

—It is safe to predict that all hostilities between England and France will be with the mouth or the type writer.

—What has become of the lovely, modest girl, budding into womanhood, who used to plead with her mother that she was old enough to put her hair up and her dresses down?

—It remains to be seen whether Col. Harvey's mouthings in London square with the Harding and Hughes actions in Washington. We are inclined to predict that they won't.

—For the first time since it was installed the elevator in Temple Court worked in high last Friday. It was only for a second or so. One of the cables broke and it dropped eighteen feet.

—Clover is shooting into head and being very short the prospects for a big hay crop in Centre county are not good. Wheat is spotty, lately has become streaked with yellow and is being cut by the fly. Why should the farmers worry about little matters of this sort? Washington has just passed the emergency tariff bill and if we are to believe all the fool stuff that was told about how it is to help the farmers the clover will stretch out two feet now and all the flies in the wheat will fall over dead as soon as they are told the bill has passed.

—The "incident without parallel in history" is bringing so many bodies from foreign battle fields to their homeland for burial. "Incident without parallel" is supernal praise of the conduct of the War Department by the much maligned Secretary Baker, but it was President Harding, himself, who said it as he stood among caskets that held the wasted bodies of five thousand patriots on the government pier at Hoboken, on Monday. If great things had not been done in 1917 and 1918 by the men whom President Harding's advocates reviled in 1920 Monday's impressive ceremony would never have occurred.

—Congress failed to appropriate any money with which to keep the prohibition enforcement agents on the job so the sniffers have been called off until July 1st. The Pennsylvania enactment law, passed at the last session of our Legislature, has no teeth in it so that boot-legging will be an unmo- lested business for some days to come. "Hooch" ought to be cheaper boys. There will be no such overheads as fines, confiscated automobiles and payments for time some of the runners have to serve and the price ought to come down during the inter-regnum. It might not, but it won't hurt to take it up with your boot-legger.

—The fans of Phillipsburg, Osceola and Clearfield are getting ready to go to war on the diamond again. Osceola has raised ten thousand dollars and, of course, Phillipsburg never was a piker so some baseball may be expected over the mountain this summer. Bellefonte will probably have a little home-made team that will climb into a yellow bus along about August and slip over to that new Phillipsburg park, do something to Bill Loudens' imported outfit and then go down to the Phillips and count the money that Roy Wilkinson and a lot of our other friends over there have come by honestly but so easily that they don't know how to keep it.

—Our placid progress up High street on Monday was interrupted by a gentleman who wanted to tell us, and did tell it, that he thought the "Buy-at-Home" campaign now being carried on by local merchants is good. He is not a nigger in the wood pile" and listened until he had told us that that very morning he had seen a lot of furniture purchased away from home being uncrated in front of a house in Bellefonte and he couldn't understand why that expenditure had not been made at one or the other of our own very splendidly stocked furniture stores. His statement was to the point and needs no expurgation, though we might add that no matter how fine a spirit of co-operation and help-one-another might be aroused in this or any other town there will always be some who think a thing is better because they get it somewhere else. They usually live to see the day, however, when they are sorry they don't have the guarantee of a reputable home merchant behind the purchase.

—If the proposed revision of the constitution of Pennsylvania is to be made this District will be entitled to select three delegates to sit in the convention. Nominations will be made at the primaries on September 20th next and then they will be elected in November, but no person may vote for more than two. Presuming that there will be many to seek the unusual honor we take this early opportunity of advising "Watchman" readers to be chary about making pledges of support. Don't be the worm for the early bird. The work in hand is too portentous to trust to those who seek it merely for the honor. The "Watchman" thinks public temperment not stabilized or normal enough since the war to undertake at this time a change in our organic laws, but if it is to be done let us select profound, conservative minds to work it out. It is not a politician's job, nor should there be a preponderance of lawyers, but in all probability many of both these classes will be chosen so we plead for enough practical, common-sense, far seeing lay minds to serve as a balance wheel between those who would be warped by political success and those who stress technicality too much.

