

—It may be said that Lloyd George has renewed his lease on that Downing street mansion.

—Soviet Russia has many troubles, one of which is that she can't get rid of Emma Goldman.

—So far the doctors of Bellefonte have not been swamped writing prescriptions for medicinal beer.

—When reformers begin to count up the candy bill the girls may look for a crusade against chocolates.

—The average small game hunter came back from the woods Tuesday night drenched to the skin and swearing he'd never go out again, but he will.

—If the shoe operatives accept the twenty per cent. decrease in wages the shoe manufacturers ought to consent to a reduction in the prices of shoes.

—The milk handlers of New York City are on a strike and the metropolis has been without baby food for several days. Strange, we haven't had a strike of bootleggers.

—A Washington ruling, Wednesday, was in effect that beer is now available as a medicine. If you have the beeritis hunt up a doctor who will accommodate you with a proper diagnosis of your case and a prescription.

—The much touted Elk's carnival fulfilled all the touts and demonstrated that G. Washington Rees is quite as handy as a manager of festal occasions as he is when he sets himself to upset the plans of some of the political bosses.

—The breathing spell between strikes wasn't very long. No sooner had we gotten over the fright of an impending railroad strike than the miners decided they are next and threaten to go out unless somebody undoes what Federal Judge Anderson has done.

—That cargo of whiskey which reached Bellefonte at an early hour Monday morning was evidently intended to add hilarity to the big Hallowe'en demonstration, but the sheriff got his dukes on it before the celebration began and the only cheering in evidence on Monday night was the honest to goodness applause given the paraders.

—Six counties in the State are closed to the hunting of wild turkey, three to ruffed grouse, or the ordinary pheasant, and twenty-one to ring-necked pheasants, and hunters from every one of them must have come to Centre county to get a shot at the game here from the number of strangers in hunting togery seen on the streets of Bellefonte early in the week. That is one of the reasons why game is becoming scarce in Centre county. Hunters come here from all over the State and every one of them makes it a point to slaughter all the game he can.

—Don't fail to vote next Tuesday. Your borough and township officers really are of more importance to you than the President of the United States, the Congressmen or the State officials. They lay the most of your taxes, they plan and carry out the education of your children, they have charge of your poor and indigent, their work affects the physical value of your property and your pride in the community in which you reside. Vote for the best men on the tickets presented. Don't let partisan prejudice drag you into doing what you believe is against your own best interests.

—If Armistice day is made a legal holiday all the more should we pray for a peaceful outcome of the conference gathering in Washington. While we enjoy a day off probably as much as anybody we are not blind to the stupendous economic loss occasioned by universal cessation from labor. The eight hour day, the Saturday half holiday, the legal and proclamatory holidays are all parasites on economy and when we consider with these the many, many special holidays celebrated by various foreign elements among our producers the loss would be appalling if it could be calculated. If we are to go on fighting there may be no end to the holidays eventually and then who will do the work that is to be done.

—We have always contended that those of our people who register themselves as Prohibitionists and thereby involve the county in the expense of having a ticket printed for them should either be more careful of their privilege or voluntarily give it up. For years the Prohibition ticket in Centre county has been but a snare which politicians set for the purpose of catching unwary voters. Why there should be one at all nobody seems to know. Rarely are there any candidates on it, other than those of the two dominant parties who may have captured the endorsement of the Prohibitionists by false pretense. And we all know that in local or county elections the Prohibitionists interrogate the nominees of the Democratic and Republican parties and then vote for the ones who reply that they are dry. Why not vote for them directly as Democrats or Republicans and save what is certainly a needless expense and avoid such travesties as will appear on the ticket in one of the wards of Bellefonte next Tuesday when it will be revealed that a man who is now serving a sentence for complicity in a liquor robbery is the Prohibition candidate for an important ward office.

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Startling Figures in Road Building.

