

Talking about rare days in June, when have you seen rarer ones than were last Saturday and Sunday.

There were no bloody footprints in the snow after the four nation builders who tramped over the historic hills of Valley Forge last Saturday and Sunday had gone.

My, wouldn't that hapless boot-legger, who was chased out of a local boarding house recently by an indignant lady have been a welcome guest in a lot of other places in town.

Anyway, Col. George Harvey can point with pride to one friend in the States. The gentleman who sent him over to the court of St. James to misrepresent us seems to be the only person of consequence who hasn't thrown a harpoon into him.

With the constant increase of public offices it will not be long until every person in this country will be carrying as big a load of officials on his or her shoulders as Germany was carrying soldiers before the Kaiser blew up.

The order to buy two triple pumps for the Bellefonte fire department has been issued by council. Only delinquent tax payers should worry, for we are advised that the collector is expected to make them cough up enough by September 1st to pay for the new machines.

The acquisition of another industry in town, through the building of a second unit to the silk mill, will, ipso, facto, add still another industry that of doing their own housework by a lot of ladies who will no longer be able to hold onto those who have been doing it for them.

That announcement of a twenty-five thousand dollar appropriation for new buildings at State College made the friends of the institution so mad that they found little joy in the correction that followed explaining that an O had been dropped out by a typesetter and that the real amount was two hundred-fifty thousand.

At this great distance from the scene we don't realize all of the horror of the floods that wrecked Pueblo and devastated a large area of Colorado last week. The Johnstown flood of '89 was much nearer home and we viewed its tragedies with sickening hearts, but those of Pueblo have been equally sad and the greatest regret of the east will be that they are so far away as to be beyond the immediate relief which every one must have in-pulse to offer at this moment.

On Monday, June sixth, in the year of our Lord one-thousand nine hundred and twenty-one, the Bellefonte council resolved that one, J. Kennedy Johnston Esq., collector of taxes for said borough shall settle in full all unpaid tax duplicates remaining in his hands on or before September first of the year of the date of said resolution. We have no further comment to make so sit wondering whether council will be just as resolute when the first day of September rolls round.

Washington is having no end of trouble in getting rid of the array of clerks who enlisted for service when the extremities of war swelled Uncle Sam's corps of helpers from thirty-five to over two hundred thousand Democrats, Republicans, Prohibitionists, political cynics and what not responded to the call four years ago and many more thousands than are welcome to the present administration are still there. Most of those remaining, of course, are Republicans, but they are not the kind of Republicans who are wanted and they won't get out to make room for the boys who did the real fighting at the polls. Washington complains because it is too crowded, but we are inclined to think that it wouldn't be half so crowded if only the right crowd were crowding it.

It is to laugh. An engineer on an accommodation train on the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railroad is paid \$4371.92 annually while the Governor of Tennessee works the year for \$371.92 less. And the Governor of Tennessee was sitting on the labor board when the fact was brought out. Then, just to add insult to injury it was shown that negro flagmen and porters get \$146 a year more than the Attorney General of Tennessee. It must have been humiliating to his Nobs, the Governor, but he ought to have taken the "Watchman's" advice of months ago and gone to railroadng. You will recall that as soon as we discovered that a conductor gets \$8.10 for two hours and eleven minutes' work on the run from New York to Philadelphia we tipped every one off to the easy money.

Just when Rash Irvin, G. Washington Rees and John L. Knisely are all sure of landing the Bellefonte post-office along comes a civil service department order announcing that the field is open and that any man answering all of Edison's or a similar list of fool questions will take down the plumb. The order is in form, all right enough, but we haven't the slightest idea that an examination will ever be held and if it is, it's a cinch that the man who passes highest won't get the office unless he happens to be the man with the pull. Civil service is very beautiful in theory but it isn't practical in politics. It was only a few years ago that an examination was held for postmaster at Centre Hall and if our memory serves us aright a gentleman named Bushman passed so high that he plumb passed clear out of sight of the appointing powers and another, who didn't pass at all, pulled down the P. O.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 66.