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Concerning a New Constitution.

The most important problem before the people of Pennsylvania in the near future is that embodied in the proposition to create a convention to frame a new fundamental law for the State. This question will be determined at the primary election on September 20th, and at the same time, if the decision be in the affirmative, delegates to the convention will be nominated. The Act of Assembly authorizing these actions provides for the election of three delegates for each Congressional district, each elector to vote for two, the intention being to guarantee minority representation. But it bestows upon the Governor the right to appoint twenty-five delegates, or nearly one-third of the whole number. Why this imperial power has been given to the Governor has never been fully explained. It has never been exercised by any Governor of any State in the Union. In fact it has never before been asked for.

From the birth of the Republic the prerogative of formulating the organic laws of the States has been vested in the people absolutely free from executive interference or control. One of its purposes is to restrain the executive authority from exercising sinister or selfish power. Under this provision of the law the Governor might easily control the deliberations of the body. With that number of delegates under obligations to his favor he might pervert the work of the convention into an agency to promote his personal ambitions. In view of incidents attending the closing sessions of the Legislature that framed the law, it is no great strain of the imagination to assume that that was the real purpose of the unusual provision. The organic and statute laws of the State and parliamentary principles which have survived the assaults of a thousand years were trampled down to build a machine for his aggrandizement.

But even if these reasons for opposing the plans of the Governor were not so palpable the proposition to hold a constitutional convention in this State at this time invites popular reprobation. The state of the public mind is not such as to inspire hope for the best results of such an undertaking. We have not yet emerged from the shadows of the world war. As the esteemed Johnstown Democrat states, "the passions of the war still dominate the mass of the people. The war psychology is still paramount. The calm and sober judgment and the liberal outlook cannot yet be brought to bear on the great questions which would come up for consideration and disposal in a convention called to remodel our fundamental law." The industrial life of the country is fitful and uncertain and there is no fixed purpose in the minds of the people as to policies of the future and it would be dangerous to undertake such an enterprise now.

Besides there is no really urgent call for a new constitution at this time. The present constitution is the work of great minds which were influenced by the highest purposes and amendments made at intervals since have kept it well up to the requirements of existing conditions. If the public mind were tranquil and conditions favorable for getting the best results from a convention chosen by the people in the customary manner and assembled in the spirit of patriotism and unselfishness that characterized the convention of 1873, some good might come out of the remaking of the organic law. But the matter is not so pressing that the risk should be taken of a convention dominated by one man whose political record is anything but encouraging and whose ambitions know neither reason nor bounds. It were better to "bear the ills we have than fly to others we know not of."

—Under a new amendment to the game laws owners of dogs that chase game are liable to a fine of \$10.00 for every day such dogs chase game during the closed season and \$5.00 for every bird or rabbit they kill. Hereafter it has been necessary to serve a warning notice on owners of hunting dogs, but this is not necessary under the new act. Dogs may be trained from September 1st to March 1st, but must be accompanied by their owner or handler, but they cannot be allowed to injure game or birds and the owner or handler is not permitted to carry a gun while training them.

—A Chicago judge sentenced some shop-lifting girls to go to church every Sunday for a year. There must be some vital differences between the bench and the pulpit in Chicago.

—Some Congressmen found courage enough to say mean things about the enforcers of the Volstead act but the appropriation for the enforcement got through all right.

—France is growing a million more acres of wheat this year than last, which would indicate preparations for any future contingency.

Harvey's Absurd Speech.

The speech of Ambassador Harvey delivered before the Pilgrims' Society of London a week ago is vastly more absurd than surprising, and in view of the facts it is of small consequence whether he reflected the sentiments of the administration at Washington or not. Mr. Harvey declared with much positiveness that "the government of the United States will have nothing whatever to do with the League of Nations or any commission or committee appointed by it or responsible to it directly or indirectly, openly or furtively." As a matter of fact he has himself accepted a commission to sit in the great council as well as in the conference to settle the Silesian question.

