

The world is full of men who would steal the baby's milk tickets to get the price of a seat at the coming Dempsey-Carpenter fight.

Much of the oats in the ground in Centre county but it was an unusual sight to see farmers sowing on Monday while the snow-flakes were flying.

Anyway the mountains and hills that surround us are protection from such storms as brought death and destruction to the south-west last Saturday and Sunday.

The expected happened. The Asbury equal rights bill has been killed in the Senate and those Philadelphia colored voters who believe that it was designed to meet any other fate certainly need guardians more than they need equal rights.

It is reported that the courts of New York have enough liquor cases on their calendars to keep them busy for two years. In times like these it is pleasant to learn that some business is going to capacity with enough work on the books to insure it against an early shut down.

The Harding administration announces that it is having considerable difficulty in inducing competent men to accept government positions, which sounds very like the beginning of a movement to increase the salaries attached to the berths that are to be offered as rewards to the faithful.

Fifty men were put to work on the Pleasant Gap highway on Tuesday at three dollars a day and more men applied for jobs than there were places for. Last year construction on this same road was seriously delayed because not enough men could be secured when they were paying five dollars a day.

Uniontown fishermen who steal like thieves in the night into the private preserves of Bellefonte's pet trout are doubtless thinking that Bellefonte justice can dig mighty deep into the pockets of those who defy the laws of this Commonwealth. Three hundred and eighty-five dollars was some price to pay for one fish.

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these ye have done it unto Me. For twenty years Mrs. William Fredericks made a home for Bill Doak, the deaf and blind man who was such a familiar sight on Bellefonte streets, and what a care he must have been. While all others regarded him with only casual pity, her concern was continuous. Who can say what a store of treasure this humble woman has laid up for herself in Heaven.

It has been brought out in the railroad investigations that women who are employed to wash car windows are being paid as high as \$120 a month. Some time ago we thought we would like to be one of those conductors who get \$8.10 for two hours and eleven minutes run between New York and Philadelphia, but possibly being a little light for the heavy work of punching fares we are inclined to think that running a country newspaper column doesn't get the mazzina like washing car windows.

Have you stopped to think how gradually yet surely death is removing the "town characters" from the streets of Bellefonte. Twenty years ago a dozen or more men there were in our midst who were known intimately by every man, woman and child. Their notoriety had been gained by natural characteristics; some very laudable, others not so much so, but they were known as "town characters." Of the list of local notables we have in mind not one is left. There are two of a later generation still to be met, but their individuality has never been stamped on this community as was that of the older types who have passed.

A skirt that scarcely tipped the knees and surely did expose a pair of blue ribbon calves that were encased in full-fashioned gray silk stockings and led on down to a pair of gray suede pumps with straps—and just here we note that we have started at the top and gone to the bottom when the usual eye sweep in such views is exactly the reverse—nearly caused a bad accident in front of this office Wednesday morning. A gentleman who believes with the "Watchman" that some women are losing all sense of modesty was crossing the street at the time and when he accidentally lapped those generous gray pedestals he was shocked to the spot and before he recovered a big motor truck came within an ace of ending his worries over mortal monstrosities.

The stabbing affray in Bellefonte Tuesday would have been a mere incident in the larger cities where the foreign element is so great that it cannot be assimilated but in communities like ours it is regarded as a very serious matter. And should be treated as it deserves. Bellefonte is most friendly and helpful to those of other nationalities who have come to live among us and will continue to be so long as they show a disposition to improve the opportunity to adapt themselves to our peaceful manner of living and our respects for the rights of others. There is no room here for men who carry knives, however. If they can't stand up and fight with their fists, if they must fight, let us get rid of them. Montzell and all others whose passions are so uncontrollable that murderous weapons are necessary to give them vent should be deported or sent into confinement where lives of others are not in continual jeopardy.

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Decision of the Labor Board.