In his energetic campaign for a seat on the Supreme court bench Judge Eugene C. Bonniwell makes fire fly with oratorical volleys. In a speech at Reading, on Saturday evening, he directed his aim at the State Highway Department and laid some startling figures before the public. He showed that within the three years since 1918 the Highway Department has disbursed over \$100,000,000 in the construction of 896 miles of highways, an average of more than \$100,000 a mile. In this account of disbursements the salaries of employees and expenses of maintenance of the department are not included. The appropriation for these items, as approved by the Governor amount to \$3,500,000.

The cost of highway construction in Ohio and New York, according to Judge Bonniwell, averages \$30,000 a mile. Why the same work should cost more than three times as much in Pennsylvania is not revealed, though Judge Bonniwell's statement affords a basis for conjecture. In 1919 the average contract was for \$45,500 per mile. But a system of harrassing independent contractors was inaugurated so that though there were 475 bidders in 1919 there were only 68 bidders in 1920, and the average low bid was increased from \$45,500 to \$75,735 per mile. The difference between the contract price, \$75,735 in 1920, and the average cost of construction makes up the salaries and expenses of maintenance.

Everybody in Pennsylvania wants good roads and the most effective argument advanced in favor of a constitutional convention was the absurd fiction that it was necessary to the continuance of road construction and improvement. But no sane citizen is willing to have such plundering operations as Judge Bonniwell has exposed, continued indefinitely. Pennsylvania is rich in resources and generous in rewards, but even this grand old Commonwealth cannot endure the drain of such profligacy long. The validity of some of the legislation under which these disbursements were made is likely to come before the Supreme court and it would be wise to have a man on the bench who is not allied with the looters.

—If Senator Penrose were in robust health there would probably be less cutting up both in Washington and Philadelphia.

Senator Borah Jabs Harding.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, slips President Harding a rather vicious jab in the ribs in a letter urging moral support of the disarmament conference the other day. The letter is addressed to Mr. Herbert Myrick, editor of "Farm and Home," Springfield, Massachusetts, with the purpose of expressing appreciation of that journal's support of the movement. "Something in the nature of a propaganda is going out from Washington calculated, if not intended, to wholly discourage the people and break down the morale of this movement," the Idaho Senator declares. He urges the friends of peace to counteract this work by actively supporting the conference.

It will be remembered that a short time ago, in discussing the subject, President Harding suggested that it would be unwise to expect much from the conference. Senator Borah must have had that statement in mind when he said in his letter to Mr. Myrick: "The people are being almost daily advised that they must not expect too much from the conference, that the outlook is discouraging, and that we must not allow our hopes to rise too high—a warning, as it were, it would seem in advance, that the conference will accomplish little, if anything." No doubt the Senator has correctly interpreted the language of the President. But what is he going to do about it?

It may safely be said that President Harding never intended the disarmament conference to be productive of decreasing armaments. Like Senator Lodge and other leaders of the Republican party he is under such obligations to the manufacturers of war materials that any sincere movement for disarmament would be treachery. He was forced by public opinion to call the conference and after having done so loaded it down with other subjects so as to make success impossible. That is why the eastern disbelievers and difficulties were brought within the scope of the conference. He knew that no agreement on the subjects of difference between China and Japan could be made.

—So long as they don't make face powder out of poison war gasses the country may be comparatively safe.

—If the President didn't make a fool speech every now and then he would be forgotten.

Senator Reed's Amiable Purpose.

Senator Reed, of Missouri, who wasted a good deal of energy during the last Congress helping the Republican leaders to "put President Wilson in a hole," is spending some of the same force now trying to lift the Republican party out of a hole. Some months ago President Harding appeared in the Senate chamber to defeat the soldiers' bonus bill and succeeded. But he "sowed to the wind" in that operation and the just indignation of suffering service men all over the country has been steaming ever since. Now, just as it was about to get expression in the Kansas City convention of the American Legion, Senator Reed has brought forward a plan to revive the measure and pass it.

