

-If Republicanism were not so greedy in Pennsylvania it would not be so disgraced.

-Surely a certain sign of return to "normalcy" is stuck up in the announcement that admission to circuses this season will be on the pre-war basis.

-Parlor socialists have run the president out of the University at Valparaiso. Here is more evidence that it is a very dangerous thing for light heads to dabble with heavy subjects.

-With the Abramsen Engineering Co. project put through and the silk mill already considering the addition of another unit the industrial outlook of Bellefonte isn't so worse. Cheer up, the recent frosts didn't kill everything.

-Anthracite coal is to go up fifty cents a ton on May 1st. A new tax has been put on coal and, as the ultimate consumer always pays the taxes, you will find this one of the pleasant ways of contributing your share toward making the administration of Governor Sproul one of magnificent achievement.

-What we can't understand is why, when Penrose forced Sproul and Crow to accept Spangler in January, he didn't compel them to leave him alone in April. We have a lurking suspicion that the Senator is dealing some cards that Governor Sproul will discover at some future date that he didn't know were in the deck.

-Boy, page Mr. Know-it-all. We want to ask him why so many products of the farm have gone down in price three hundred per cent. and those of the factory and the mill scarcely a hundred. And while we have him cornered we're going to make him tell just when and how that new emergency tariff is going to help the farmer.

-The last time the Legislature passed a bill taxing anthracite coal the operators clapped the tax right on the price to the consumer. Later the bill was declared unconstitutional and the tax couldn't be collected. The operators forgot to take it off the price, however, and we have been paying it ever since. So far as getting any of that back is concerned we view it as water that's been over the wheel. But we do think the operators might have conscience enough to let the tax they anticipated years ago answer now, instead of soaking us again for the same thing.

-"Big Bill" Haywood, who was to have reported at Leavenworth, last Monday, to begin a twenty-year sentence for anti-Americanism during the war didn't report. Bill is a grand exponent of I. W. W., principles and could not have been expected to have any respect, whatever, for law, his word or his honor. The truth of the matter is that he has skipped off to Russia, where he is safe for the present and while it might appear to some that it is a happy solution of the case, to be rid of him entirely, he is a very dangerous man and his activities in a federal prison would have been circumscribed by iron bars, whereas it is now possible for him to use Soviet gold in disseminating his incendiary propaganda in all parts of the world and more especially among his fanatical followers in this country.

-Times are so hard in Altoona that it seems to be everybody's business to meddle in the other fellow's business. On Tuesday, for instance, a carnival show that was having a perfectly good time was raided and nine men and one woman arrested for running gambling devices; then inspector Greenburg started out with a band of assistants to demolish a lot of "tumble down shacks" every one of which, we'll bet, has a history to be proud of and then a fellow by the name of Samuel Wood, who had just made the hopeful discovery of a "phoney" liquor concoction that tasted pretty nearly as bad coming up as it did going down, was gathered up with one hundred and twenty quarts of his exhilarator and Judge Baldrige took the meal tickets away from three men whose wives had married them for better, but they were worse. Some doings, we should say, for a town where there's supposed to be nothing doing.

-The Legislature adjourned as per orders yesterday. The session has been a great disappointment. Starting with so much promise it ended with little of accomplishment. That this default of duty can be laid wholly to politics no intelligent person will refute. We mean factional politics within the Republican party, for there have been too few Democrats in Harrisburg to charge any of the derelictions to them. The sorry showing of this session brings home to the people of Pennsylvania, most convincingly, the plight they are voting themselves into by blindly voting for party and not for men. From many counties of the State last fall men were sent to Harrisburg because they were Republicans in spite of the fact that their contestants for the office were better qualified to be Representatives. Pennsylvania is a Republican State and such turn-overs as elected Pattison and Berry happen only once in a life-time, but Pennsylvania needs, more than anything else, a strong minority party. The Republican party needs it and it would not be in the position today of having betrayed its trust to the Commonwealth if its campaign of deception last fall had not misled so many voters that it has broken down under its own weight.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Disgraceful Proceedings in Harrisburg.

