

—Anyway, to us, there is money in muddy water. Seeing that we can't fish fly on it we stay at home and work contentedly.

—Speed the day when some of our friends discover that film is not pronounced fil-lum, nor column, col-yum, nor dollar, dol-yer.

—Some one told us Wednesday the sign of the fish is holding sway in the almanac this week. At once the scales fell from our eyes and we saw it raining.

—Bacon is twenty-two cents and sugar six cents in Philadelphia, and gasoline is twenty cents in Chicago, but why worry! You'd stick on in good old Centre county if they were giving things away every place else.

—Will the Germans do something more than make another offer or will France actually move on May 12th. It is certain that if France doesn't carry out her threat little more than new offers may be expected from Berlin.

—The setting aside of the conviction of Senator Newberry, of Michigan, was not a surprise. It was only affirmation of the belief that many men have that laws are not made to be obeyed when it is more convenient to ignore them.

—Talking of a revival of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania we are of the opinion that only men who openly declare that they have no ambition or desire for preferment can rally enough of the party's scattered forces to effect resuscitation.

—The blushing, demure, sweet girl graduate who used to be so confused if she happened to let a dainty ankle peep out from under her commencement frock as she sat, admired by all, on the stage, will have trouble keeping her knees covered in this year's skirt styles.

—No matter what you are. No matter what you have been it is certain that one person, at least, has seen something of virtue in you, has prayed to God ever hopefully that your better self might some day come into its own. In life she was praying. In eternity she is prostrate before the great white throne pleading for you. Sunday is the day set apart in honor of your mother. Next your Creator who was His messenger in bringing you into the world has the greatest love. Will you requite it in some way Sunday?

—The president of the Corn Exchange National bank sounds like a man who ought to be listened to when he rises to question the wisdom of a tariff that will keep Canadian grain and other products out of this country. As he says, why make bad friends of the Canadians by an act that serves no good or economic purpose. Canadian grain will merely be diverted to compete with our own in foreign markets and instead of our having friendly competition there our neighbors to the north will fight our prices because of our foolish tariff discrimination against them.

—This is fly week and many people are finding out things they never knew before. Did you know that the erection of a pig sty within one hundred feet of a public stream is punishable by both a fine and imprisonment. Happily many of our laws are enacted more to please the vanity of their fathers than to make work for those empowered to enforce them. Were it not the case half the people along the Bald Eagle, Spring creek, the Buffalo run, Little Fishing creek, Penns creek, Elk, Pine and the other creeks in Centre county would be taking their meals through the little aperture in that big iron door that sheriff Dukeman carries the key for.

—Secretary Mellon's first real report of the condition of the treasury gives little hope of reduced taxes within the next two years unless it is to those whose incomes are over fifty thousand dollars a year. Poor souls, they need relief and probably because he is in that class himself and knows how it feels to give up a lot when one has a lot, he has recommended a reduction of the incomes of the poor little folk. The Secretary goes on to say that he expects to be able to reduce the short-dated debts of the country about one billion dollars during the next two years and then takes all the glory out of such a prospective achievement by stating that his Democratic predecessor had cut the short-dated debt down one and two-thirds billions in only nineteen months, or from August 31st, 1919, to March 31st, 1921.

—It is quite possible when the good people who responded so wonderfully to that hard luck story of the Martin family in Clarence learn that the Martin boys had earned \$222.84 every month for eleven months preceding the shut down, they will be wondering what was done with the wages. Very few families there are in Bellefonte who have a gross income of over \$2500.00 a year and we know of none so wasteful as to be "starving" within six weeks of the suspension of their pay. From what we have learned, from most credible sources, the Martin donations were very much in the nature of misguided philanthropy. Anybody who read the North American's story of the misfortunes of the Martin family might have known from the lead up that some one had been given the assignment who had probably never been further into the country than Kirkbride's or Willow Grove for amateurishness and unfamiliarity with country conditions was written all through his story.