The decision of the National Railroad Labor Board abrogating the national agreements between the carrying corporations and their employees can hardly be said to be a victory for either party to the controversy. Some of the labor leaders cordially approve it and some of the railroad managers are equally well pleased. Mr. Samuel Gompers sounded a note of dissatisfaction but it came to him on the eve of his wedding and men on their way to the marriage altar are not dependable in giving judgment on ordinary business questions. The executive council of the shop trade on the other hand, says the decision, "is a vindication of the fundamental principles for which we have contended consistently and persistently."

In any event it promises to lead the way to an adjustment of differences which threatened the most serious consequences to the industrial life of the country. In handing down the decision conditions were prescribed which seem to justify the estimate of the executive council referred to. It provides for the eight hour day, preserves the seigniority policy of the men, protects them in their right to organize for lawful purposes and guarantees such working conditions as will make for the health and comfort and safety of the employees. The right to make collective agreements is also provided for, though the corporation by which they are employed is made the unit instead of the nation wide rule.

It was hardly fair to make working conditions the same in Alabama as in Pennsylvania, or require precisely the same conditions in Maine and Iowa. There is a vast difference in these widely separated sections of the country, climatic and otherwise, and what might be desirable in one section could be detestable in the other. Therefore, the railroad employees are not likely to object strenuously to this provision of the plan, while the railroad managers are demanding it as a matter of justice. So the promise is that a threatened menace to the industrial life of the country has been averted, and if that be true an inestimable benefit has been bestowed upon the public by the Labor Board.

We own to a small measure of disappointment at the delay of placing former President Taft on the payroll. He is certainly as deserving as some of those who have been more promptly favored.

Placing the Responsibility.

To most minds the action of the Republican leaders in the Legislature stalling the resolution to investigate the profranchise in the administration of the State government will seem inexplicable. A prominent member of their own party, one who was recently honored by election to an important office, has publicly stated that the treasury is being and has been systematically looted by public officials charged with the administration. The present Auditor General, who, at the last election was chosen to fill an equally important office, publicly stated in a speech before a group of Legislators that he appointed inefficient men to office for political reasons and hired efficient help to do the work.

The appointing of inefficient men for political reasons is a matter for Auditor General Snyder to settle with his own conscience. The law places in his hands the power of choosing his subordinates and holds him responsible for the faithful and efficient discharge of their duties. But in appointing other men to perform the work which his inefficient subordinates were incapable of or unwilling to perform, he violated the laws of the State and should be punished as other violators of the law are punished. He takes the people's money without warrant of law to meet these illegal charges against the State.

The Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly are under sworn obligation to protect the financial as well as the other interests of the State. When Auditor General Snyder publicly confessed that he had been looting the treasury in the way indicated, it was the duty of the Legislature to first ascertain the facts and then prosecute the perpetrator of the crime. But when a member introduced a resolution looking to this result, leading Republican members of the body stifled it. It is said this was done with the assent and in the interest of the administration. It could hardly have been accomplished without such inspiration. But if it was it makes the administration responsible for the crime.

There is some comfort in the thought that Colonel George Harvey will be a considerable distance from New York during the time he occupies the Embassy in London.

Nobody has yet noticed any material departure from the Wilson policies at the White House.

Political Fiction in Pennsylvania.

The political reporters for the Philadelphia newspapers weave some curious tales for the amusement or confusion of the public. On Sunday last one of these writers invented a most perplexing story involving several of the leaders of the Republican organization in quarrels and intrigues of various kinds. Among them is a statement, qualified of course, of a quarrel between Senator Penrose and Mr. Joseph R. Grundy, president of the Pennsylvania Manufacturer's association. The absence of Mr. Grundy from Harrisburg during last week and his failure to make his usual trip to Washington during the same period is the basis for this speculative venture in political fiction.