It is fairly fit that after an orgie of profligacy covering a period of nearly four months the House of Representatives in Harrisburg should degenerate into a disgraceful mob. That is precisely what it did on Monday night. After a noisy and confusing session of three hours one of the members called for the orders of the day. The order of the day provided for adjournment at midnight. That hour having arrived and in obedience to the demand of the member for the orders of the day, the Speaker declared the body adjourned and left the rostrum. Soon afterward a number of the members locked the doors, elected a temporary Speaker and proceeded to transact the business of legislation.

This was not only revolutionary. It was ruffianism. But those engaged in it and those responsible for it even went further. Though the rump session began after midnight and therefore on Tuesday morning, an adjournment was taken an hour or so later. During the brief mob session certain important measures of legislation were taken from the committee to which they had been previously referred and passed on first reading. A new session was then organized and the bills passed on first reading an hour previously, were put upon second reading and passed. The State constitution in mandatory language declares that "every bill shall be read at length on three different days." This rump body gave the legislation enacted by it two readings within three hours on the same day.

When the Speaker shortly after midnight adjourned the Monday session in obedience to the call for the orders of the day, he fixed the time for reassembling at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning agreeably to the rules. At ten o'clock on Tuesday morning the insurgent members assembled and proceeded to business. When the hour of eleven o'clock arrived the Speaker attempted to assume the chair and was refused access to the rostrum. He was told that his seat had been declared vacant by the insurgent members and a successor had been elected. Upon a sign of protest he was met with armed resistance, officers of the House interposing actively and the head of the state constabulary was conspicuously present as a menace of a purpose to employ that force to carry out the plans of the rioters.

According to the published reports of the affair Speaker Spangler was subsequently permitted to address the House and occupy a seat near the two colored members and through the same medium the public is informed that all is quiet on the Susquehanna. But the incident can hardly fail to leave a bad impression on the minds of thoughtful citizens of the State. Mr. Spangler in his brief protest said: "Republican institutions are at stake in this State and the House must either assert its independence or recognize its masters who are determined to pass two measures if they have to blow the dome off the capitol." He also charged the Governor with dragging some members and threatening others in order to accomplish his purposes and from such a source these are grave charges.

If this disgraceful episode had been the result of honest differences between high-minded men upon questions touching the welfare of the people there might be some excuse for the exhibition of ruffianism. But it appears to have been based on a factional quarrel between selfish Republican politicians. The Governor wants to create a vast army of officials for use in future political ambitions and his opponents are almost equally selfish in their purposes. But the State is shamed, nevertheless, and public decency outraged by a proceeding that casts a doubt upon the validity of all legislation enacted since midnight of Monday when the Speaker in the exercise of his prerogative adjourned the House.

-The factional fight among the Republicans who control the Pennsylvania Legislature brings no good to the Commonwealth. Ordinarily, when thieves fall out honest men come by their own, but in this case they don't, for all the salary raising grabs and bills creating new offices and new taxes went through just the same.

-Probably General Wood imagines that the head of a University has an easy road to the White House. If he had consulted with Dr. Butler he might have changed his mind.

-Germany moves slowly and pays reluctantly but it's a safe bet that the indemnities will be discharged if the allied governments stick to their demands.

-Complaints that Senator Penrose has not been giving attention to patronage are silenced by the evidence that he selected the Internal Revenue Commissioner.

Ratification of the Colombian Treaty.

The ratification of the Colombian treaty by the United States Senate, the other day, is a substantial, though tardy, expression of justice. It had been alleged and is generally believed in Colombia that the Panama rebellion was organized in Washington for a sinister purpose. It is well understood that it was supported and made successful by the intervention of the administration at Washington. We were at the time under treaty obligation to support Colombia, and intervention in behalf of the Panama insurgents was a violation of faith, precisely as the invasion of Belgium by German forces in 1914 was a violation of faith. The treaty just ratified is a reparation for that injustice.