BELLEFONTE, PA., JUNE 10, 1921.

NO. 23.

Harding Speaks Mysterious Language.

The President persists in expressing his thoughts in the language of mystery. In his speech at Valley Forge on Sunday he said: "When I pledged our America to world helpfulness, at the same time I exact the pledge that America will cling to her own independence of action and to her own conscience." He truthfully added that "ours is a commanding position in the world today," and that "the world could never settle its present-day turmoils and complications without the helpfulness of American influence and example." But who is threatening our independence and stifling our conscience? What sinister influences withhold that helpfulness that is essential to settle the turmoils of the world?

When Mr. Harding was in the Senate and Woodrow Wilson in the White House precisely the same conditions existed. The disturbed and distressed world needed our help and President Wilson pointed the way to extend it most effectively. But the Senate per-versely refused to co-operate in the movement and Mr. Harding shared in the opposition. We then truly occupied a commanding position in the world. We had absolute control of the finances, practical dominance of the commerce and mastery of the industrial life of civilization. If we had promptly gone into the League of Nations this advantageous position would have become permanent. President Harding is leading us by a circuitous path into a back door, but we have lost our power of control.

We all "want an America of preserved conscience," as well as "an America of preserved righteousness." But who is striving to prevent the consummation of these desirable conditions? It is certainly not those who are urging us to adopt the methods and manners of peace-loving people. It is certainly not those who are pleading for a decrease of armaments and the outward signs of amity. President Harding is the head of the Republican party which is in full control of the government at Washington. If he doesn't get what he wants it is because he is weak in the councils of his own party. The Democrats in Congress are ready and willing to help get what he pretends to want.

The farmers are not likely to get much out of the Emergency tariff bill unless they enjoy contributing to the dye stuff monopoly.

Saving at the Wrong End.

Governor Sproul is still tinkering with the spigot. He has written a letter to the heads of several departments complaining of extravagance in the use of automobiles. And there is ample reason for his protest. The State owns 976 automobiles of which 327 are passenger cars, the others being trucks used by the highway, the military and other departments for freighting. The passenger cars are high priced vehicles and have been used quite freely by State officials for pleasure and other unofficial purposes. The repair, fuel and other bills for keeping these cars in motion amounts to a good deal of money in the course of a year. The Governor properly thinks this expense ought to be curtailed.

Besides there are other things to consider in connection with this abuse of what might be called "franking privilege." The esteemed Philadelphia Ledger is moved to ask "why is it that ever third assistant sub-deputy to somebody else in a public job must have an automobile at his disposal?" and leaving the answer to conjecture adds: "Is there any reason why taxpayers should maintain machines for the large number of officials who now have them at their call? Of course there is no satisfactory answer to that question either, beyond the fact that the custom has grown up from a smaller beginning through the carelessness of higher up officials to their obligations to serve the public."

This automobile graft is a trifling affair, however, compared with other abuses which go without protest. For example, an office was created by the last Legislature with the approval of the Governor to be known as Custodian of Securities, or something of that sort in the State Treasury, with a salary of \$8,000.00 a year. The State needed that official about as much as a dog needs two tails. But the retiring State Treasurer needed an office and this one was made for him. More than a hundred other public officials have obtained their "soft snaps" in the same way and if Governor Sproul were sincere in his desire to cut down expenses he would stop that kind of abuse. Save at the bung instead of the spigot.

If President Harding isn't careful Senator Lodge will turn against him and that will be the last of Gamaliel.

Cheerfulness shortens, crabbing lengthens the dull day.

What the Plum Tree Will Reveal.

After attending service in the chapel at Valley Forge on Sunday, and delivering an address from the pulpit of the open-air cathedral adjacent, President Harding held a conference with Senator Penrose, Senator Knox and Governor Sproul upon the question of distributing spoils in Pennsylvania. The service in the chapel was brief but beautiful, according to the press reports. That in the cathedral was impressive. It was opened by the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" after which the rector eulogized the President and referred to his presence as "an event of honor to the men who sleep in unnamed graves in the surrounding hills."