Another equally preposterous narrative of political warfare impending is to the effect that Senator Knox, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, and young Mr. Oliver, publisher of several Pittsburgh newspapers, are organizing a force to attack Senator Penrose in the western part of the State. This combination is said to include State Senator Max Leslie, who would "mix up" with the Oliver forces about as freely and completely as oil would mix with water. Leslie represents the Sproul-Crow crowd in the western metropolis of the State and Oliver is the head, front and bowels of the opposition. Mr. Mellon is a new element in active politics but for many years has been a silent partner of Penrose.

It is true that Senator Knox is taking more interest in the distribution of the spoils of office, since the inauguration of President Harding than formerly, but not for the reason that he desires to promote the political interests of Governor Sproul and Senator Crow. On the contrary he is coddling his own laudable ambition to get a new lease on the Senatorial seat he now occupies. His term will expire in 1923 and his openly expressed sympathy for Germany during the world war put such a crimp in his popularity that restoration to favor will tax all his ingenuity. Senator Penrose understands the situation quite well and the activities of his colleague have his cordial support.

It doesn't require a great deal of perspicacity to discover that Auditor General-elect Lewis is getting himself disliked about machine headquarters.

Policy that Leads to Ruin.

During March, 1920, our total exports amounted to \$820,000,000 in round figures. In March, 1921, the total was \$384,000,000, a decrease of \$436,000,000. For the same month of 1920 our imports aggregated \$524,000,000 and in 1921 \$252,000,000, a decrease of \$272,000,000. In other words America's foreign trade decreased \$788,000,000 in one month, according to a statement issued by the Department of Commerce, in Washington on Monday. For the nine months ending with March, 1921, our exports amounted to \$5,509,000,000 and imports to \$3,909,000,000. In the same period last year exports were valued at \$6,050,000,000 and imports to \$3,759,000,000, making a difference of \$2,292,000,000 in foreign commerce.

These totals are exclusive of operations in gold which amounted in the nine months of this year to \$131,000,000 exported and \$481,000,000 imported and \$409,000,000 exported against \$60,000,000 imported during the corresponding period last year. According to the official statement referred to and quoted, the exports for March were \$105,000,000 less than in February and considerably below any month since the beginning of the world war. On the other hand our imports for March were the largest since December and \$48,000,000 more than in February. That is unimportant, however, for there are profits to dealers alike in import and export operations and the object of business is to gain.

The decrease in foreign commerce clearly forecasts the consequences of the tariff legislation which the Republican Congress with the help of the President is preparing to pass. As President McKinley, himself an apostle of protective tariff, said in his last speech delivered at Buffalo, we cannot expect to sell unless we buy and in contriving to shut out our market for buying we are certain to close our market for selling. Our domestic supply, as the records of foreign commerce abundantly show, are far in excess of our domestic consumption and the natural result will be first a surfeit and afterward a closing of factories. This is the industrial future to which Republicans are leading us.

If Secretary of State Hughes achieves nothing else he has won an eternal crown of glory by creating an "economic vacuum."

Speaking of fidelity, how could Joe Grundy join with Senator Vare in a movement to make Senator Crow a real party boss?

"It Pays to Advertise."

That it pays to advertise has been amply proved and frequently. But it was never more clearly demonstrated than it is being now in Harrisburg. Early in the present session of the Legislature each of the various departments submitted estimates of the money they would need for the ensuing two years. And they were generous estimates at that. In view of the extraordinarily large deficiency bills which had been introduced to cover deficiencies for the two years covered by appropriations by the last Legislature, they were audaciously large. But they were persisted in and pressed until the newspapers took up the matter of profranchise. That caused a pause.

A short time ago the newly elected Auditor General, though without an official voice in the matter as yet, publicly announced that the estimates for his department were largely in excess of the requirements of the service. He said that upward of one hundred thousand dollars might safely be cut off the estimate of his predecessor in office and asked that the appropriation be cut down to that extent. This circumstance was widely published by the newspapers of the State with the result that all the other departments are now coming forward with more modest demands and the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings has asked for a cut of fully half a million dollars.