It is doubtful, however, if the Republican leaders will accept the volunteer services of Senator Reed, much as they would like to be rescued from a dangerous situation. His plan is to continue the excess profits tax and use the proceeds for discharging the obligation to the soldiers. The Republican party is committed to a considerable reduction or absolute repeal of this tax, which amounts to \$450,000,000. That was the consideration promised to the corporations for the vast sums contributed to buy the election of President Harding, and a majority in both branches of Congress, and if it is broken the corruption fund will be cut off in the next campaign and thus the party will be defeated.

In this instance Senator Reed has most, if not all, his Democratic colleagues behind him. The justice of liberal provisions for the soldiers has been felt and asserted by the Democrats, and most of the Republicans of the country are of the same mind. But the Secretary of the Treasury realizes that it will be impossible to provide for the soldiers and fulfill the obligations made during the campaign to the fat fryers. The fat fryers are, and being experts in business, know exactly how to resent delinquencies, while the soldiers may be hoodwinked. For these reasons we have doubt of Senator Reed's amiable enterprise. But it will hold the situation until after the Legion convention.

—While the real soldiers are disporting themselves in Kansas City old General Apathy is leading the politicians of Pennsylvania in a listless battle.

Senator McConnell's Status.

The Pennsylvania public, in so far as it takes interest in politics, is deeply concerned, if not actually worried, about the present official status of the Hon. William C. McConnell, of Shamokin. Mr. McConnell was, until a few weeks ago, "in quiet possession," as the lawyers phrase it, of a most attractive place in the public service of the Commonwealth. That is to say, he was an undisturbed occupant of an easy chair in the Senate chamber of the General Assembly, with free access to the Governor's office and all the other departments of the State government. It is easily the softest job in public life, taking one consideration with another.

A few weeks ago, as above indicated, Mr. McConnell was lured into the acceptance of another office by the promise or impression that it would make him a potential figure in the political life of the State, and incidentally invest him with a title to part ownership of a Governor. Owing a Governor is a great thing in Pennsylvania, as may be inferred from the fact that the late Senator Quay set it as the zenith of his ambition. The new office being incompatible with that of the State Senator, Mr. McConnell resigned his Senatorial seat to give his entire time and all his talents to the administration of the new office. Since that, according to current gossip, he has been shorn of all the power of the new office except that of drawing his salary.

A cursory reading of the newspaper gossip touching the subject of Senator McConnell's official status conveyed the impression that the worst had come and gone. It was made clear that he has been shorn of power and relieved of the labor of administration but as he retained the right to draw the salary, it was reasoned that to a man of his temperament, conditions would be at least endurable. But we now learn through a Harrisburg dispatch to the Philadelphia Record that there has been an actual removal, in which event the salary would cease, and that the action is "heartily commended" by the Anti-Saloon League. This is what gives the public concern.

—It would be polite, at least, for the government to ease up a trifle on war ship building while the conference for disarmament is in session in Washington.

Order of Doubtful Value.

It will be difficult for those in whose interest it was made, to justify the order of Judge Anderson, of the United States District court, handed down at Indianapolis on Monday, forbidding the collection of dues of the members of the United Mine Workers by what is known as the "check-off" system. By that system coal mine operators take from the miners' pay the amount of their dues and hand it over to the organization. If this operation were a matter of compulsion there might be reason in a restraining order. But as a matter of fact it is the result of a mutual agreement. In any event there has been no complaint on the subject.

Judge Anderson imagines he has discovered a conspiracy between the union miners and the mine owners for the reason that some of the money thus acquired by the mine labor organization has been used to enlist miners not affiliated with the organization in the union. It is a matter of record that every labor organization, as well as every fraternity of every kind, employs part of its revenues in propaganda and enlistment work. The strength of an organization is measured by its numbers and its efficiency by its numerical strength. The United Mine Workers of America like the Railroad Brotherhoods or mutual insurance companies want as many members as they can get.

