

—Good morning Mr. Fisherman; did you have a good catch? —Country bands and baseball teams ought to be in fine form this summer. They always are when times are hard. —Yes, this is the day. If we don't have a mess of trout for supper we'll be no worse off than we were yesterday. —Just naturally the average fisherman is more concerned about the truthfulness of the other fellow than he is as to his own.

—President Harding evidently has some sort of a hazy notion that he could hold up the world if some one else were to play Atlas. —The early fruit and berries are gone and the Centre county housewife will probably have a lot of leisure during the preserving season. —Of course Representative Asbury had a perfect right to say that "from this day on the negro will vote for himself" but Representative Asbury doesn't know his onions.

—Cheer up! The Congress that promised to cure everything from ingrown toe nails to Yapsitis is in session and soon everything that ain't will be comin' your way. —Under the proposed new Congressional apportionment bill Centre will remain in the district composed of Centre, Clearfield, Clarion and McKean counties. It will be designated as the Twenty-third instead of the Twenty-first as now numbered.

—If you will stand for another reference to our long anticipated fishing trip of today we merely want to suggest the possibility of our having to tell you next week how utterly true is that old saying that there are just as good fish in the sea as ever were caught.

—Following the footsteps of Wilson President Harding delivered his first message to Congress in person. Imitation, indeed, is the sincerest form of flattery. Verily, our friends, the Republicans would have had to take a correspondence course in governmental practice had it not been for precedents established by the discredited and impotent Democrats who preceded them.

—Cuff stockings and bare knees that were rouged and powdered was the sensation that the week-end sisters sprung on State College recently. Anne Pennington was the first, we believe, to start the foolish girls on the hunt for Eve's modiste but we don't recollect that Anne used powder or rouge on the parts that her stockings didn't cover, probably because Anne didn't have house maids knees.

—The dope is all upset. They say now that neither the handsome petition of G. Washington Rees nor the lusty "pull" of Horatio W. Irwin will land the Bellefonte postoffice. John Liberty Knisely is to be our next postmaster, so those who think they are in the know say. We haven't been advised as to who spilled the Irwin beans, but we do know that very powerful influence is at work now in the interest of Mr. Knisely.

—A recent meeting of the Huntingdon Presbytery voted down a proposal to make women eligible as deacons or elders in the church. What else could have been expected from a lot of men whose stomachs were probably telling them if the women were made deacons or elders there would be no one left to cook the Brotherhood suppers that are now so pleasingly satisfying to all them that are gluttons for other things besides religion.

—The proposed Congressional apportionment takes Blair away from Cambria and puts it in a district comprising Blair, Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon counties; leaving Cambria as a district of its own. This change might work two results. Cambria might have a change of heart some day and send Col. Warren Worth Bailey back to Washington. And Fulton and Bedford have enough sleeping Democrats who might be aroused to a strength that would occasionally overcome the Republican vote of Huntingdon and Blair.

—President Harding, to sum the whole message up in a paragraph, has a foreign policy that he doesn't know himself and is therefore unable to give Congress or any one else an idea of what the chaos in his mind is. He says he is out of the League of Nations and yet has the temerity to suggest that some future arrangement will be made whereby the League machinery that other nations have built up will be used to execute his plans. In other words he wants to edit the paper but he won't help furnish the plant to publish it.

—The Vares double crossed the colored brethren of their bailiwick in Philadelphia last year by beating one of them for alderman and then when they were threatened with the loss of the colored vote, which they surely needed, they came through by sending two of them to the Legislature. One of the brethren promptly introduced an equal rights bill, Senator Penrose vociferously endorsed it, and it went through the House with a bang. Then the gang went home for the week-end and thousands of white constituents wanted to know why their Member had voted to give the colored man more rights than the white man has—and that is exactly what this bill would give him—and now the equal rights bill is "pickled" in the Senate and the colored gemmen who voted as they were told last fall are supposed to forget all about it before their votes are needed again.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Repeal the Full Crew Law.