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A Pilgrimage of the Pencil Pushers of Pennsylvania.

Today the editors and publishers of Pennsylvania are to gather at State College for a symposium, or a Round Robin or, perhaps its merely to get a few scientific points on how to keep scissors sharp and paste pots from going stale. Whatever it is, they'll have a good time for we have been informed that it is to cost them nothing. Since the railroad passes were called in and there's no more chance for making good the overlooking of his "round" of drinks by giving three or four inches of "bull" in the next edition to those who didn't the country editor doesn't have the same joy in living that he once had. And this play of dining and grape-juicing at State College would need the S. R. O. signs were it not that some of our contemporaries will probably be detained at home to figure out how they can push their own hours up to one-hundred and twelve so that those of their employees can be reduced to forty-four per week.

We are wondering how many of the gentlemen of the press who will gather within the confines of old Centre today will realize that they are congregated right in the centre of the original little Sahara of Pennsylvania; for State College was functioning perfectly as arid territory when the only bottle the oldest of them knew anything about was the one that had a nipple attached to its neck. When the Pennsylvania Farm school was born it wasn't designed that it should raise oats for the brewer's big horses, so a three mile limit was established within which our departed friend John never entered unless surreptitiously in the company of a boot-legger. Of course, the College, being a centre of learning it is not to be supposed that very advanced education in the art and science of boot-legging was not one of its unwitting gifts to humanity.

This infant Farm School, child of the State, now grown to the great and lusty Pennsylvania State College, is unique, we think, in that it has never been wet since it was born.

But enough of this. Let us say what we started out to say. Many years ago the Pennsylvania State Editorial Association held its annual convention in Bellefonte. Our recollection of the gathering is rather hazy, but out of misty memory we recall seeing streams of men trooping out to the "Big Spring," coming back to their hotels, then trooping out again. That outstanding feature of the day had no significance for youth, but often since we have wondered whether it was the pure joy of viewing again and again the pool that impelled Rochambeau to exclaim: "La Belle Fontaine!" or whether it was the copious supply of the only known cooler for "hot coppers" that really attracted.

Not since then has there been such a concentration of brains in Centre county as there will be today and tomorrow. And, as we tried to make clear at the beginning the editor of today is not the editor of yesterday. Evolution has evolved him along with everything else, so that the lovable old types who amiably went their way moulding public sentiment and living mostly on husks are fast being superseded by men whose brains have been developed to consideration of their own business offices as well as their editorial rooms and are therefore all the more efficient in the service they render humanity in these times when the practice is quite as essential as the theory of existence.

—Bellefonte fishermen who have gone up Spring creek within the past week or ten days have been confronted with a very unpleasant condition of the water in that ordinarily sparkling stream. They found the water so polluted with chemicals and drainage from some place that the stench therefrom was almost unbearable. In fact farmers have been complaining that the water is so bad that their stock will not drink it. Dr. J. L. Seibert, representative of the State Board of Health, was notified and went up the latter part of the week and looked the situation over. He feels satisfied that he has located the source of the trouble and has notified the State Board of Health as to what he has discovered, and he anticipates that an inspector and engineer will be on the ground probably this week to see what can be done to stop the pollution. As it is a menace to the health of the people of that section through which the stream flows.

—Ambassador Harvey says he "is wholly unable to perceive why a citizen of the United States cannot represent his country without appearing either a sycophant or a swash-buckler." Nobody who knows Harvey can see how he can represent anything without being either or both.

—It's rather fortunate that nobody understands Professor Einstein's theory. In the circumstances he can't do much harm even if he does little good.

Sproul Inviting a Hard Fight.

It is vaguely intimated in the news from Harrisburg that Governor Sproul intends to double cross some of the Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly who fawningly served him during the session. In other words we learn through the press dispatches that the Governor proposes "to ask the head of each department of the State government to give him a statement, by the middle of May, of the smallest appropriation upon which a department can be run," with the view of cutting the appropriations to the bone. It has been freely charged that he obtained the votes to carry out his legislative program by promising to sign all the appropriation bills which passed both Houses of the Assembly.