In a statement supporting his order restraining mine operators from practicing the check-off system Judge Anderson states that the purpose of the effort to unionize the West Virginia coal fields is not to benefit the miners but to prevent competition in the price and sale of coal in the public market. So far as the published statements of the recent conflict between the mine owners and mine workers in West Virginia goes there was nothing of that element in the contention. Neither has there been any complaint from either side that the check-off system is a hardship. That being true it would seem as though the courts might well have kept out of the controversy altogether.

—Recurring to the Elk's carnival, a complete report of which appears in another column, the people of Bellefonte should encourage making it an annual event, not alone because of the fun and entertainment provided, but because it furnishes an excuse for innocent diversion on the part of young people of the town who, but for the carnival, might engage in some of the old pastimes with which Hallowe'en was observed, and which invariably resulted in the desecration and destruction of private property sometimes running up into the hundreds of dollars. Time was when Hallowe'en was viewed with apprehension by every property owner in Bellefonte, and with just cause, too. Nothing that was loose or detachable was safe out of doors, while broken windows were of frequent occurrence. On Monday night, so far as the writer has been able to learn, there was not a single act of trespass performed in Bellefonte, while the carnival was clean and wholesome as a Sunday school picnic. For this reason, if no other, the Elks deserve great credit for having instituted the carnival and for their determination to make it bigger and better with each passing year.

—Our usual breezy "Pine Grove Mentions" have gone a glimmering this week because the writer is up in Scranton as a juror in the United States district court. In a letter to the "Watchman" he says he is up there "helping Hon. Charles B. Wither deal out justice to bootleggers, and it is not only a lazy man's job but d—n poor pay at that." He failed to state, however, whether he was obliged to sample any of the bootlegger's merchandise, but that would be the only way to render a verdict "according to evidence."

—The churches of Bellefonte have finally broken into the advertising columns of the local newspapers, and the Bellefonte Ministerium this week proclaims next Sunday as "Armistice Sunday" and urges everybody to go to church that day. The "Watchman" joins with the ministerium and urges the readers to go—go for the reasons the Ministerium assigns and for the additional one of showing them that advertising brings results.

—Marshall Foch is the outstanding figure in the United States today quite as certainly as he was the leading personality in France three years ago.

—Are you going to church next Sunday? Armistice day services will be held in most of the churches. Better go!

—Come here for your job work.

The Strike Menace.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

By calling off the strike order the railway brotherhoods bowed to public opinion and yielded to the mandate of the Federal government; but there is nothing in their action which offers any guarantee to the public that their threat will not be renewed. It would be a mistake to look upon their present surrender as indicating any intention on their part to give up the general strike as a weapon to be used against the railways and the public at some future stage of the wage controversy, when they may deem it necessary to carry their fight to the last ditch. The public and the government will not make the error of overconfidence.

The best that can be said for the changed situation is that it offers a breathing space both for the continuation of the slow and clogged machinery created by law for the adjustment of the relations between the railways and their employees and for the precautionary measures necessary to be taken for the protection of the public—the last to be considered, apparently, by the immediate parties to the wage controversy. There may be some reassurance in the intelligence that elaborate preparations had been made, principally by Secretary Hoover, for the marshaling of every possible resource of the Nation to nullify the purpose of the railway unions to cripple the country. But the armistice will have lost its chief value if it is not utilized for careful thought and preparation to ascertain what can be done by legislation to remove every legitimate cause of complaint in the existing system under the Federal railway enactments.

President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, is quoted as bitter in his comments on the new turn of events. He is not less emphatic in his condemnation of the Transportation Act in general and of the Labor Board in particular than are the critics of that law on the side of the railway corporations. But all that Mr. Gompers has to suggest, aside from his denunciation of the personnel of the Labor Board and the congested state of its docket, is a return to conditions which it is only too plain to see, failed in the past to bring about that ideal relationship between employers and employed for which all men of good will aspire.