This conflict of statement and fact is unimportant because Harvey is unimportant. A mischievous meddler in the affairs of public men he cherishes an enmity against former President Wilson because in the campaign of 1912 Mr. Wilson asked him to refrain from a false pretense of speaking by authority for Mr. Wilson. He had always been a Democrat until then and therefore his political principles are based on spite and in his spiteful references to and slurs upon Mr. Wilson he did reflect the opinions of both Harding and Hughes. Like the late Colonel Roosevelt Mr. Hughes cherishes resentment against Wilson for defeating him in 1916.

But who did Harvey represent in his vicious slur against the American soldiers who offered their lives that democracy might live and autocracy perish? And who did he represent when he slandered the American people by declaring that we entered the war for selfish rather than philanthropic reasons? We entered the war, he said, because we were afraid to stay out, and instead of winning the end and helped you and your Allies shorten the war. That is all we did," he added, "and all we claim to have done." This is not a very flattering appraisal of the work of our troops in France and Flanders, but it probably expresses the opinions of the Harding administration.

—Most everybody will agree with us that common labor is not now being paid more than it should receive, if it is to subsist decently. There is a question in many fair minds, however, as to whether labor is giving full return in service for what it is receiving.

Coal Tax Will be Attacked.

The anthracite coal tax bill which was designated during the session of the Legislature as one of Governor Sproul's "pet measures," is threatened with attack from two sources. As we have pointed out before, a similar bill was declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme court some years ago on the ground that "all taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects," and that taxing anthracite and not taxing bituminous coal was discrimination. Now the coal mine owners threaten to raise the same point and confidently predict the same result, which is reasonable. Courts hardly ever reverse themselves.

The other attack menacing the \$25,000,000 revenue from the anthracite coal tax is from the constitution of the United States. Paragraph 5 of Section 9 and Article 1 of the federal constitution declares that "no tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State." Paragraph 2, Section 10 and Article 1 of the same instrument states that "duties and imposts laid by any State on imports and exports shall be for the use of the Treasury of the United States." This action is threatened by a coal consumer in New York who is supported in his contention that coal sent from Pennsylvania to another State is an export by a number of distinguished lawyers.

On the previous occasion as soon as the Act of Assembly was signed the mine owners increased the price of coal to cover the tax and the tax was paid but never covered into the treasury. When then the court declared the levy invalid the mine owners paid the tax into their own strong boxes and the consumers "sucked their thumbs" or performed some other appropriate act in acknowledgment that they were "trimmed." But the incident had no deterrent influence on the recent Legislature, for when Governor Sproul asked for a repetition of the act the necessary legislation was passed. The consumer will again be "the goat."

—It costs fifty cents more to get a marriage license now than it did a few weeks ago but why should some fellows worry when they know that their wives can more than make that up on the first family wash they take in.

—The Republican women aspiring to party favors would better let the male managers of the organization to their pledges with strong bonds. The Crows are crafty.

Sproul a Cheese Paring Saver.

Governor Sproul has again given expression to his deep and abiding interest in saving the money of the litigants throughout the State. Some time ago he vetoed an Act of the General Assembly which was intended to increase the fees of justices of the peace and aldermen, giving as a reason the statement that such increase of fees would increase the expenses of litigation. The justices of the peace and aldermen are compensated for their services under a fee bill enacted in 1909, a time when prices were at a minimum. Probably an industrious justice, well equipped for the work, in a bailiwick favorably situated, might earn fifteen hundred dollars a year under that fee bill.

The other day the Governor had another spasm of sympathy for litigants and vetoed a bill which provided for a slight increase in the fees of constables of the State. The fee bill under which constables are working at present was enacted in 1917 and very slightly increased the fees provided for in the Act of 1899. But the measure passed by the Legislature of this year would have increased the expenses of litigation, as the Governor sagely remarks. The increase would not have been much. It would have been scarcely perceptible, as a matter of fact. But declaiming ponderously on such a subject makes a strong impression.