There may have been cause of complaint against Colombia in relation to the Panama Canal. Colombia for some reason repudiated an agreement to cede the Canal Zone for a consideration of \$10,000,000, and demanded more. But the process employed by the administration at Washington to enforce the agreement was neither legal nor just. If what subsequently became the republic of Panama had had sufficient force to achieve its purpose unassisted, the government of the United States might have held aloof and let logical results follow. But it is alleged that the administration at Washington sent a force sufficient to make the revolution successful, and after the event President Roosevelt boasted of the act. "I seized the Canal Zone," he said, "and let Congress talk afterward."

That act of violence against a weak but friendly sister Republic has been a stain upon the honor of the government of the United States ever since. As long ago as 1914 an effort was made to redress this wrong. The Wilson administration negotiated the treaty which has now been ratified but the Republicans in the Senate prevented ratification for the reason, as they asserted, that it cast reflections upon Roosevelt. The failure to ratify cast reflections upon the whole American people but that made no difference to them. Finally with a Republican majority in the Senate commercial interests have obtruded themselves and justice is done. It is tainted justice but we never "look a gift horse in the mouth."

-Senator Vane, of Philadelphia, lobbied against a measure in the House which he supported in the Senate. He was playing the ash cart game on the public.

General Pershing to be Shelved.

Unless the gossip in Washington military circles is misleading General Pershing is in for a rather sharp chastisement for some of his official acts in France. It will be remembered that during the active operations in France in October, 1918, General Edwards, a favorite of Massachusetts politicians, was summarily relieved of his command, and General Bundy put in his place. No explanations were given for the change, as military commanders are not expected to make explanations. But the New England politicians were greatly incensed and when Edwards' name was omitted from the list of Brigadier Generals recommended for promotion to Major General by the War Department, indignation was openly expressed.

The list for promotions was submitted by Secretary of War Baker, largely upon the recommendation of General Pershing, and the Senate refused to confirm them. Bundy's name was among those favored and Edwards' was not. After the adjournment of office of the Harding administration the old list was withdrawn and a new one submitted. In the new list Edwards' name is conspicuous and Bundy's is absent. This surprising incident has led to all sorts of speculation in military circles and has developed the fact that in resentment of the treatment of Edwards in France, Pershing is to be disciplined, or what is worse, laid on the shelf to rust his life out.

Some of the Democratic Senators are inclined to resist this program of the War Department and have been giving Secretary of War Weeks a good deal of trouble in explaining his share in the matter. The investigation thus far has not had smooth sailing but has developed that the reason for the removal of Edwards in France was that he was inclined to be insubordinate and while reluctantly obeying orders he freely criticized the tactics of his superior. Military men declare that such action should prevent his promotion but the politicians who "rule the roost" in Washington regard it as a conclusive reason why he should be honored. It is precisely what they have been doing.

-Senator Norris admits publicly that Congress is a rubber stamp in the hands of the President. We doubt that a good rubber stamp is worth something.

Profligacy in Harrisburg.

During the present session of the Legislature twenty-four of the public officials of the State have been voted increased salary to the aggregate amount of \$150,000. Most of these men are enjoying what are commonly called "soft snaps." There are dozens of capable men ready and willing to assume and perform the duties of each of these offices at the old rate of wages. But it appears to be a part of the program in creating a strong political machine, to have plenty of officers with generous salaries, so that the financing of party enterprises may be safely and easily assured. An official with a big bank balance will respond promptly to a demand for "the sinews of war."

During the same period eight new offices have been created with an annual salary list of nearly \$50,000. These offices are intended to take care of useful party workers who are out of jobs and need money to indulge in their political activities. Besides these there are a number of jobs newly created without definite salaries attached but capable of yielding generous remuneration. For example, the director of the bureau of women and children in the Department of Labor and Industry is authorized to appoint an unlimited number of persons at any salary he chooses to allow while the director of the legislative reference bureau has an equally free hand in appointing and paying clerks and other help.