The Pennsylvania Railroad company is moving to repeal the full crew law. The public should be interested in this measure since it is of doubtful necessity as a safeguard to transportation and certainly adds a great burden to the cost of railroad operation. It is estimated that the full crew law costs the Pennsylvania \$3,500,000 annually. When it is known how useless at least a part of this great expenditure is it is time to consider removing the cause of it.

Coming under our own observation, locally, the evening passenger train over the Bald Eagle Valley is made up in Tyrone. The normal train is at the station but more passengers appear than had been anticipated and the trainmaster thinks another coach or so necessary for the comfort of the passengers. They are hooked on before it is found that the crowd could be accommodated in the cars originally in the train. Thinking the extras might be necessary along the line they are left on the train and it is ready to start, but can't go until another brakeman is called because of the extra coaches. There is no necessity for an extra brakeman for he merely sits in an empty coach and makes a day by riding through to Lock Haven, without rendering service to any one. The full crew law compels the company to keep him there and the public pays the bill.

The public is interested for two reasons: Many needless bills of cost have been added to the operation of our railroads and the public pays them. We buy a ton of coal in Osceola for \$3.00 and then pay \$2.06 to have it hauled to Bellefonte in car load lots. Four years ago the freight was only 79 cents. Passenger fares have mounted in the same way.

Simply because it is a corporation nobody seems to be concerned. Its property is destroyed, juries pile inordinate costs onto it and generally it is kicked around like the proverbial "houn' dawg."

And who are the sufferers? Right here in Bellefonte we opine that there are more widows and orphans depending on their income from investments in Pennsylvania railroad securities than from any other source.

Pennsylvania stock is a trust investment in this State and women, especially, have relied on it for years as the repository in which to safely place their scanty savings. The stock is now lower than it has been since 1879 and unless we misread the signs the next dividend will either be passed entirely or reduced to 4%. Either action will bring great hardship into some homes in Bellefonte that we know of and Bellefonte is only one community in many in this Commonwealth.

The "Watchman" has always been the laborer's friend and is today, but labor has no right to impose on that friendship by insisting that this corporation should be subjected to needless expenditure for its benefit, when they contribute to the injury that is being done the innocent persons who have furnished the money to make the business possible.

The full crew law more often makes jobs for needless employees than it makes for the safety of the passenger. It is little more than a sinecure for the employees of the Company and if its repeal is going to help bolster up the tottering financial position of this once Gibraltar of securities it is time the public wakens up to its own interests a bit, before the selfishness of those employees who refuse to take a reasonable wage cut contributes to the distress of those whose all is invested in Pennsylvania securities.

Unless the signs are disappointing the opening of Congress is the beginning of the end of Republican control in this country.

It Pays to Advertise.

In the issue of March 11th the following item appeared in this paper:

WANTED.—A private bootlegger. Report for duty all day the 15th of April.

As is well known only very desperate men go into the boot-legging game, for Rev. Johnson, Commissioner Kramer and Miss Rebecca Rhoads are constantly on the alert to bring them into the clutches of the law and in consequence we had doubt as to whether we could procure a good one for today.

Advertising in the "Watchman" always did bring results, so we were not greatly surprised when a rather likely looking fellow rushed into the office yesterday, took us into a secluded corner of the composing room and whispered: "I am your man."

Of course the very nature of the business makes it impossible for us to give him away but if we were to so far forget ourselves as to "welch" on a real friend a certain congregation in Bellefonte would be looking for a new preacher. We couldn't take him, however, because he was too late. The job had already been pre-empted by a very prominent elder in his own church.

Cost of Official Profligacy.