Increasing the salaries of judges of the Supreme and Superior courts and adding to the number of judges also has a tendency to increase the expenses of litigation, and increasing the salaries of many other public officials and creating hundreds of new offices has a tendency in the same direction, but the Governor approved every measure of that kind that came before him. The inference to be drawn from these facts is that the Governor is strong on saving at the spigot while willing to waste at the bung. In other words he is an economizer of the cheese paring variety. He plays strong on trifling matters but weak when the subject is worth while. He may fool the people in this way, however.

—One of the members of Congress wants the opening of the sessions to begin with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner." Samuel Johnson said "patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." Look out.

Eloquent but Inconsistent.

President Harding is a master builder of platitudes. But in his lip service he reveals a large measure of insincerity. For example, in his speech of tribute to the victims of the great war, delivered in New York on Monday, he said: "These heroes were sacrificed in the supreme conflict of all human history. They saw democracy challenged and defended. They saw civilization threatened and rescued. They saw America affronted and resisted. They saw our nation's rights imperiled and stamped those rights with a new sanctity and renewed security." It was an admirable statement of a sacred and solemn truth.

But while he was thus justly eulogizing the sacrifices of the heroes of the war the world was analyzing the nasty slurs put upon them by his Ambassador at the court of St. James and personal representative in the supreme council of the Allies, George Harvey, which is still unrebuked and seemingly approved. If the President were sincere in his expressions of appreciation of the sacrifices made by the soldiers whose dead bodies were before him and of the cause for which those sacrifices were made, he would promptly recall the mouthing miscreant who outraged them and publicly rebuke him for his offense against them and the people of the country.

The President's speech was admirable. It is small wonder that it caused thrills, awe emotions and inspired enthusiasm. Every right thinking man and woman in the broad land will cordially concur in his hope against a recurrence of the horrors of war when he said "I find a thousand sorrows touching my heart and there is ringing in my ears, like an admonition eternal, an insistent call 'it must not be again! It must not be again!' God grant that it shall not be, and let a peaceful people join in co-operation with God to the end that it shall not be." Beautiful thought splendidly expressed. But in view of it why Harvey?

—The new budget law puts a crimp in the pretenses of the Senate. The officials of the bureau may be appointed by the President without confirmation by the Senate.

—The emergency tariff bill has been passed finally and while Congress is hunting the emergency profiteers will be increasing prices freely.

—Possibly Penrose is simply supplying Sproul and Crow with sufficient rope to hang themselves, politically speaking.

The Penny's Loss and Damage Drive.

All over the Pennsylvania System a drive is on for the purpose of reducing claims for damage to freight in transit. It is a campaign among the employees of the company only and its objective is to reduce the rough handling and poor stowing of freight from which causes arise forty per cent. of the enormous claims that the railroad company is called upon to pay annually for damages.

We notice that among those designated as the committee for the Tyrone division the names of W. T. Kelly, agent; E. O. Struble, warehouse foreman; T. J. Kelleher, yard master; B. J. Beezer, clerk, and G. C. Snyder, agent, all in the service in Bellefonte. Instructions are for these men to be on the road and at stations during the drive for the purpose of uncovering and correcting, so far as possible, practices resulting in damage to freight while in custody of the company.

While there can be no question of losses that would be appalling to one not familiar with the figures which are actually due to careless handling, likewise there is no question, in our mind at least, that the aggregate is considerably augmented by what might be called "frame-ups" by dishonest consignees. As the "Watchman" said, some time ago, the individual seems to have one conscience when dealing with a corporation and another when dealing with an individual. Railroad companies, especially, fear a jury and it is possibly more because of public disposition to "soak a corporation" than conscious weakness of its cases. Hence they settle damage cases, invariably without contest, and thereby lay themselves open to and settle claims for damages that wouldn't bear the lime-light of legal investigation.