During the campaign for President last year Governor Sproul spoke in nearly all the northern States in vigorous denunciation of the profligacy of the National administration in conducting a war without parallel magnitude. The extravagance was not in multiplying officials or increasing salaries but in expediting products essential to victory. But now he has closed his eyes to this record of profligacy, which has no excuse under the sun except to build up a political machine to promote his ambitions for even higher offices in the future. And this profligacy comes at a time when the industrial life of the country is threatened with paralysis and wage earners with destitution.

-The fact that the percentage of aliens in this country has fallen to as low a figure as it was in 1850 doesn't reassure us so much when we know that the propaganda that they are spreading has increased both in volume and danger to a far higher percentage than it has ever been.

Germany Offers a Vast Sum.

Germany is slowly but surely approaching the point of reason. Some time ago the cry was raised in Berlin that it would be impossible to pay any considerable indemnity for the atrocities perpetrated during the war. Now it is admitted that 200,000,000 marks can be paid which is only 26,000,000,000 marks less than the Allies demanded. It may safely be predicted that if the demand is persisted in it will be met. But the wisdom of such a course may well be doubted. The demand of the Allies extended the payment over a period of forty years. The German tender reduces this time limit and adds a moral obligation to the legal promise to pay.

Germany forced the war upon the world as a speculative enterprise. If the expectations of the Kaiser and his military advisers had been fulfilled the whole world would have been "bled white" to pile up profits. The war was conducted with comparatively little expense to Germany. None of her cities were devastated and none of her industries destroyed. Under the terms of peace Alsace and Lorraine were taken from her and she was deprived of her colonial possessions. But her title to these was spurious anyway. On the other hand France, Belgium and Italy were looted mercilessly and the United States and Great Britain were compelled to give up vast sums of money and a great number of lives to win the war.

Two hundred billion marks is a vast sum of money. It will not be sufficient to cover the property losses sustained by the Allies but it is probably as much as Germany can pay or will pay no matter what sum is exacted by treaty. Forty years is a long period of time and with German thrift and industry applied her strength and possibly her ambition might be restored before half the time limit is reached. Then forced promises might be repudiated and another destructive and demoralizing war precipitated. In view of these facts the "bird in hand is worth two in the bush" and the acceptance of the offer might be good as well as safe business policy.

-The Pennsylvania Legislature, overwhelmingly Republican, has this week let it be known to the world that its sessions have the welfare of the Commonwealth only as a secondary consideration to the triumph of one or the other wings of the party that rules it.

We Are Not Bound by Treaty.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The Japanese reply on the subject of Yap is not expressed in the most courteous terms, and the temper in which it is conceived leaves a good deal to be desired. We need not, however, pay too much attention to these things. A translation from Japanese into English is quite likely to give an inaccurate impression, and the Japanese Foreign Office was thinking a good deal about public opinion in its own country, and perhaps of Californian legislation. But there is another thing that it ought to have had in mind, and that is that the American delegation to the peace conference assented to the Japanese claims to Kiao Chau, and it was not the American delegates, but the delegation of the British dominions on the Pacific, and the representatives of governments with large Asiatic and African possessions, that opposed the "racial equality" provision which Japan was extremely anxious to embody in the Versailles treaty.

Disregarding the secondary and incidental elements, the fundamental points in the Japanese case are that the Supreme Allied Council and the mandatory provisions of the treaty of Versailles give Japan exclusive possession of Yap. It ought to be clear to the Japanese statesmen that we are bound by neither of these. In regard to the Japanese claim that the United States offered no objection to the action of the Supreme Allied Council, the present administration accepts, as it ought to accept, the contrary statement of President Wilson and Secretary Lansing. Administrations change, but the government of the United States is continuous.

The Supreme Allied Council, however, had merely temporary authority. It could act only until the peace conference acted. It was virtually a military authority which should maintain the rights of the Allied and Associated Powers until the peace conference should act and its action be ratified by the several governments.

