Guy Smethers, the girl's brother, fired at him. A man had been heard on the porch a moment before, and Smethers' father had called for him to bring the revolver. Just as Smethers stepped on the porch Bodine, with Miss Smethers, came in sight and before he recognized the visitor, Smethers fired.

—On Monday the Lewistown Gazette passed into new hands with Hon. F. C. Bowersox as its editor. The Gazette, a weekly newspaper, was founded in 1811 by Major William F. Ellis and James Dickson, Esq., but the partnership was temporarily severed the following year when Elliott became a soldier in the war of 1812.

In 1846 it was purchased by George Fry-singer, who moulded its destiny for 39 years, when it was purchased by George and James Stackpole, who operated it until a few weeks ago when it was bought by the Lewistown Sentinel. Mr. Bowersox, the new editor, is president of the Roosevelt Republican club of that place. George F. Stackpole, former owner and editor is to be retained in the employ of the Daily Sentinel company.