The profligacy of the present Legislature has gone beyond the limit of gossip. It has become a scandal. The Auditor General of the State who will become State Treasurer next month, in a recent statement to a group of Legislators said that he is obliged to appoint inefficient officials to satisfy political obligations and then it becomes necessary to employ efficient men, without the authority of law, to perform the work. For this and other reasons the cost of administering the office of Auditor General has increased from \$55,150 in 1900 to \$550,000 in 1920. In 1900 the per capita cost of the office was less than one dollar. In 1920 the cost of the Auditor General's office was nearly ten dollars for each man, woman and child in the State.

Almost the same discrepancy is shown in other departments of the State government. For the year 1900 the cost of administering the office of State Treasurer was \$23,900. In 1920 the expense of the same service to the tax payers of the State was \$150,000. For the two years 1889 and 1900 the entire cost of the State government was \$22,896,218. For 1919 and 1920 it was \$103,862,641. In 1900 the expense was \$4.35 for each man, woman and child in the State and in 1920 it was about \$12.00 per capita, an increase of about 176 per cent., while the increase in population was only about 66 per cent. This difference can be accounted for only in the profligacy of the administration. The system of appointments described by the Auditor General is responsible for it.

But the Legislature pays no attention to these grim facts. It is going on with the profligate program to make the Sproul administration one of "illustrious achievement." Laws multiplying offices and increasing salaries are being passed and approved every week and the mountain of expenses is constantly growing. To meet these added charges new objects of taxation are being sought in every direction and it is now estimated that the burden of taxes will be increased to the extent of thirty million dollars. Industry is paralyzed, commerce is stagnant, wages are being reduced and the future looks gloomy. But the Legislature is not disturbed by such signs of impending distress. The Governor's program of magnificent achievement must be fulfilled.

Irish-Americans who supported the Republican candidate for President in consideration of a promise of help, received the first installment of their recompense the other day in the order that the Lord Mayor of Cork leave the country.

Juggling Funds in Harrisburg.

The esteemed Philadelphia Record describes one of the processes of abstracting funds from the State Treasury as follows: "The Department of Public Grounds and Buildings was created at the last session of the Legislature, and presents one of the most peculiar phases of government in the State. It is presided over by a commission that is lavish in its expenditures and reports only to its own members. Sitting on this Commission are the Governor, the Auditor General and the State Treasurer. The Treasurer, it is presumed, pays out the money authorized by the commission of which he is a member. The Auditor General audits the accounts of the commission of which he is a member."

As our Philadelphia contemporary observes "this arrangement offers excellent possibilities for the practice of economy. And by the same token it offers possibilities in the other direction." For example, the fact has been revealed that some time ago the sum of \$350,000 was taken from the welfare commission, without authority of law, and given to the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings. After an investigation was suggested the sum was retransferred. It is admitted that the money was spent by the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings but when the fuss was kicked up a similar sum, for the original had been disposed of, was dug up from somewhere and put back where it belonged.

This juggling of funds was manifestly for the purpose of concealing illegal practices. It was reasoned that the Welfare Commission having finished its work with a balance in hand the money could be taken without discovery for use in meeting obligations in another department. But the activities of Representative Alexander disturbed the plans and the Department which had wrongfully acquired the fund felt it expedient to make restitution. Thus far, however, no statement has been made as to where the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings found so much money. The big deficiency bills passed and approved without explanation, may have been intended for such purposes, but was hardly available so soon.

What's the Matter With Penrose?

There is a growing anxiety in the public mind concerning the health, physical or mental, of the Hon. Boies Penrose, Senator in Congress for Pennsylvania. Some time ago he was positive, even emphatic, in his declaration on public questions and the indications pointed to a complete restoration of his health. When the absurd Fordney Emergency tariff bill was introduced he promptly denounced it as a preposterous expedient. Shortly afterwards he said openly that it didn't matter who was Secretary of State in the Harding cabinet, the Senate would shape the foreign policy of the government. When Sproul's purpose to tax industry mercilessly was announced he emphatically put his foot on the plan.