Most people will agree with Mr. Gompers that it is an unfortunate way to approach a settlement of labor difference when each side appears in the role of a litigant, pressing maximum demands in the hope of winning something less; there will be less unanimity in approval of his bitter objection to the interposition of the courts to enforce agreements. Mr. Gompers knows only too well that it is idle to hope for lasting results, even from the operation of his program of a round-table conference and a free exchange of views between the employer and employed, when there is no guarantee that agreements there reached will be lived up to. It does not matter whether the fault lies on one side or the other, the fatal defect being lack of confidence.

The interposition of government, the employment of external force, is an unfortunate necessity. If it is to be eliminated, as Mr. Gompers suggests, by the repeal of the Esch-Cummins law and the abolition of the Labor Board, he and the interest for which he speaks will have a responsibility to the general public which they can no longer safely ignore. The universal condemnation of the strike program of the brotherhoods is to be explained solely by the fact that the people recognized that their interests were being totally ignored and that their sufferings were to be used as a weapon of coercion. Under the circumstances, the government was fully justified in the measures that were taken, and even in the warnings that were specifically directed against the workers.

No Way to Win.

From the Ohio State Journal.

President Harding's warning to the public not to expect so very much from the armament limitation conference is doubtless kindly intended as a means of averting possible disappointment in the actual outcome. But it is a little as it would be if the coach of a football team should announce just before a crucial game that it had no chance to win, but might be able to hold its opponents' score lower than there was reason to fear. Such a spin there never won a victory. The coach who believes his boys will win, whatever the odds against them, and inspires them with the same idea, sometimes sees the seemingly impossible accomplished.

There is no doubt that public sentiment, not only in this country but among all the world's taxpayers, is with the respect to the policy of maintaining vast armaments in preparation for war made infinitely more likely by that very policy. Public sentiment is solidly arrayed against the armament manufacturers and the naval experts on this issue, and it would win if only it would assert itself with all its might, for then the politicians and diplomats around the conference table would not venture to stand out against it.

—The recall may have served a useful purpose in the recent North Dakota vote but it made a hard bed for the succeeding Governor to sleep in.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Hidden beneath the cellar stairs in tin cans and other things more than \$1500 was uncovered by appraisers of the estate of Dr. Milton Acker, who died suddenly in Tylersport, Montgomery county, last week. He was seventy-four years old, worth \$30,000 and for two score years was runner for the Souderton bank.

—Fred P. Miller, who became a letter carrier at Sharon 31 years ago, has walked 131,000 miles while on duty. He has lost but ten days through illness. In his first twenty-three years of service he did not lose a day. Miller is 27,000 miles ahead of a New Castle postman, who recently claimed a record for long-distance walking.

—Entering pleas of no defense to seventy-one indictments charging burglary and housebreaking, after he had been convicted of burglary and criminal assault, Paul Harris, a negro, was sentenced to serve not less than twenty-five years nor more than thirty-two years in the western penitentiary, by Judge C. H. Kline, at Pittsburgh, last Wednesday.

—William R. Zimmerman, one of the best known citizens of DuBois, and agent for the Singer Sewing Machine company, was instantly killed on Friday afternoon near his home when the Ford car he was driving overturned and pinned him under. There were no witnesses to the accident, but people were on the scene shortly afterwards, and Mr. Zimmerman was found to be dead.

—Several persons escaped death at the Phoenixville when the air tank at the garage of Gabel & Shutes exploded last Thursday and disappeared through the ceiling of the business office, traveled on through the second story that is used by Shutes as a living apartment, and shot through the roof of the building. Several of the men were in the office a moment before the crash, and Mrs. Shutes had just been sitting in the path of the tank. The office was completely wrecked. The cause of the explosion is not known.