However, if the rough handling and improper storing can be corrected to the point that it is the exception rather than the rule it will work an economy both ways, for it will reduce the just claims and remove much of the circumstantial evidence on which the unjust ones are made.

Anent the subject of rough handling a personal observation made at Lock Haven some months ago might be a bit illuminating. A fast passenger train, en route to Buffalo, approached the station at high speed. It was a long train and naturally the express cars would stop far above the express and baggage room at the eastern end of the building, but as they went flying past that point the messengers on the car kicked four bread crates out of the door and they went bumping over the wide platform, frightening women and children and battering themselves into a state of dilapidation. In fact the lid was twisted off one and another had the corner stove in by contact with a baggage truck. It was probably an every day occurrence. If so every day wealth was being destroyed in a small way right there. Some one was drawing pay for handling those bread crates carefully, which he was not doing and their owner was burdened with premature replacement costs, all because a thoughtless, careless worker kicked them off the flying car to save himself and the other man who was paid for hauling them down from the upper end of the platform to the express room.

Such incidents are witnessed by thousands of travelers every day and they have done much toward changing the public mind from one of complete sympathy with labor in its contests with railroad corporations to conviction that there is another side worthy of consideration now.

—Several weeks ago Mrs. Jerry Galaida, of east Lamb street, received a consignment of twenty-five young chicks of a special breed from a New York hatchery, and one night last week rats killed every one of them. At least Mrs. Galaida blames the wholesale slaughter on rats because of the fact that that particular section of town is badly infested with these depredation rodents. Residents of that street aver that they are so numerous and bold that it is nothing unusual to see a rat or two capering around on the streets and alleys most any time, day or night. But Mrs. Galaida is not the only one who has suffered the loss of little chicks this year. William Cross, who lives on the Geo. R. Meek farm south of Bellefonte, had eighty chicks killed in one night last week, either by rats or a weasel, while crows are playing havoc with Dr. Kirk's peeps on his farm south of town. So, with the rats, the weasels and the crows to contend with chicken raisers are having troubles of their own.

—Governor Sproul has signed the bill permitting sheriffs or other officers of the law to charge for automobiles in the transferring of prisoners. Heretofore officers of the law were allowed to charge mileage only as related to common carriers, such as railroads.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Blairsville's glass plant resumed operations in all departments last Thursday.

—The body of Stephen Boliver, 61 years old, was found hanging from a rafter in the attic of his home at William Penn, near Sheanandoah, Friday morning. He was proprietor of a small general store, tended by his family, while he worked in the mines during the day. A widow, two sons and two daughters survive.

—Michael DiPetro, a young Italian who was employed in blasting a well at Homer City, Indiana county, was so badly injured by a premature explosion of dynamite used for blasting purposes that he died Wednesday afternoon, five hours after receiving his wounds. He was terribly mutilated but retained consciousness almost to the last.

—Charles D. Maddenford, of Shamokin, and Miles Reider, of Lewisburg, state game protectors, were near death when a boat they were in, in the Susquehanna river at Sellingsgrove, capsized and left the pair struggling in the water. Maddenford is a good swimmer and succeeded in piloting his fellow-officer to shallow water, it is reported.

—Writing to a Franklin newspaper, Saul P. Farren, aged 53 years, places himself on the matrimonial altar for "any woman, at any age, crippled or blind or hard of hearing, if decent and won't fight." He wants a woman, he says, who will try to make their home "the happiest place on earth." He is a hard-working man and admits that he has a good disposition.

—D. T. Green, of Betula, McKean county, faces trial June 6th for the alleged theft of approximately a ton and a half of hay, which, it is said, he removed in a gunny sack holding not more than a twenty-five pounds. He is said to have confessed to H. B. Allison, county detective. The hay was carried a considerable distance and three weeks was required to remove it.