What transpired in the conference held afterward is veiled in a vast volume of conjecture. In the cathedral the President spoke in the language of a truly pious and patriotic man, which of course he is. In the conference he probably listened to "tales of woe" by Penrose and Sproul or complaints of one against the other. Senator Knox has "no kick coming," if recent newspaper statements are to be relied on. Penrose has always been for his re-election and Sproul agreed to support him after a visit to the President the other day. But Penrose has had none of the fruits of the victory of last fall, though entitled to much, and his purpose on the occasion was to find out why and who is responsible.

There have been rumors in the air and stories in the newspapers lately indicating an estrangement between the President and our senior Senator and the purpose of the conference was probably to iron out any differences between them. Penrose picked Harding and had him nominated. It can hardly be said that any one man elected him but it must be admitted that Penrose stopped a stampede when the story of the thirty million dollar campaign fund was given out. But politicians are proverbially ungrateful and when the Pennsylvania boss ridiculed Hughes and made game of Hoover, he offended Harding. Possibly they fixed things up on Sunday, however. We'll find out when the plum tree vibrates again.

Thoughtful persons have a great many things to wonder about and some of them may wonder whether Governor Sproul thinks he is fooling anybody with his pretense of economizing.

"The Nigger in the Woodpile."

When Senator Penrose changed over night from a militant opponent of the Fordney Emergency bill to an enthusiastic supporter we suspected some sinister reason had influenced his mind. The reason is now revealed through an investigation following an assertion of Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, to the effect that the measure was to be made a vehicle for conveying to the DuPont family a monopoly worth many millions of dollars a year. Senator Moses declared in his speech that the highest paid lobby in the history of American Congress had been employed to influence votes in favor of the bill and the expense was met by the dye stuff industry controlled by the DuPonts.

The resolution providing for an investigation was introduced by Senator King, Democrat, of Utah, and has already established not only the truth of the assertion of Senator Moses but the fact that the dye industry has further agreed to pay the deficit of the Republican National committee amounting to \$160,000.00. This portion of the cost of the legislation is to be provided by the Interessens Gemeinschaft, a German corporation which operated largely in this country before the war and is now affiliated with the DuPont interests. It is also alleged that this foreign corporation contributed large sums to the campaign funds of certain Republican Congressmen, under pledge that they would support such legislation.

Of course Penrose's interest in the legislation centered in the promise to pay the debt of the Republican National committee. That burden could not be carried along indefinitely and a few members of the committee would have been obliged to pay it ultimately. But it is not right to compel the tax payers of the country to discharge it and pay the added tribute to the monopoly in the price of dye stuffs. The election of a Republican President and Congress has cost the people enough without this big item. It has paralyzed commerce, wrecked industry and almost destroyed hope. That is too high a price for the platitudes of Warren Gamaliel Harding, entrancing as they are.

Governor Sproul has given notice that unless the gasoline bill is cut down he will be compelled to slap somebody on the wrist.

Senator Borah got the pleasant smile while the munition makers get the turkey.

Centennial of Oddfellowship.

The centennial and anniversary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Pennsylvania, which has been celebrated in Philadelphia during this week, is an event of widespread and unusual interest. Odd Fellowship in the United States began in Baltimore in 1819 when Thomas Wildey and four others organized Washington Lodge No. 1. In 1821 the first Lodge in Pennsylvania was organized in Philadelphia and the ceremonies during the week are in honor of that event. The first lodge of the order was formed in Manchester, England, in the latter part of the eighteenth century and was known as the Manchester Union. It was convivial and an attempt to eliminate that feature resulted in a split and the organization of the Odd Fellows.