These signs of returning sanity and reasonable economy are most gratifying. It is to be regretted, however, that it isn't taken hold in the Legislative halls so that a halt might be called on the salary increases. But we are unable to see any signs of improvement in that direction. During the present week several salary increase bills have been passed and as fast as they get through the Legislature they are approved by the Governor. Maybe some of the revenue bills will fail of passage, however, and in that event the Governor will be obliged to do with his veto what the House and Senate ought to have done. But if the "boys get the money" it will be spent.

The "Watchman" this week is starting a "Buy at Home" campaign which has the endorsement of forty-three merchants of the town. If the campaign should result in even one-half the money that is now being sent out of town being spent at home it would mean a big thing for the merchants of Bellefonte. Just the other morning while the writer was in the postoffice one man got a money order to send to a well known mail order house for an amount that would have meant a very nice profit to any home merchant. And every day orders go from Bellefonte to out of town merchants for goods that ought to be purchased in Bellefonte. And one big reason for this is the persistent advertising campaign of the mail order houses. They flood the mails with their advertising matter not alone by catalogues but in the newspapers and magazines, and this is the one definite reason why they get the trade. If more of the Bellefonte merchants used their home papers to convey to the public what they have to sell there is no question but that it would largely increase their sales during the year and do more than any other one thing to help along the "Buy at Home" campaign.

Secretary Hughes made quite a hit with his "economic vacuum" in Russia. It only goes to show, however, how prone the American public is to forget and how superficially it reads. There was nothing in the Secretary's note on Russian relations that had not already been given publicity by the Wilson administration but that "economic vacuum" was something new and Hughes is being acclaimed as a wonderfully wise man all because he threw that "economic vacuum" dust to conceal a suggestive vacuum.

Late news from Washington indicate a change of mind on the part of the big man with respect to the Governor's plans for making the administration one of "magnificent achievement." The air from the Potomac seems to be blowing cold.

Speaking of ourselves, alone, there are just as good fish in the streams as were taken out last Friday. And being wholly honest they are darned poor streams if there are not better ones in them.

The current agitation of economy in Harrisburg may work a curtailment of appropriations to some of the departments but it doesn't disturb Gif. Pinchot. He will get all he wants.

There are indications that the word "Americanization" is being overworked. It is making the public tired.

The Senatorial Oligarchy.

From the Philadelphia Record. When nine Senators and an ex-Senator and George Harvey picked out Mr. Harding for the Presidential candidate the oligarchy, whose encroachments on the Presidency Governor McCall, of Massachusetts, has pointed out, thought it had completed its adventure. It imagined that it had captured the Presidency and confined it in one of the Senate cloak rooms, and installed the Senate committee on Foreign Relations in the Department of State.

The encroachments have been going on for a good while, as Governor McCall has explained to us. They have gone on when both Senate and President were Republican. The favorite time was when there was a Democratic President, but Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Wilson vigorously defended the prerogatives of their office. Mr. Taft had his experience. Two arbitration treaties which he negotiated and which would have been a long step toward permanent peace, had the heart cut out of them by the Republican Senators, who did not wish peace any more than the Imperial German government wanted peace. Mr. Taft could not prevent the action of the Senate, but he could refuse to submit to it; he discarded the mutilated treaties, and then denounced Mr. Wilson for not allowing the Republican Senators to shape the peace treaty for him.

But a month after his election Mr. Harding made a significant speech in the Senate. He expressed a determination to respect the prerogatives of the Senate, but he declared unequivocally that he should defend the prerogatives of the office he was about to assume. Apparently the Republican Senators attached little importance to this. But they are waking up now to their mistake. They busied themselves making Cabinets for Mr. Harding, and he paid little attention to them. They objected vigorously to Mr. Hoover, and Mr. Harding disregarded them.