—Robert Ent, a cook, of Danville, proved himself somewhat of a detective last week after \$200 in cash and a gold watch had been missed from the boarding house at which he is a cook. He saw Roy Harris, of Milton, across the street, and accused him of the theft. Harris denied it, and Ent took him to the police. He was locked up on suspicion and finally confessed. He is now in the county jail awaiting sentence.

—Two miners were killed and twenty-two other men were overcome by fumes when a gas explosion occurred on Monday in mine number three of the Watkins Coal company at Bakerton, Cambria county. George Nicholson and William Lamint, mine superintendents, were overcome while carrying on rescue work. They were reported to be in serious condition. The twenty other miners who were overcome revived when brought to the surface.

—Porcupines climbed into the north tier forest fire signal tower in Tioga county, and "chewed up" everything but the metal signaler's telephone. They used quills to "register" in the data book, maintained there by the forestry department. When one of the rangers climbed into the tower he found the havoc wrought by the piles. After "registering," they had torn out most of the leaves of the book, for nest lining; "chewed off" the cover, gnawed a hole in the telephone booth and ate away part of the wooden box.

—Mike Sherry, movie owner and store-keeper at Bald Hill, Clearfield county, disappeared four weeks ago and his friends fear he has been murdered. Sherry was a British soldier and went to Bald Hill more than a year ago. Some time ago he paid a fine for dealing in booze, and later he received a letter threatening his wife. Four weeks ago he started to visit a friend at a nearby farmhouse, and since that time nothing has been seen or heard of him. Money left in his store and movie house indicated that he had not intended leaving the town.

—Seven teachers and janitors dismissed without cause by the Norwegian township, Schuylkill county, school board must be paid their salaries in full, ruled Judge Bechtel in court last Saturday. The teachers and janitors were dismissed in January, notwithstanding that they had a contract for a full term. Court ruled that a contract made by a school board is binding on the succeeding board. Court directed that verdicts for \$300 each be rendered for Harry Rogers, Anthony Pillus, Margaret Kelly, Mrs. August Orff, Catherine Redington and Mrs. Louis Repsch, and \$487 for Edward Hanney. Norwegian township is noted for its hot political fights over control of the school board.

—About 3:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon the ties and stringers of the Montgomery bridge which crosses the Susquehanna river between Muncy and Montgomery, took fire from a passing locomotive. They were heavily creosoted and the flames spread with such rapidity that the wood work of three spans was destroyed before the fire was extinguished. The fire departments from Montgomery and Williamsport were appealed to for help and each sent an engine, only one going into service because of the inability to get the other end of the river. The rails on both tracks were bent and twisted while the great steel girders under the southbound track were badly warped. The bridge burned for three hours.

—Seventeen year old Annie DeMatt, of Hazleton, has started suit for \$5000 damages against Frank Forte, aged 23, on a charge of breach of promise. The papers in the case state that on April 13, 1921, the defendant proposed marriage and was accepted. According to Miss DeMatt's declaration, May 19 of this year was set as the date for the ceremony, but that on May 2, Forte called at her home and declared that he could not wed her. Miss DeMatt alleges that he took away furniture and carpets that he had bought with which to equip their home. Miss DeMatt further alleges that she has been put to considerable expense in buying wedding clothes, and has been subjected to great humiliation before her friends and the public.

—A jury in the Northumberland county court acquitted Charles Smith, former police chief of Kulpmont, of the murder of Frank Goldesky, whom he shot and killed in Joseph Zubey's saloon at that place on the night of February 28th last, after Goldesky had been teasing him because Smith lost his police job. Smith gave a deep breath that could be heard all over the room when clerk Edward Meehan read the verdict and shook hands with his counsel, J. Augustus Walsh, of Shamokin. After shaking Walsh by the hand Smith shook hands with each juror and thanked them and then shook hands again with the court attaches and Judge Cummings, who presided during the trial. Then he returned with Sheriff Matz to the jail to get his belongings. Smith said he will go back to Kulpmont and make his home there.