But recently he has adopted an opposite course and "roars as gently as any sucking dove." Instead of carrying out his announced policy of strangling the Fordney bill he became its champion in the Senate and instead of dictating the foreign policy of the administration he tamely submits to any proposition which Secretary Hughes advances. Finally he has yielded to the demands of the Governor upon the tax question and given his assent to any exactions His Excellency feels disposed to lay upon the people. Lastly, and it gives us pain to refer to it, he has "re-nigged" on the equal rights bill. After all the colored brother has done for him in the past he now lays him, a sacrifice, on the altar of prejudice.

There must be a reason for these things. He has either lost his nerve or his gizzard has ceased to function. Everybody knows what he might do if so inclined. As chairman of the Finance committee of the Senate he is second only to the President of his own creation, in power. But he does nothing. His colleague, Senator Knox, is making himself felt as a dispenser of patronage. He has named an Ambassador, a District Attorney and several postmasters. But Penrose has had nothing and seems incapable of asserting himself. It is not his customary attitude. He has not always been so docile or indifferent to official patronage and control. That is why we think there must be something the matter with him.

Grover Bergdoll is likely to give Germany as much trouble as he has given this country, though he is not expected to be as expensive a luxury there.

Fooling the Negro Voters.

The hearing on the Asbury bill, popularly known in the Legislature as the "Equal Rights bill," before the Senate committee on Law and Order, at Harrisburg, on Tuesday afternoon, was a comedy. The bill, introduced by Representative Asbury, of Philadelphia, colored, purports to guarantee to the colored brother political, civil and social equality with the whites. As a matter of fact it gives the colored persons special privileges to which whites never laid claim. A barber, theatre manager, hotel keeper or school proprietor may refuse to serve a white person who is undesirable, but under this law such treatment of a negro would be severely penalized.

Of course such a law would be invalid as a violation of the constitution. But the Republican managers have been promising such legislation to the colored voters for many years and now that the colored vote has been vastly increased by the female suffrage amendment, they made up their minds to call the promise. With that purpose in view two colored men were elected to the Legislature and the bill presented. At first the prospects of its passage were meager. But the alternative was laid before Penrose and he issued orders that it should pass the House. Upon reaching the Senate it got into Senator Salus' committee by some fluke, and instead of strangling it he had it reported favorably.

Naturally a howl of indignation was aroused upon its passage in the House but Senator Salus, whose seat in the Senate is an unearned donation from the negro voters, railroaded it through the committee and got it before the Senate before the opposition woke up. It was never intended to let it go so far and with the view of pickling it was recommitted to the committee. A hearing was held on Tuesday afternoon and more or less acrimonious language was used on both sides. But the friends of the legislation got no where. Action of the committee was postponed until another hearing has been held when it will be too late to get it to a vote. The negroes will be fooled again.

The death of the ex-Empress of Germany removes about the only member of the Hohenzollern family upon whom public sympathy centered. —If you can't get on the "pay roll" don't despair. The "voucher roll" is almost as good.

President Harding's Message.

As might have been expected President Harding's first message to Congress is platitudinous and ambiguous. "To establish the state of technical peace without delay, I should approve a declaratory resolution by Congress to that effect with the qualifications essential to protect all our rights," he said, and added, "it would be idle to declare for separate treaties of peace with the Central Powers on the assumption that these alone would be adequate, because the situation is so involved that our peace engagements cannot ignore the old world relationships, nor is it desirable to do so in preserving our own rights and contracting our future relationships."

If his purpose was to confuse the public mind by involving himself in a dense forest of verbiage he has succeeded, for it is impossible to guess what he has in mind. At the outset he declares that "in the existing League of Nations, world governing with its super-powers, this Republic will have no part." In a subsequent paragraph he states that "the wiser course would seem to be the acceptance of the confirmation of our rights and interests as already provided and to engage under the existing treaty, assuming, of course, that this can be satisfactorily accomplished by such explicit reservation and modifications as will secure our absolute freedom from inadvisable commitments and safeguard all our essential interests."