Then the committee on Foreign Relations set itself about the preparation of a foreign policy for the country, and before they had got far they found the President or Mr. Hughes was writing notes to foreign governments fixing the foreign policies of the United States without consulting the Senators. They found that Mr. Hoover, as well as Mr. Hughes, was advising the President, and if Mr. Lodge and Mr. Knox were called in, it was not to get advice from them, but to tell them something. The oligarchy seems to have been dished by President Harding's own creation, handicapped with the idea that he would show no more independence in the White House than he had shown in the Senate. They overlooked the fact that the Presidency is a tremendous educational institution.

"How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless colleague in the White House!"

Eastbound.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Ever since the armistice Europe has been looking hopefully for a resumption of the tourist visitation from America that used to be a golden harvest for the landlords and the shopkeepers; and at the same time petty bureaucrats and laxy-eyed officialdom have lain awake o' nights devising new passport botherations for the traveler. It looks as though this season the hopes of those who have yearned for the return of the American are in a fair way to be realized; and gloomy forebodings as to boats laid up for want of patronage are set at naught by the statistics.

We find two of the lines adding nineteen new oil-burning vessels, with a tonnage of 1,018,000. One of these lines, which is to operate all but six of the vessels, lost a tonnage of 220,000 during the war through attacks by submarines; and this was half of the total tonnage it then controlled. It is an impressive rejoinder to those who maintained that the ships destroyed would not be replaced for a long time to come, just as some omniscient economists who now keep mum were very sure that the shell-torn fields of France would never be tilled again.

The figures for sailings on all the lines already promise to break the records for passenger traffic since the year before the war. More ships than ever are in the business, and the increase of patronage keeps pace with them. The fares are high compared with those that were charged a decade ago; but the tragically low rate of exchange in Europe invests the dollar with a purchasing power that is compensatory. Great as is the company of those who plan to visit Europe, there are still enough who plan to "see America first" to assure those who will spend the vacation in their own land that they will not be lonely.

Finegan?

From the Philadelphia Record. Pennsylvania-bred politicians are apparently learning something, too, from the recently imported state superintendent of public schools, if we are to credit the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Surely the people will not permit the public school system of the Commonwealth to become a part of a political machine. The Inquirer says that is the plan. Is it?

New York is being persuaded that the Volstead law can be enforced but the educational process has been very painful.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The State Highway Department maintains 250 miles of road in Lancaster county and employs 250 men in keeping it in order. Their wages run about 35 cents per hour.

Extraction of a tooth three weeks after she was married caused the death of Mrs. Anthony Knarr, 15 years old, of Shamokin. Meningitis developed after the tooth was drawn, and death resulted.

"Sick" people who require the booze treatment may suffer a relapse when they read the amended Chapin house bill at Harrisburg, fixing the volume and price of whiskey sold for medicinal purposes. Amendments made leave in the proviso that whiskey sold for medicinal purposes must be 100 proof, but cut out the clause fixing the maximum price at \$2.50 a pint. The bill is out of committee.

Potter county people who have suffered from deprecatory bears and have asked legislative relief are going to have aid of the Game Commission. It is said no limit will be placed on Potter county bruns this year and that pens and traps will be permitted the coming season. The commission will also pay a reward of \$25 for each bear captured alive, and properly crated, between July 1 and January 1.

Decision to hold the state convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Sunbury on February 14 to 18 of next year was made at a meeting of the executive committee of the state organization held in Sunbury last Friday. Mrs. Ella M. George, of Beaver Falls, state president, presided. It was also decided to keep up a lobby at Harrisburg in the interest of the repeal of the Brooks high license law.

Much improvement has been noted in the mental and physical condition of George C. Tompkins, of Philadelphia, convicted slayer of the Edmund I. Humphries family, also of Philadelphia, and under sentence of death in the Blair county jail. He has been engaged in fancy bead work, the material for which was sent him by a brother in New York. Tompkins has recently been spending most of his time in daylight making necklaces and other articles of personal adornment.