The peace conference had no power to bind any of the Allied and Associated Powers. It could only make a tentative agreement to go into effect when ratified. The United States never ratified the treaty. It is idle, therefore, to pretend that the United States is bound by it. The United States has certain rights as a member of the family of nations, and it has further rights as one of the Allied and Associated Powers which won the war, and possess the right to dispose of the proceeds. The peace treaty proposed a disposition which was satisfactory to all the other parties, but was not satisfactory to the United States.

The United States, then, remains with all the rights it had as a member of the family of nations, and all the rights that it acquired as one of the victors in the world war. It cannot be outvoted by the other nations. It is not bound by a treaty which other nations have ratified, but which the United States has rejected. Japan's title under the Supreme Allied Council and the treaty of Versailles may be perfect as against the other nations, but it is not good as against us, and Japan's elder statesmen ought to recognize that it is not for the interest of their country to press a weak claim against the United States, which is seeking no advantage for itself individually, but a basis for telegraphic communication for the whole world.

Canada to Send a Minister.

From the New York World. Premier Meighen's announcement that Canada will send a Minister to Washington puts upon our government the duty of promptly responding by placing a diplomatic representative in Ottawa.

How the new Canadian diplomat will work with the British Embassy is not for us to conjecture. The wisest fact for half a century has left Canada a self-governing nation promises cordial co-operation. However that may be, there is no doubt of our cordiality. We have seen Canada grow to a nation of power and promise on our northern border with the keenest interest, without thought of jealousy, in an amity rarely and never long disturbed by serious quarrel. In a war-saddened world Canada and the United States present the memorable example of peace maintained unbroken for more than a century on the longest unscientific boundary in history. Mountain ranges, big lakes, valleys grooved by ancient glaciers, operate by natural law to throw trade and travel across this highly artificial line; yet no fort or gun or armed ship guards friend against friend. Across such a line the new envoy will be welcomed almost as our own.

Jobs for the Senate.

From the Indianapolis News. As soon as the Senate perfects its scheme for keeping government bonds at par it will probably take up some easy job, such as writing a tariff law which will please every one.

It Can't Be Done.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer. It is all right to say exactly what you think. But you are going to spend most of your time in the hospital.

-The esteemed Philadelphia Inquirer protests against the profligacy of the Legislature but the esteemed Inquirer has spent its whole life making the profligacy of the Legislature possible.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Sherman Rogers, aged 16, a Johnstown boy, was electrocuted last Wednesday afternoon while climbing a telephone pole. Bert Hudson, a companion, was badly burned.

-A rooster which William Jones, an Avila farmer, was trying to catch, flew at the man's face, and struck him in the eye with one of its spurs, injuring the optic so badly that it was removed by Jersey Shore hospital surgeons.

-Auditors of Venango county have been working continuously on the county books since January 3rd, and are not able to even approximate the length of time required to complete their work. It is said the audit will be the longest and the most expensive in that county's history.

-While baking in the kitchen of her home on the farm in Helfenstein valley, near Mount Carmel, Mrs. Elizabeth Graff failed to notice the upper part of the house was burning until it had great headway. Her face and hands were badly burned when trying to save the property, which burned to the ground.

-How the religious people do things in Sunbury was illustrated on Sunday when the First Presbyterian church, the Rev. J. W. Todd pastor, raised the last of \$50,000 for a new Sunday school building. Three days previous a campaign was started to raise this amount and they went "after it." Sunday night it was announced that the necessary money had been raised.

-Lebanon is to have the largest macaroni factory in the country, according to plans announced last week by the Keystone Macaroni company for the extension of its already large plant. A six-story annex is to be built at once at a cost of \$200,000. The present output of the plant is to be increased from 420,000 to 850,000 pounds of macaroni a week and the operating force increased to 300 hands.