If the President's aim was to assemble as many big words as possible within the compass of an official address, he has achieved wonders. But he has given Congress and the country no information that is intelligible upon either the foreign or domestic policies which the administration will pursue. He favors decrease in the cost of living and recommends emergency legislation which will keep prices up by adding tariff charges to the present cost of production. Of course he would limit this as to time, but only for the reason that he hopes for early legislation making for the same result in permanent form. Altogether the first message is a jumble of meaningless platitudes.

The wool manufacturers are wise in refusing to quote prices for next fall. There is no certainty at this time how far the tariff mongers will go.

Passing Away of the Country Hotels.

On Monday Howard Lambert made a trip to Howard to look over the hotel at that place with a view of purchasing or leasing the property but he found it in such a dilapidated condition that he reached no decision in the matter. The hotel has been unoccupied for some time and the ceilings are falling down and marks of general decay are evident in many places.

But the above is only incidental to the fact manifest now for some years past, and that is the passing out of existence of the country hotel. The time was years ago when every town and hamlet in the country had its hotel or "inn," where the tired and hungry traveler could get a meal and a night's rest. But the wayside inn was the first to go, then the small town hotel began to deteriorate and finally to pass away until now not a dozen remain in Centre county that are worthy of the name. Take the Old Fort hotel for instance, for many years it was the most popular country hotel in this county, now it is a farm house. Millheim at one time had three hotels, now it barely supports one.

Of course some people might ascribe the passing of the country hotel to the passing of booze, and while that may have something to do with it, the probability is that the advent of the automobile has more to do with the passing of the country hotel than any other thing. In the days when all travel was by the horse drawn vehicle it was impossible to make big towns in a day's travel, but with the automobile it is no trick at all, and everybody on the road makes it a rule to get to the large towns and the comforts of an up-to-date hotel.

It looks as if Dr. Finegan is to be the goat. He is blamed for all the profligacy of the State administration. "In again, out again, in again, Finegan."

It's all right for Governor Sproul and Senator Crow to cherish ambitions but they oughtn't to expect the public to "pay the freight."

There may be some advantage in postponement but Germany may as well understand, first as last, that the indemnities must be paid.

If Wilson were still President Republican editors could easily find a place to put the blame for the frost on the fruit blossoms.

Subscribe for the "Watchman."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—During the absence of the family, a thief entered a basement window of the rectory occupied by the Rev. Charles Noyes Tindell, rector of Christ Episcopal church, of Williamsport, and ransacked every room in the house, but took nothing of value.

—Sweethearts and others who occupy benches in York's parks will have to obey certain rules issued last week by Mayor Hugenugler. On moonlight nights lovers will have to sit one foot apart. When the weather is cloudy two feet apart is the regulation. The mayor intimated that on chilly nights the regulations may be relaxed.

—Burglars Saturday night blew the safe of the Smith & Clark Ice Cream company, at Scranton, but secured only 75 cents in pennies, although it contained \$1000. When the charge exploded it forced a safety bar on the inside of the safe so tightly against the cash-box that it could not be opened, although the explosion blew the door off.

—Returning from Cresson last Thursday night in an automobile, William Farber, who was driving, Francis and Warren Doucaine, Nellie Huff and Mary George, all of Altoona, plunged into the Hollidaysburg borough reservoir on the mountain when the brakes refused to hold on the steep grade, but escaped with slight injuries.

—Stricken while opening the Bible to look for his text at 10:45 Sunday morning, the Rev. B. F. Kautz, pastor of the Spry Lutheran church of York, dropped dead in the pulpit. The Rev. Mr. Kautz was 70 years old and survived by his widow and four children. The churches of the charge are Windsor Park, Spry and Blymires.

