

-In nine days Christmas will be here. How near ready for it are you? -The fact that Popocatepetl is in a state of violent eruption does not indicate that hell's broke loose in Mexico.

-Which does the hunter enjoy most: The thrill of the chase and killing the buck or the vanity of carrying the head and hide home from the hunt?

-The attitude of Japan's delegation to the arms limitation conference seems to be one of demanding everything and being perfectly satisfied with whatever they get.

-Ireland got so much more than most people expected she would that it behooves her to settle down and make so much of the liberties she has been given that more may be secured later.

-Judge Landis' decision in the case of Babe Ruth is not without precedent. The court of public opinion long ago handed down a decision that the Judge has no right to "make money on the side."

-The accomplishments of the arms limitations conference will be many outside of matters of international importance, and the revelation of Senator Lodge as the grandest hypocrite of all time is not the least of them.

-Marshal Foch left our shores on Wednesday. While here he was easily the champion of everything and when he sets foot on his beloved France once more he can tell Carpentier and Mlle Lenglen that he was neither knocked out nor quit.

-Auditor General Lewis continues a fly in the Harrisburg dunghill of extravagance. His latest effort to throw a wet blanket on magnificent achievement is his refusal to approve payment of bills for the clothing of drivers of state automobiles.

-The "Watchman" has in mind a man who would make a splendid standard bearer for the Democracy in the next gubernatorial fight in Pennsylvania. We are not informed as to whether he would answer such a call of his party so will defer announcing his name until that assurance is given.

-Mr. Bertram Donald Holderman, psychological phenom of The Pennsylvania State College wears the green cap of a Freshman probably with far less disturbance of his superabundant proseraphonism than is occasioned by heralding him as an "infant prodigy" as some of the metropolitan journals are doing.

-Everybody ought to be happy over the prospects of an early ratification of the Pacific treaty. Nobody will be deceived by it, however. Twist, jarble, read into or out of Article II as you may and it remains in spirit and principle the same as Article X of the covenant of the League of Nations.

-Boston elected a Democratic mayor on Tuesday, and as only one of the four candidates for the office was a Republican the result was another straw showing that the political pendulum is swinging back strong. With three Democrats in the field to divide the vote of their party, it would seem that the one Republican ought to have romped away with the race.

-The United States railroad labor board has made a new ruling that cuts common labor, of course. Why it is that all the slashing is done to the poor souls who earn least we can't fathom. Common labor is low enough at thirty and thirty-five cents an hour. The disparity between what it receives and what skilled labor commands is too great. In most instances the man without a trade, the common laborer, is just as essential to industry as the man with one and it is wrong to grind him down to the point where mere subsistence is his lot while others who contribute relatively no more to the economic structure find life comparatively easy.

-All this publicity about how much of a stickler for civil service Postmaster General Will Hays has become since taking over Burleson's job is pure "bull" and we can't understand why Democratic organs like the Philadelphia Record "play him up" in their news sections as offending seekers of spoils. It does nothing more nor less than leave the impression on the public that General Hays is taking his Department out of politics and thereby becoming a great public servant rather than continuing the mere politician he was and is. When anybody tells us that anybody gets a postoffice from this administration for any other reason than for political services rendered or expected he'll have to prove it.

-The Hon. Harry B. Scott, of Phillipsburg, spent a few hours in town Tuesday in consultation with some of his political and business associates. Rumor had it that Mr. Scott was to become interested in some big business undertakings on this side of the mountain, but rumor and fact oftentimes get very far apart. He is going to be a candidate for Senator from this District, however, and from what we can gather from those of his party who are in a position to know he will probably have little if any opposition. Centre county has not been represented in the Senate since the late Senator Heinle was honored with the office and we will be entitled to name the successor of Senator Miller. Whether he will be Mr. Scott or a good Democrat remains to be seen.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Big Stick of the Big Four.

It is the plain duty of the Democratic Senators in Congress to vote for the ratification of the treaty signed in Washington, on Saturday, by the representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Japan and France, for the reason that the purpose it aims to achieve is precisely the same that was expressed in the covenant of the League of Nations and the Versailles treaty. It has less merit than the other because it substitutes force for suasion. It creates an offensive and defensive alliance of four big powers to dominate or destroy weaker nations that fail to obey mandates. It is the recognition of the "Big Stick" in diplomacy as against a mutual agreement among all the civilized nations, great and small.

The principal objection raised against the covenant of the League of Nations was that Article X, of that instrument, created a super government. Article X provided that "the members of the League undertake to respect and preserve, as against external aggression, the territorial integrity and political independence of all members of the League. In case of any threat or danger of such aggression, the Council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled." This expressed an intolerable thought to the jaundiced minds of Senator Lodge and his Republican associates in the Senate. They imagined it involved odious obligations.