Notwithstanding its British origin, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows took deep root and made rapid growth in this country. At the time the charter was issued to the Philadelphia Lodge one was issued to New York. A year earlier, in 1820, Massachusetts organized a lodge and in rapid succession Grand Lodges were chartered in other States and now it is probably the most numerous fraternal organization in the country. There are Grand Lodges in every State and federal district in almost every town or borough. Besides there are collateral organizations under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Grand Lodge known as Encampments, a sort of military branch and Rebekah Lodge for the women members of Odd Fellow's families.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the United States was among the first of the beneficial organizations and its fidelity to its obligations soon commended it to popular favor. Its obligations are to relieve the sick and distressed members, to bury the dead, support the widow and educate the orphans of deceased brothers. These beneficent offices have been performed so promptly and with such liberality that public approval attends the organization of every new lodge and the increase of the membership of the previously established lodges. There is no connection now between the English and American organizations but lodges in Germany, Switzerland, Australia and South America work under American charters.

The President's personal caddy remarked after he had played the nine holes at Phoenixville, last Saturday, that he had seen better golf. Which was by saying that Mr. Harding is not as handy with his woods and irons as he is with keeping his "association of nations" enshrouded in ambiguous verbiage.

Would-be Postmasters Must Stand Examination.

The "Watchman" this week received a circular letter from the U. S. civil service bureau giving a list of post-offices at which there are now tentative vacancies by reason of the expiration of the term of the present incumbent, who of course holds over until his successor is appointed, and in the list appears the Bellefonte postoffice. Naturally, it is not thus tentatively vacant because there are no Republicans willing to accept the appointment, but according to the letter from the civil service bureau all applicants must undergo an examination in order to ascertain whether they will qualify for the position.

In the examination education and training will count for twenty points in the candidate's qualifications and business experience and fitness eighty points. In all cases candidates must be over 25 years old and under 65; Candidates will be required to give a statement of their general, technical and professional education, what school or college attended, college degree, etc., (if any). Also, all practical business experience with names of firm or firms employed and amount of compensation received.

Under the above ruling the opportunity is open to all the would-be's in Bellefonte to step to the front and qualify.

One trouble with Harding is that he doesn't "stay put." He changes his mind so frequently that nobody can tell what to expect next day on any question.

Auditor General Lewis is earning popular approval by cutting out the surplus office holders, but none of the other department heads has imitated him.

Don't worry about Bergdoll. When his money runs out Germany will be glad to get rid of him and as he'll have no where else to go we'll have to take him.

It's a safe bet that if Schwab had to wear a suit ten years he would be the sorest man in the State.

Brick Manufacturer Makes Assignment for Benefit of Creditors.

Charles W. Albright, of Altoona, late president of the Lincoln Deposit and Trust company, of that city, wholesale dealer and manufacturer, who last week made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors, has through his assignees, Messrs. J. S. Ginter and R. C. Albright, filed a statement of assets and liabilities. The assets are placed at \$566,760 and the liabilities \$297,775. In making a summary of the failure, the statement is made on the schedule:

"The cause of insolvency was due to the depreciation in the market value of the securities and the slump in manufacturing and mining operations."

On the face of the schedule, it would indicate that creditors have security of almost two dollars for every one invested, but this will not be determined until the market value of the stock has been ascertained. Among the assets quoted are: 3,200 shares of Superior Silica Brick company stock, \$320,000; 832 shares of Blair Hotel company stock, \$42,000; 800 shares of Lincoln Deposit and Trust company stock, \$56,000; 300 shares of Howard Brick and Tile company stock, \$30,000; 10,000 shares Southern Oil company stock, \$10,000; 100 shares Boone coal company stock, \$10,000; 842 shares Manufacturing company stock, \$29,410.

All the other assets noted are of similar character, but represent small amounts. Liabilities include notes for \$245,000 held by a dozen banks, most of them Blair county institutions. Individuals hold notes for the remainder of the liabilities. The Superior Silica brick plant is located at Port Matilda, this county, and the Howard brick and tile plant at Howard.