The most serious charge made against the Governor and his administration is that of profligacy. At the beginning of the session the Governor informed the Legislature that the revenues available were limited, and that unless additional revenues were created appropriations should of necessity be limited to about \$90,000,000. But he suggested legislation which would increase the revenues by about thirty-five million dollars and intimated that if such bills were passed, appropriations might be increased. The revenue bills were passed and the appropriation bills as promptly enacted. Now it is intimated that the Governor intends to cut the appropriations and thus strive for a record for economy.

There is an impression on the public mind that all is fair in politics and some politicians have prospered by tricking the public. But fooling the public and deceiving politicians, though of a minor grade, are vastly different. Governor Sproul won a notable victory over an opposing faction during the closing period of the session but at the same time he took on a fight which is likely to tax his energies and resources to the limit. If in his desire to pose as an economical administrator he violates faith with Legislators who supported him under promise of liberal appropriations, the ranks of his opponents in the next struggle will be greatly increased.

—Professor Taft declares that "respect for representative government is lower today than it was a century ago." Naturally, for nearly half that period Professor Taft has been a figure in our representative government.

Knox Resolution Passed the Senate.

The Knox resolution repealing the resolution of Congress of 1917, declaring war against Germany, was adopted on Saturday by the considerable majority of forty-nine to twenty-three. Thus Senator Knox has been able to register the concurrence of the Senate in his openly expressed sympathy with Germany. Even while the war was in progress and the result uncertain, Senator Knox's sympathy was with Germany. After the cessation of hostilities he opposed the peace treaty for the reason that it was too severe on Germany. Since the organization of the League of Nations he has allowed no opportunity to aid German efforts to avoid the just penalty of Hun atrocities, to escape.

In supporting the Knox resolution in the Senate Senator Lodge declared that every other nation associated with us in the war has made peace with Germany. But neither of them has made a separate peace. The peace made by England, France and Italy is the peace provided for in the Versailles convention in which the United States was a leading element, and in which we might have participated but for the perverseness of the Republican majority in the Senate. Lodge and his bigoted associates are responsible for the fact that England, France and Italy are in the enjoyment of commerce with Germany while we are not. We might have been the first and favored beneficiary of restored commerce.

Aside from the bad faith to our Allies in the war, expressed in the adoption of the Knox resolution, there is revealed a selfishness of purpose which is a libel upon the American character. The resolution repudiates the League of Nations in one clause and claims every advantage it affords to membership in another. It puts the American people in the attitude of begging favors from an organization to the maintenance of which they refuse to contribute. This is not the American way. It is the sordid and selfish methods revealed in the Dollar Diplomacy which prevailed while Knox was Secretary of State and has been rejected by every self-respecting American since.

—Obviously Senator Penrose is still a very sick man. Otherwise he wouldn't allow the Sproul road roller to crush his friends as it has done.

—Speaking of delusions it is said that William Jennings Bryan still imagines that his voice has influence on popular Democratic opinion.

Senator Newberry's Election Sustained.

The decision of the Supreme court of the United States setting aside the conviction of Senator Newberry, of Michigan, and sixteen others who had violated the Federal Corrupt Practices act, is more confusing than surprising. The law limits the expenditures of a candidate for Senator in Congress to \$10,000. Senator Newberry acknowledged that his nomination and election had cost himself and his family about \$200,000 and his party and friends more than a million. The evidence at the trial showed, however, that most of the money was spent in the primary campaign and the decision of the court is based on the proposition that Congress has no right to regulate primary elections.

Of course Chief Justice White and Associate Justices Clark and Brandies dissented. Being Democrats they are unable to discern the fine lines which differentiate between primary and general elections. But they agreed upon a reversal of the judgment of the lower court nevertheless, upon the ground that Congress is without authority to limit the expenditures of a candidate, that being a prerogative of the State Legislatures. Orin D. Blakesley, of Venango county, who pleaded nolle contendere to a similar charge some years ago and forfeited his seat in Congress will probably think his lawyers were stupid. If he had carried his case to the higher court he might have held his seat.