Article II of the treaty agreed upon in Washington on Saturday declares that "if the said rights are threatened by the aggressive action of any other power the high contracting parties shall communicate with one another fully and frankly in order to arrive at an understanding as to the most efficient measures to be taken, jointly and separately, to meet the exigencies of the particular situation." The difference between these propositions is simply that "twixt twedledum and twedledee" that once disturbed the minds of a couple of fools. But it serves to show that the Republican objections to the League of Nations were not only absurd but were equally insincere. The objection was to Wilson.

The League of Nations presented to the civilized governments of the world an invitation to join in an amicable agreement to prevent future wars by diplomatic negotiation. The new treaty serves notice upon a group of weak tribes or governments in Asia that unless they kowtow to four big bosses the mad dogs of war will be let loose to scourge and destroy them. It is a cruel method of accomplishing a desired result but in the absence of the League of Nations is probably the only available way, and therefore it might as well be adopted as a temporary expedient. When the people of the United States come to an understanding of the facts they will cast out the malignants and join the League of Nations.

-Of course a letter is always looked for by those of your family who are permanently away from the old home, but a letter is essentially a personal message. It doesn't give them all the news like a good, live home paper. Why don't you send them all the things you forget or haven't time to mention and wouldn't miss a week in its visits.

-Next Wednesday, December 21st, will be the proverbial shortest day of the year and the beginning of the winter season. The weather so far, though cloudy and wet, has been comparatively mild, but bear in mind the fact that old saw, "as the days lengthen the cold strengthens."

-The State administration would have been all right if the newspapers hadn't been so "nosey." The suppression of annual reports for four years kept the people in blissful ignorance until the press got busy.

-Mr. De Valera complains that Ireland didn't get all she wanted from the London conference. Hardly anybody ever does but Ireland got more than some earnest and faithful friends hoped for.

-Funny things happen, strange stories are told and imagination soars absurdly. State Treasurer Charley Snyder thinks he is a candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania.

-Senator Lodge spoke solemnly enough in presenting the four big powers' agreement for approval of the conference but he must have "laughed in his sleeve."

-The amiability of the Japs is the surprise of the world. Anything that anybody asks of them in the Washington conference is freely and cheerfully allowed.

Hope for Democratic Victory.

The official returns of the recent election show that over half a million votes were cast for the Democratic candidate for Justice of the Supreme court of Pennsylvania. The candidate of the party, Judge Eugene C. Bonniwell, was nominated by the use of "stickers." Until within a week of the primary election he didn't know he was going to be a candidate and no one else had such an idea in mind. But an impression had gotten out that the managers of the Democratic organization were willing to allow Governor Sprout's friend, Judge Shaeffer, to have an unopposed election. To prevent that Mr. Bonniwell was prevailed on to offer his name. It was too late to get on the primary ballot.

The primary election was held on the 20th of September, just seven weeks before the general election. But for some time after the primary the Democratic organization remained oblivious to the fact that the party had a candidate and the burden of diffusing the information was upon the candidate himself and such others as care more for principles than personalities. The candidate was the only speaker in the campaign. Former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo offered to come into the State but the supporters of the party hadn't enough money to meet the expenses of an active campaign. Nevertheless Judge Bonniwell received more than half a million votes and carried several counties that had gone wrong.

The plain lesson of this result is that the Democratic party of Pennsylvania is strong enough and sufficiently alive to fight a winning battle for Governor next year. No candidate ever encountered such adverse conditions as those which confronted the nominee for Supreme court Justice last month. The most hopeful Democrats dispaired of success and lawyers, proverbially anxious for the favor of appellate courts, had pledged themselves to his opponent before they knew of his candidacy. Yet he polled a great vote and if there had been in the public mind even the shadow of a belief that he could win, it would have been increased vastly and he might have been elected.

-Where there's a lot of smoke there's usually some fire, but Secretary of the Treasury Mellon declares he's not going to resign.

Fooling the Service Men.

Senator Penrose has notified the managers of the Republican machine of this State that in framing the ticket for next year a world war service man must be named for the office of Lieutenant Governor. Neither Senator Crow nor Mr. Beidleman served in the war and the third place on the ticket is to be offered to the overseas heroes as a token of appreciation of their courage and patriotism. This is precisely in pursuance of the methods of Senator Penrose's predecessors as boss of the Republican machine. Immediately after the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, succeeding the Civil war, some such sop was thrown to the war veterans to hold them to the party.