-The wisdom of Solomon was shown by Justice G. W. Stroup, of Mount Carmel, recently, when Mrs. Labora Orlando and Mrs. Peter Giguinski, both of Kulpmont, claimed a prize hen that the latter had in her possession and which she was charged with stealing. Justice Stroup took the hen to a neutral point in the neighborhood and liberated it and the queen layer went right home to Mrs. Orlando's coop. Mrs. Giguinski must pay the costs.

-Twelve bunkhouses of the Dwight P. Robinson company of New York, contractors erecting the power plant at the Pean Public Service corporation at Seward, Westmoreland county, burned to the ground late on Sunday and 500 workmen were rendered homeless. Some are being cared for at Seward homes, but a large number are destitute. Nearly all the men lost all their possessions in the blaze, some of the losses consisting of large sums of money.

-Paul A. Webb, a Junior in Allegheny College, at Meadville, has met all expenses and cleared about \$1000 a year by collecting "hell-benders" and fishing worms and selling them to institutions where they are used for dissection purposes in the study of comparative anatomy. Webb, a Russian by birth, is specializing in biology. He has compounded a secret solution which, sprinkled on the ground, brings armies of worms to the surface, even in the middle of January.

-Investigating reports of destitution at a coke plant near Uniontown, a committee of women found nine families virtually in want and each of the families owned an automobile. While money was rolling in at a lively rate, the families purchased the machines and when work got slack they were unable to dispose of them. The committee will assist in selling the automobiles and render other assistance. It is said that similar conditions exist in other sections of the coke field.

-Hereafter men who have occasion to go to the Uniontown postoffice must confine their visits to mail and not include female, and the women will no more find male instead of mail there, according to an edict just issued by Mayor W. H. Smart, which says the postoffice must cease as a rendezvous for the young. "This son of a bitch" in Uniontown if the mayor carries out his threats. He declares he will arrest all persons caught loafing or spooning in Uncle Sam's building.

-Bond holders of the Sunbury and Susquehanna Railway company, represented by John W. Whitaker, on Monday bought the property at receivers' sale for \$55,000. This includes six miles of line operating between Sunbury and Sellingsgrove and a mile opposite the Pennsylvania railroad yards north of Northumberland, and known as the Sunbury, Lewisburg and Milton railway company. The property has been in the hands of receivers for eight years. Bonds and mortgages total more than \$350,000.

-Although two men who attempted to break into the bond house of the McHenry distillery at Benton, Columbia county, one night last week, were fired at by guards, and one of them was wounded, they made their escape in an automobile before the guards could give the alarm and take up the chase. One of the guards emptied his rifle at the fleeing figures. One of the would-be thieves dropped a pair of steel clippers, which it is believed, they intended to use to cut the telephone wires and also to cut the staples from the doors holding the padlocks. The other man dropped a revolver in his flight.

-Stewards representing the executive committee of the Danville district of the Central Pennsylvania conference of the Methodist Episcopal church met at Sunbury and fixed the salary of the Rev. J. E. A. Bucke, Newberry, district superintendent, which is estimated at \$7000 yearly. Pastor Bucke succeeds the Rev. Dr. John S. Souser, Sunbury, who died several days ago. Twenty-two men, representing the sixty-five charges in the district, were in attendance. It was also decided to buy a home in Sunbury for Mr. Bucke, and the "Episcopal Fund" was assessed at 2 1/2 per cent. of pastors' pay. This is also raised by the churches in the district.

-Watsonstown is left without hotel accommodations for man or beast by the closing of the Cooner hotel as a public house. This was Watsonstown's oldest hotel and has never been managed by any other than a member of the Cooner family. It was built in 1856 by William Cooner, widely known as the keeper of the stone tavern on the road from McEwensville to Muncy, which was one of the stopping places on the stage route between Harrisburg and Williamsport. He managed the house for fifteen years, when his son succeeded him, and since then, although the management of the hotel has frequently changed, it always remained in the hands of a member of the old hotel proprietor's family.