The great majority of the students of the Bellefonte Academy have taken their examinations and left for their various homes. Notwithstanding the turmoil and disorganization that necessarily followed the big fire at the Academy early last week it must be said to the credit of the one hundred or more young men, that when they were brought to a realization of the fact that headmaster James R. Hughes would not permit their going home without taking their examinations they all buckled down to work and the result was that better averages were made than in former years.

A very few of the students, naturally, failed to pass with sufficient credits to entitle them to enter college, but they started right in again to take another examination. With such a display of grit and determination it is to be hoped that every one will pass and return to their homes with a feeling that they not only made good in their studies but learned a lesson of stick-to-it-iveness no matter what the adverse circumstances.

Hanging in the First National bank of Bellefonte is a drawing of a contemplated remodeling of that institution's building which is attracting considerable attention on the part of the patrons of that institution. The plans provide for doing away with the cigar store and barber shop in the basement of the building and lowering the floor to practically street level. The building will also be increased in size by extending the southern wall out the limit of the areaway in front of the present barber shop. A new vault is planned to be located in the rear of the banking room, and various other changes which will add to the comfort and convenience of the officials of the bank as well as the patrons. Of course, the contemplated changes will not be made this year, but it is quite possible that the work will be done next year.

We notice that the Pennsylvania R. R. shopmen at Altoona have chosen two former Bellefonters as eligible representatives for them under the new plan of conferences between officials and employees of the company soon to become operative. Frank C. Williams has been chosen by the electricians and their helpers and Frank W. Dawson by the moulders, melters, and their helpers. If all of the others chosen were of the type of these two men we feel sure that a long step has been taken in Altoona toward complete and reasonable accord between those who direct and those who work for the Pennsylvania company. Both are intelligent, conservative men with vision broad enough to see two sides to every question and the will to do justice to both.

Ambassador Harvey still seems to enjoy the confidence of the administration at Washington notwithstanding the widely different opinions of our reasons for going into the war.

All highways and byways will lead to State College next week for the annual commencement exercises.

Buy your own paper and read it.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Henry McMullen, a Bradford county farmer, aged 39 years, tried to drive into his barn ahead of a thunder storm last Friday evening. He was too late. As he was crossing the threshold, lightning struck him on the head. Death was instantaneous.

When criminal court for June convened in Williamsport on Monday morning, Judge Whitehead excused the women who had been drawn for grand jury duty, stating that until the Supreme court decides the question now before it he would not permit them to act.

Claiming it was too warm to sleep in his bedroom, Lewis Kish, aged 45 years, of Marion Heights, went to the attic. When his ten year old son Charles went to the attic he found his father's lifeless body hanging from a rope attached to a rafter. There is no motive known for the suicide. A widow and four children survive.

As he swerved his car to avoid an approaching train on the Huntingdon and Broad Top line, near Huntingdon, last Thursday, George M. Gelsinger, aged 23 years, was killed when the car upset, the train sideswiping it. The car was upset when it struck a high bank. William B. Gelsinger, the boy's father, leaped to safety.

Climbing a telegraph pole on a dare, Clyde Erdman, of Tower City, was killed by electricity in that borough last week. His trip up the pole, it is said, was caused when a girl companion said gaily: "Don't you wish we could be as supple as cats?" "Cats have nothing on me," declared Erdman as he proceeded to show his dexterity on a pole.

Frank Souders, a Pennsylvania railroad engineer, of near Philadelphia, lost his life last Saturday attempting to chloroform an aged pet cat at his home in Paoli, while his family was away. The cat scratched and struggled as he tried to hold a chloroform rag to its nose. Souders fell unconscious and died from the fumes. The cat ran away.

Convicted of involuntary manslaughter, G. N. T. Whitbred, of Altoona, was sentenced to six months in jail by Judge Thomas J. Baldrige in Blair county court on Monday. Whitbred was driving an auto which collided with a telephone pole in Hollidaysburg, October 31st last, in which accident Matthew G. Dunn and Frank Gurdahl, both of Altoona, were killed.