But popular intelligence has vastly increased since the close of the Civil war and it is not likely that service men of the world war will prove as credulous as those of the Civil war. The record will be scanned more carefully now than during the period between 1865 and 1890. In other words, subordinate favors and specious promises will not fool the war veterans of the present time in the face of records which prove insincerity. Such records are available now and will be carefully studied. For example, in Petersburg, Tennessee, two war service men were refused appointment as postmaster and a politician with less rating in civil service examination appointed.

In New Mexico a similar case is noted. Charles Mann Jr., with a rating of 96.40 and a splendid war record, was thrown down and Menard L. Albers, a politician, with a rating of 82.53 appointed postmaster. A number of similar cases might be cited but these are sufficient to prove the insincerity of Republican professions of friendship for the soldiers of the great war. But Senator Penrose imagines he can fool the service men of Pennsylvania by putting one of them on the ticket with two machine politicians for office next year. If he desired to honor the soldiers he might declare for and secure the nomination for Governor or United States Senator for one of them. There are plenty fit.

-The Chinese delegates to the Limitations Conference in Washington will take home the awards with "a smile that is childlike and bland."

-The Washington treaty will be ratified, of course, but the League of Nations will continue to function just the same.

Lamentations of Republican Leaders.

Mr. W. Harry Baker, of Harrisburg, Secretary of the Republican State committee, has been "stirring up the animals," so to speak, in Washington. Mr. Baker is indisputably the shrewdest politician in the Republican organization of Pennsylvania, and he seems to be greatly alarmed over party conditions. "Unless the spoils of political warfare are made available for the faithful who served in the trenches," Mr. Baker declared to the Senators and Representatives of the party in Congress, "there will be little use in making a campaign in several Congressional districts in Pennsylvania," next year. The remarks were addressed to the Congressional delegation but were intended for the Postmaster General.

The Philadelphia North American, one of the most servile Republican newspapers in the State and easily the most hypocritical, bewails the present condition of the party. Senator Crow, it declares, "represents a new type of Pennsylvania Senator. He is wholly and solely an exponent of machine politics," and referring to Lieutenant Governor Beidleman, it adds, "after all possible weight has been given to testimony in his favor, Beidleman's unfitness for the post of chief executive of the Commonwealth remains glaringly apparent." The purpose of this attack upon the party organization is not apparent but it may safely be said that the North American will support both men next fall for the offices to which they aspire.

But the statement of Secretary Baker and the lamentations of the newspaper may be said to express the actual political conditions in Pennsylvania today. The appeal of Baker for spoils will probably be recognized and satisfied in the near future. The Postmaster General has been tardy in "shaking the plum tree," and Senator Crow and Lieutenant Governor Beidleman are quite as bad as they are painted. But they will both be nominated next fall and unless the people repudiate the machine, responsible for the perversion of power, they will be elected. The remedy is in the hands of the voters, however. If they will support capable and fit candidates of the Democratic party the problem will be solved.

-Secretary Hughes congratulated Senator Lodge on his speech presenting the treaty to the conference. And there are persons who think Hughes has no sense of honor.

Judicial Investigation Needed.

The right minded people of Pennsylvania will be glad to learn "that the constitutionality of all bills passed by the rump session of Pennsylvania's House of Representatives is to be tested in the courts whenever it pleases the convenience of the powers that be at Harrisburg to publish the Legislative Journal." These measures include some of the biggest and most objectionable appropriation bills and the news that their validity is to be judicially investigated justifies the hope that the government of the Commonwealth may escape proceedings in bankruptcy. If the expensive Department of Public Welfare is wiped out and a few of the other profligate measures are annulled the revenues may be sufficient to pay just claims against the State.

But that is not the only or the greatest reason why the proposed legal proceedings should be undertaken. The legal officers of the Legislature were thrown out of their lawful positions and deprived of their lawful authority by force, not openly but clandestinely. The House had been adjourned by the rightful speaker under "orders" regularly adopted. There was no power to reconvene the body except those provided by "orders" legally adopted. Notwithstanding these facts the House was illegally convened and without authority of law proceeded to enact legislation, not according to law, rules or "orders," but in violation of all of them. When the legally elected Speaker undertook to resume his seat on the following morning, he was prevented by uniformed police force.

If such acts of disorder and violence can be perpetrated with impunity the principles of government are subverted. The constitution of Pennsylvania declares that "no bill shall be considered, unless referred to a committee, returned therefrom, and printed for the use of the members." During the rump session of the House assembled clandestinely at midnight, bills were taken from the committees and put upon passage without having been voted upon by the committee or "printed for the use of the members," in direct violation of the constitution and in defiance of order and decency. It is important that the validity of such legislation shall be tested by the courts regardless of its merits.