—The docility of the celebrated "Mary's Little Lamb" in no manner was exemplified by the ram belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Sprout, of Farmington, a village near Uniontown, Fayette county, and as a result Mrs. Sprout is defendant in a damage suit instituted by Mrs. Ida Rhoif, a prominent resident of the same town, who seeks \$10,000 for "personal hurts, injured feelings and chagrin" inflicted by the ram. Mrs. Rhoif says she was walking to church and was attacked by the ram in such a manner that neighbors had to lend wraps to her to wear home.

—Three men were arrested in Pittsburgh on Monday in connection with the robbery occurring at the home of George Hoover, of Uniontown, Pa., Saturday night. They were Fred Heinbaugh, his brother, George Heinbaugh, and Joseph Kurtz, all of Smock, Fayette county. Bonds, securities and jewelry valued at \$250,000 are said to have been stolen from the Hoover home while the family was attending the informal reception given United States Senator William E. Crow, upon his first return to his home in Uniontown after having been sworn in to succeed the late Philander C. Knox.

—Pennsylvania's world war medal, authorized by the Legislature for all honorably discharged officers and enlisted men who were commissioned or enrolled with the national guard of Pennsylvania up to August 5, 1917, and served in the war, is ready for issuance, according to an order signed by Adjutant General Frank D. Beary. August 5th was the date the national guardsmen were drafted into federal service. Applicants must set forth on the proper blanks for the purpose of the rank and organization they were connected with. The medal shows a soldier in armor, and has an allegorical design.

—Investigation of reports of an outbreak of fifteen cases of diphtheria at New Germantown, Perry county, resulted in a quarantine being placed upon the village last Friday by state health authorities and Colonel J. Bruce McCreary, head of the division of communicable diseases, was placed in charge. It is also reported that there is not a physician in the town. Arrangements have been made by the State to secure medical aid from Blair and near by places. The State sent supplies of anti-toxin and asked that a committee of citizens be formed to assist in sanitary measures and enforcement of quarantine.

—Because Mrs. Thomas Kline, of Reading, told a woman confidant that she had five children, but gave three away and "drowned" the other two last night, and because of other amazing statements, her husband has instituted a contest of her will before Judge Schaeffer in orphans' court in that city. Mrs. Kline, who died several weeks ago, had no children. She left a will in which she made her mark, being too ill to write, in which half of her estate, more than \$6000, was left to her husband, Thomas Kline, and the other half to relatives, Anna G. Baskby and William I. Hess. Her incompetency to make a will and undue influence are alleged by the husband.

—Henry Clay Chisolm, aged 62 years, for thirty years a well known physician of Huntingdon and county of Niagara, died last Thursday evening at Niagara Falls, where he had gone to recuperate from a general breakdown due to overwork. After graduating at Hahnemann hospital, Philadelphia, he settled in Mississippi, but was compelled to leave that State after the Ku Klux Klan had murdered his father. Judge Chisolm, his brother and sister. He represented the Franklin-Huntingdon district in the Senate from 1897 to 1900 and was a member of that body at the time of the famous fight against United States Senator Quay. He leaves a widow, two daughters and a brother, William W. Chisolm, of Huntingdon.

—William Haney, aged 70 years, made certain of death by suicide at Alexandria on Sunday morning when he first shot himself and then swung off a step-ladder to dangle at a rope's end in the woodshed of his daughter's home. Haney resided with his daughter, Mrs. Benjamin Isenberg, and during the morning he gave no evidence of committing any rash act. He has been troubled with eczema for some time but bore his sufferings without complaint. When Mr. Isenberg went to church he inquired of his daughter if she were not going to work and she informed him that she was not feeling well and was going to bed. The man left the house, went to the woodshed and with the use of a step-ladder he adjusted a noose. He then mounted the ladder and shot himself through the head with an old-fashioned one-loader pistol, the ball going through the brain. He then plunged off the ladder and dangled at the rope's end.