Mrs. Mary Rhyal, of Blacktown, Mercer county, drew her \$1500 in Liberty bonds and \$87.50 in cash from a bank when she heard that bandits had robbed a New Castle bank. She left them at a neighbor's house. Burglars entered the place and took the bonds and cash and a watch belonging to a member of the family. Sheriff David Jarrett and district attorney Leroy Rickert are investigating.

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Mason Rose store in Lewistown at an early hour on Monday and partially burned the business establishments of W. H. Wain and C. E. Shull. The loss is \$25,000. The entire business section of the town was endangered because of the lack of a fire alarm system, it being fully forty-five minutes after the blaze was discovered that water was thrown on the burning buildings.

Richmond, Indiana county, has probably the meanest thief in the State of Pennsylvania. One night last week he broke into the Presbyterian church at that place and stole the carpet off the floor. The carpet was an exceptionally fine one, of the congregation, who had recently finished paying for it. Tracks outside the church indicate it was hauled away in an automobile.

The Pennsylvania Eclectic Medical association at the close of its forty-ninth annual convention at Harrisburg last Thursday, elected Dr. J. F. Livingstone, of Johnstown, president, and decided to meet in that city in 1922. Other officers elected were, Dr. W. J. Howe, of Ambler, vice president; Dr. R. E. Hancock, of Bethlehem, second vice president; Dr. N. M. Glenn, State College, treasurer, and Dr. M. V. Hazen, Harrisburg, secretary.

The volunteer fire company of Portage has decided to disband on June 15th, if the borough council continues to refuse to buy a fire truck. The subject has been discussed by council, but thus far the members have not been won over to the side of the men who do the fire fighting for that town of over 5000 people. The fire equipment now in possession of the firemen is said to be in condition for the junk dealer. New equipment or no fire company is the slogan of the fire ladders.

Thirty years of continuous service as pastor of St. John's Reformed church, of Shamokin, is the record of the Rev. C. B. Schneider. The anniversary event was celebrated on Sunday with special services throughout the day. During his services at Shamokin Doctor Schneider has preached 2912 sermons and officiated at 1728 funerals. He has also confirmed 1300 persons into the membership of the church during that period and performed 873 marriage ceremonies. The present membership of the congregation is 1418.

According to the final account of I. A. DeWitt, auditor, filed last Friday at Sunbury, the estate of James C. Packer, a lawyer of that city, totaled \$1,400,828.47, of which not one cent was willed to charity. Packer's widow, now Mrs. David Ireland, of New York city, gets \$512,000; Mrs. Nellie Slate, Philadelphia, \$190,000; William C. Hill, Sunbury; John C. Packer, Philadelphia; Mary C. Packer, Sunbury; Mrs. Mary Thomas, Lewisburg, each \$50,000; Miss Rhoda Burg, Sunbury, Packer's stenographer, \$30,000, and Miss Adele C. Seiz, Philadelphia, \$30,000. Administration fees took up \$170,000, and the taxes on both estate and federal accounts totaled \$100,000, according to DeWitt, who did not indicate what his fee will be, although J. S. Kline, the executor, received more than \$35,000 for his services.

An effort will be made to set aside the will of William Penn Snyder, steel magnate of Pittsburgh, in which he disposed of an estate estimated to be worth \$50,000,000. The contest is to be made by Mr. Snyder's daughter, Mrs. Mary Black Snyder Drew, wife of Judge James B. Drew, of Allegheny county. Through an unusual provision in the will Mrs. Drew is virtually cut out of participation in the big estate. Under it the estate could not be distributed for sixty years. The will directs that a corporation be formed to continue carrying on Mr. Snyder's business, chiefly composed of the Shamango Furnace company, which operates a fleet of boats on the great lakes, carrying ore from mines he owned in Minnesota; a coking plant and coal mines. The will is regarded as unique in that it provides for perpetuation of the Snyder industries before making any provision for legal heirs.