—Earl H. Jamison, of Hazleton, who served as a private with Battery A, 109th field artillery, during the war in France and was commissioned a second lieutenant before returning home, has been named cadet from Luzerne county to the naval academy at Annapolis. Jamison has been a student at Lehigh University since returning from overseas.

—When he mounted an ice chest to do some repairing, J. Fred Super, a Mount Hope business man, fell through the box, breaking his leg and running a spike several inches up his foot. His condition is critical, blood poisoning being feared. Super has had a run of misfortune lately among other things an expensive fire destroying part of his property two weeks ago.

—Forced to seek a new place of business because his shop's location is on the site of Williamsport's new \$1,000,000 hotel, Mathias Engel, a barber, this week moved from the city block on which he had done business for forty-seven years. One of the last customers who passed out of his shop was a man whom he had shaved on the first day he worked as a barber in Williamsport.

—Fines and costs collected from dog law violators in Bradford county during the last five weeks soared above the \$1000 mark last Thursday, when fifteen dog owners, arraigned before local justices, paid fines aggregating \$237.46. Other violators in the county will be rounded up during the coming month by special constable Shoemaker, who hopes to finish his work in that county within that time.

—Accusing Mitro Mitrovich, star boarder in his family, of disappearing with his wife, daughter and \$100 savings, John Labacz, of Reading, has brought suit before a magistrate to recover the \$100. Labacz's wife and four year old child are believed to have gone to another town in eastern Pennsylvania with Mitrovich, and a constable with a warrant charging larceny is hunting the former boarder.

—Hurry to take the week's washing from the line before last week's approaching wind and rain storm broke. Mrs. Daniel Gross, of Seager Station, was rapidly filling her clothes basket at her side. With her arms full of clothes she stooped to place them in the basket when the wind suddenly lifted the basket and carried it across a fence and several lots away into a neighbor's yard, where it was deposited right side up.

—Squire James Fowler, of Montgomery, accompanied by his daughter, walked a distance of eleven miles over the Bald Eagle mountain, from his home to Williamsport, on Monday, in celebration of his 57th anniversary. He performed the same feat five years ago on his 52nd anniversary, and was then also accompanied by his daughter. He carried a cane to assist himself on the trip, but most of the time he was swinging the stick over his head or using it to point out objects of interest on the road.

—Thirsty travelers who scan the timetable of the Kinzua route, the little railroad that runs westward from Smithport, get a thrill when they reach the announcement that passenger service is operated on "moist Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays," but the thrill disappears upon further inquiry. The Kinzua route passes through a heavily timbered part of McKean county. Some bad fires have occurred along the route. The State Forestry Department has asked co-operation and suspend operation completely when the timbered country through which the railroad passes is dry.

—A huge hydro-electric plant to cost \$3,000,000 or more is to be located at Shamokin Dam, according to plans of the Pennsylvania Power and Light company, it was learned last week. The old Pennsylvania Coal company dam which spans the Susquehanna river between Shamokin and Sunbury is planned to be utilized and what is known as the "Lock House," where there is a fall in the water. Much of the land thereabouts is owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad, which also owns the dam. It is declared that the enormous use of coal by the power company at its eleven central Pennsylvania plants would be entirely done away with.

—The Bethlehem Steel company has ordered the razing of the twin Bird Coleman blast furnaces at Cornwall and work will be started next week by Edwin Helms, a Lebanon contractor. For more than a half century the twin Bird Coleman furnaces were prominently identified with the iron industry in the Lebanon valley. Situated on the edge of the Cornwall iron ore mines the furnaces for a quarter century were operated by the Freeman estate, of which the late William Freeman, father of former Assemblyman William Coleman Freeman, of Cornwall, was the head. Later they were leased to the Lackawanna Iron and Steel company and two years ago became the property of the Bethlehem company at the time of its purchase of the majority interest in the Cornwall plant, the Cornwall Railroad and the Lebanon plant of the American Iron and Steel Manufacturing company.