Notwithstanding the fact that witnesses testified that two children of Charles R. Holland, of Uniontown, wore the same dresses to school for three months, probably having been washed at night, Mr. Holland testifying in his own behalf in a habeas corpus proceeding to get possession of the two little girls, told the court that during their ten years of married life he had bought his wife 500 dresses. He could not remember whether he had bought her any hats other than the one in which she was married.

The building of the Johnstown Ledger, a morning newspaper; the Western Union Telegraph office, the engineering office of O. P. Thomas, county surveyor; the hardware store of W. A. Snook and two departments of the Schwartz department store in Johnstown were destroyed by fire last Thursday, causing a loss of about \$300,000, one-half of which is covered by insurance. It was a hard fight for hours in keeping the flames confined to the building in which they originated, but this finally was done.

One gallon of whiskey and thirty-four gallons of colored water cost N. L. Rudio, of Williamsport, \$525, according to evidence before Alderman Fleming when Charles L. Magoon was held on a charge of fraud. It was testified Magoon sold Rudio "a barrel of whiskey" after he had given him a sample. Magoon, it was averred, received a check for \$525, which he cashed before Rudio found the booze sample had been drawn from a metal vessel placed under the bung-hole of the barrel, which held thirty-four gallons of water.

Late pedestrians in Pittsburgh one night last week were astounded to see a "copper" rolling a heavy barrel over the streets in the hill district in the wee small hours of the morning. Patrolman Harry P. Lempp discovered the barrel while walking his beat. The first thought that came to Lempp's mind was that it was a barrel of hooch. Lempp decided to take it to the station, so rolling the barrel along, he finally arrived at the Center avenue police station. There it was opened and found to contain not hooch, but ancient sauerkraut.

Admitting that he is one of the men who shot Andrew Ernesto, a Hyde Park hotel man, early Sunday morning, and lobbed him over \$700, Demetrio Luna, 23 years old, a Porto Rican, was lodged in a police cell at Reading, on Monday. He charges another man, whom he refuses to name, with doing the shooting. The money has not been found. Luna was captured in Pottstown by State police Parker, Hughes and Banks, after a Reading Railway ticket agent in Birdsboro had tipped off the officers. The second man has not been captured.

"I'm the king of a Fiji island," writes Norman Albert, of Herndon, given up for dead twenty years ago, in a letter to J. C. Billman, postmaster of Herndon, in which he inquires if any of his relatives are living. "Tell them to join me, and I'll share my crown with them," he adds. Albert does not say how he got to the Pacific group. He was a sailor and his friends had long ago lost all hope of ever hearing from him. From the tone of the letter, it appears that he is now rolling in wealth and living a life of ease. The letter was mailed from Lantoka, South Sea Islands, Fiji.

A session of court was held in Lock Haven, on Saturday, with Associate Judge J. H. Mussina and J. W. Miller on the bench, when Charles H. Donnelly, of Renovo, pleaded guilty to the charge of larceny. He was an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad company and took a large variety of articles from the shops. Sentence was imposed by president judge Robert B. McCloskey, who is confined to his home by illness, who signed the papers in the case in bed. The sentence was \$1000 fine and costs, restore the goods stolen, if not already restored, and to serve one year in the county jail. The jail sentence is to be remitted if the fine is paid.

The Franklin Sugar Refining company, of Philadelphia, has brought suit in the Northumberland county courts seeking to recover \$38,291.34 from the Dewart Milk Products company, of Dewart, Northumberland county, for alleged breach of contract. According to the plaintiff's statement, the milk corporation ordered 241,500 pounds of sugar last June, at 2 1/2 cents a pound, which was placed through John C. Huston, a broker, on a basis of an allotment of 115 barrels monthly, to a total value of \$54,827.25, but, it is asserted, the contract was repudiated and deliveries refused on March 7, last, causing the refinery the loss, it alleging sugar was contracted for the Dewart people at the price stated, and had to be paid for at that price.