Still there is no certainty on this point. Senator Newberry was elected at a time when the election of a Republican Senator was of the greatest importance to his party. His vote gave the Republicans a majority in the Senate and enabled the bitter ender to pack the committee on Foreign Relations so as to prevent the ratification of the Paris peace treaty and put the United States into the League of Nations. That was the most important event from the view point of the Republican machine, of recent years, and Newberry having paid the price and taken the chances, was entitled to protection. On the principle of "honor among thieves," he was entitled to the decision handed down.

—The Democratic party, the city of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania have sustained a distinct loss in the death, last week, of Henry Budd, of Philadelphia.

Hope for Democracy in Prompt Action.

We are neither inclined to nor in the habit of "chasing rainbows." Until the blundering and profligate Legislature disgusted the thinking people of the State we could see no reasonable hope for the success of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania, in the near future. The stupid or venal leaders who had control of the organization for over eight years had so completely demoralized the party that every expectation was dismayed. Selfish ambitions led to such a prostitution of power that life-long workers in the political faith of Jefferson and Jackson turned away in disgust.

But in the light of recent events we can now see a possible chance of victory in the near future. The reckless profligacy and riotous indulgence in other vices by the recent boss-controlled Legislature have so outraged public sentiment that justice-loving and right-thinking men in all sections of the State, hitherto earnest Republicans, are turning away in disgust and seeking alliances into which they may enter without a sense of shame. Out of this confusion of purpose there arises a hope for the triumph of the Democratic party. It is the only available vehicle for escape from the iniquities of machine spoliation.

But even this hope can be fulfilled only by a complete reorganization of the Democratic party. The faithless patronage mongers who have been misleading the party in the recent past must be driven out of the councils and the mission of leadership bestowed upon men worthy of the confidence thus reposed in them. This can be accomplished in time to enter the next important campaign with courage and confidence, if it is begun at once. But action must be prompt and vigorous. And the obligation is upon every true Democrat in every voting district in the State. Let us begin it in Centre county now.

—During the years 1919 and 1920 Centre county received as its share of the appropriation for the support of the public schools \$66,951. If the Governor signs the appropriation bill passed by the last Legislature the county will receive as its share for 1921 and 1922 \$95,100, or \$28,149 more than it received before, all of which will be devoted to paying increased salaries to teachers.

—Maybe in the long run the Sproul-Crow machine will discover that it "sowed to the wind to reap a whirlwind."

Fine Fight in Prospect.

There is a good deal of speculation throughout the State as to the depth and width of the chasm which separates the factions of the Republican party. The events which marked the closing sessions of the General Assembly indicate a bitterness which is irreconcilable. The humiliation put upon Speaker Spangler and through him on Joseph R. Grundy, of Bucks county, and George S. Oliver, of Pittsburgh, was particularly cruel and severe, while incidentally the ponderous form of Senator Penrose was sidetracked in a manner that might be expected to provoke resentment in kind. The Senator has not hitherto been known as of the amiable type that offers the other cheek when a blow is administered.

Of course both sides in the conflict, for it can be described in no other term, depend upon the healing influence of public patronage to work a reconciliation of their differences. The Grundy-Oliver contingent may confidently rely upon the moral support of Senator Knox, who is said to stand high with the President and Secretary of the Treasury Mellon. If to the influence of these gentlemen is added that of Senator Penrose it may safely be said that the patronage of the federal administration is solid on that side. In former years that would have been sufficient to turn the tide of Republican sentiment in that direction and control the vote of the party.

But things are different now. Through the work of the recent session of the Legislature Governor Sproul has control of so vast an amount of official patronage that the postoffice and revenue department patronage dwindles into insignificance. The Governor can summon to his aid and put upon his payroll such an army of tax eaters that the federal force would be overwhelmed if the two elements should come into encounter. Thus far Knox, Mellon and Penrose have not revealed themselves in the contest and possibly they may consult prudence and remain out of the range of the Sproul guns. The Senators are old and foxy. But if they should conclude to take a hand they could put up a fine fight.

—One of the funny features of current political gossip is that the friends of former Secretary of State Lansing complain that he was badly treated by President Wilson. If President Wilson hadn't mistakenly favored Lansing nobody would have ever known much about him.

"The Pamphlet" Comes to Life Again.

The Pamphlet, edited by Charles J. Bangert, of DuBois, one of the oldest, best known and most picturesque newspaper men in north-western Pennsylvania, has been "re-born" after an interval of more than nine months, during which time the editor devoted himself to special newspaper work in Pittsburgh.

The Pamphlet is one of those little pocket-size publications for which there is a distinct place in our local, State and national life. It is written entirely by one man, in a most happy, humorous and quaint style, which has a way of getting under the skin of the so-called reader.

As it was issued last year, The Pamphlet was a thin little booklet, some 24 pages and cover. The "re-born" issue, dated May, 1921, seems not only to have been re-born, but to have grown quite considerably in the process. For the May number, which has just reached us, is a thick one of some 48 pages and cover, is excellently printed on first-class paper, and shows signs of having been carefully designed by expert printers and publishers. Typographically speaking, it is a finished product, and is in keeping with the fine reading on the inside pages. The publishers announce that The Pamphlet will be issued regularly every month and will be on the newsstands on the 25th.

We welcome The Pamphlet into the journalistic field again, and bespeak for it a happy and successful career at the hands of the reading public.

—President Harding has sadly disappointed Senator Johnson, but no more so than Secretary Hughes is disappointing the government in Berlin.

—May day parties, if there were any in this section must have been damp, dismal affairs.

—During the past week several hundred men in various parts of the State who had been laid off some time ago by the Pennsylvania railroad company, were ordered back to work, which looks as if the crucial period of depression in railroad business had been passed and better times coming.

—The wet weather this week has put the farmers back with their work and also played havoc with gardening of all kinds. But cheer up, the almanac says we will have nicer weather next week.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—White glass sand of a high grade is said to have been found on the farm of D. G. Welch, near Shirlersburg, in Huntingdon county. The farm is one of the best in the Aughwick valley.

—Because his wife compelled him and their young daughter to say their prayers in bed and interfered with family worship by rattling dishes, George A. Oiler, of Harrisburg, was granted a divorce from his wife, Clara. Oiler testified his wife bent him over the legs with a skilled snarl was abusive in her language, holding his religion in contempt.

—Murder trials in York county are costly. This was demonstrated by the trial of Charles Baker, which ended last Friday with a verdict of second degree murder, and which clerk of court Smith says will cost the county more than \$25,000. District Attorney Roehow announced that gun-toting by irresponsible and dangerous characters must cease in that county.

—After being searched for by relatives and friends in all parts of Cumberland and adjacent counties, Joseph Conrad, 71 years old, of Mount Holly Springs, who disappeared from his home on Wednesday morning, was found contentedly living in the county jail at Carlisle, where he had gone in search of a night's lodging when he became fatigued on the way to visit a son in Harrisburg.

—Since April 1, the Pennsylvania Highway Department has let highway contracts aggregating \$6,000,000 in value. This involves the construction of about ninety miles of roads, including excavation, grading and surfacing, mostly with reinforced concrete and Hillside brick. The money total was increased by the letting, during the last week, of three contracts aggregating \$890,357 in value.

—John Birka, 5 years old, died on Sunday in the Berwick hospital several hours after he had been shot by his brother Michael, aged 5 years, while they were playing with their father's revolver. The elder brother had pointed the weapon playfully at Michael and then handed the weapon to him. The boy pointed it at John and fired, the bullet tearing away part of the jaw and lodging in the neck.

—Ministers and laymen from all parts of the central Pennsylvania Methodist Episcopal conference gathered at Mechanicsburg on Saturday clad in overalls for the purpose of cleaning up the Methodist Home for Children. This land was recently purchased by the conference and many small buildings which were on the property were razed by the ministers and laymen. A general clean-up of the premises was also made.

—Timely use of a revolver and sure aim by Joseph R. McCombs, an insurance specialist, of Sunbury, saved T. W. Bittner, a Sunbury merchant, from being bitten by a copperhead snake, one of the largest of the variety ever seen in that vicinity. McCombs and Bittner were out in the woods when the snake coiled, hissed and struck at Bittner. At the same moment, McCombs fired. The bullet took the head off the snake.

—An unusual claim for compensation has been made before Referee Jacob G. Snyder, of the Altoona district, by Serafino Distobello, of Gallitzin, a Pennsylvania Railroad laborer. The petitioner claims that he lost the sight of both eyes by coming in contact with gaseous fumes arising from railroad ties treated with creosote. He has been blind since October, 1920. The case is the first of its kind since the establishment of the local office.

—The lone combination freight and passenger train on the Kishacoquillas Valley Railroad, nine miles long, running between Reedsville and Belleville, had its first real wreck last Friday in thirty years of operation. The rails spread, throwing a freight car loaded with wheat over an embankment. Another freight car was upset and forty cans of cream were spilled, flooding the car floor to a depth of two feet and drowning a crate of pigeons. The passenger car also was derailed and the passengers shaken up, but none injured severely.

—The Rev. Dr. Franklin K. Huntzinger, for more than a score of years known as Reading's "marrying parson," frequently marrying as many as eight pairs in a day, died on Sunday, aged nearly 77 years. His wife died some years ago, and their only child preceded them in death. For fifty-two years pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran church, which he founded, Dr. Huntzinger resigned two weeks ago and was then elected pastor emeritus. He preached 20,000 sermons, confirmed thousands of young people, baptized 972, married 4277 couples and conducted 493 funerals.

—Penniless, friendless and jobless, John Dietz, of Connersville, Pa., and H. A. Gilford, were arrested last week on the mountains near Mt. Carmel, charged with three robberies. When asked what they did with the bottle of chloroform taken from them they said they put themselves to sleep to escape suffering from cold and hunger. The young men had met in Norfolk and tramped to the coal region for work. When in an old brick house one night while coming north, they were unable to sleep because of being cold and hungry and took so much chloroform to put them out of their misery that they did not get awake for three days. Dietz recovered first and aroused Gilford.

—George C. Tompkins, of Philadelphia, thrice convicted of murder in the Cambria county courts and recently convicted in the Blair county courts when a change of venue was granted, will go to the electric chair during the week of May 23rd. Tompkins is now in the Blair county jail. He was convicted of murdering Edmund I. Humphreys, his wife, Caroline, and son, Edmund L. Jr., at Carrolltown, Cambria county, July 15th, 1917. Two verdicts of first-degree murder brought in Cambria county, were set aside by the Supreme court prior to the trial in Blair county. A plea of insanity was set up by counsel and during the trial his actions were those of an insane man. He is making beads at present in the Blair jail and apparently sane.

—Aroused from her afternoon nap at her home in Essington on Saturday, Irene Kenschroff discovered that her head had been shorn of some of the beautiful black curls that had hung beyond her waist. No "fack, the Snipper" was responsible for the loss of Irene's crop of curls, however. The presence of a pet Billy goat, munching upon the severed tresses explained the theft. According to Miss Kenschroff, "Billy" suddenly developed a laughing fit, the curls having caused a tickling sensation in the goat's stomach. He was driven almost into hysterics. The goat has the run of the Kenschroff home, the girl said, and when he strolled into the living room and espied his young mistress asleep on a lounge, he succumbed to the temptation to make a meal of her raven locks.