-Subscribe for the "Watchman."

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Charles Kilnes, of DuBois, was killed while hunting in the woods Saturday when he was attempting to put a rabbit which he had shot, into the pocket of his coat. He was standing on a log at the time and his gun slipped and was discharged, the load of shot ploughing through his body.

-Dr. F. W. Black, chief surgeon at the Lewistown hospital, offers a reward of \$1000 for the arrest and conviction of the party who shot him in the back in his office on the morning of November 15th. He was shot in his office some time during the early hours of November 15th, when he came downstairs in answer to a night call.

-Auditors sent to Meadville by Samuel S. Lewis, Auditor General, to investigate the accounts of Harry F. Miller, of Crawford county, Register and Recorder, said they had found a shortage of \$13,256 in his accounts. They added he had failed to turn over sums collected as inheritance taxes. Miller is under arrest in Memphis, Tenn.

-Mrs. John Miller, 67 years old, is in the Cottage State hospital at Phillipsburg with a bullet in her shoulder as the result of an odd hunting accident. She was working at her home in Meadville when a bullet from the gun of hunters shooting at game 200 yards away, entered the kitchen, hit the stove and ricocheted into her shoulder.

-One divorce to every six marriages is the record made in Columbia county thus far this year. Last year the proportion was one divorce to nine marriages. And while the number of divorces is growing, the number of marriages continues to decrease. The price of marriage licenses has been boosted during the year from \$1 to \$1.50. Fifty-eight divorces to 349 marriages is the total to date for this year.

-Robbers early on Monday entered the home of Dr. John Whann, at Kittanning, attacked him and then left him lying unconscious on a bed after they had set fire to the house. The fire was discovered by employees at a nearby power plant. They rescued the doctor and then extinguished the fire. Dr. Whann was removed to a hospital where his condition was reported as serious. State police and county detectives are investigating.

-John Beam, of Johnstown, at an early hour Friday night shot and killed his wife, Anna, then fired a shot into his own brain. Both died almost instantly. The tragedy was discovered a half hour later by a neighbor, who went to the Beam residence to use the telephone. Mrs. Beam was sitting in a chair dead, her husband lying stretched out on another chair. Ray Carrol, aged 5 years, a grandson of the couple, was in the room when the shooting occurred. Five children survive.

-Ira C. Neyhart, aged 65 years, of Williamsport, one of the oldest engineers in point of service on the Williamsport division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, began his work with the company in 1877, and engineer in point of service on the Williamsport division is J. Theodore Cherry, right Bellefonte, who runs a locomotive on the Bellefonte branch between the Centre county capital and Sunbury. Mr. Cherry entered the service of the road in May, 1874, and was made an engineer on April 1st, 1883.

-Judge Wickersham, of Harrisburg, on Friday refused to grant a new trial or set aside a jury verdict awarding \$15,000 damages to Mr. and Mrs. Millard F. Zelters, of Middletown, for injuries which they received two years ago when struck by an automobile driven by Samuel H. Zimmerman and his wife, jointly responsible. They asked that the damage award be set aside as excessive. A witness for the plaintiff testified at the trial that the car hurried away after striking Zelters. Zimmerman and his wife were shown to be joint owners of the car.

-Burglars entered the First National bank at Claysburg, Blair county, early Friday morning, pried open forty-nine safety deposit boxes, stole all the Liberty bonds in them and escaped. The work shows that at least two men were in the bank. They forced open a rear window. Using an acetylene flame, they burned a hole six inches square in the steel door of the vault, which gave them access to the safety deposit boxes and the bank safe. The safe was not opened. School and other bonds in the boxes were tossed aside for the Liberty bonds, the value of which cannot be determined until the box holders report the amount of bonds they owned.

-After deliberating eighteen hours, a civil court jury was discharged by Judge William W. Hargest, in Dauphin county on Saturday, for failing to reach a verdict in the \$50,000 insurance suit brought by the Harrisburg Trust company in behalf of the estate of James Magee, 2nd, of Bloomsburg, against the Mutual Life Insurance company, of New York. The controversy arose over an insurance policy Magee had applied to the defendant company for \$100,000 worth of insurance, and a \$50,000 policy was issued before his death. The other \$50,000 policy was held up and before the matter was settled Mr. Magee died.

-While relatives of John Chilcoat, of Akron, Ohio, were gathered at the home of his mother, Mrs. Rebecca Chilcoat, at Alexandria, Huntingdon county, awaiting the arrival of the former's remains, news of whose reported sudden death at the Greenland theatre, Akron, late Saturday night, had been telephoned, the mourning party was turned into one of rejoicing when a long distance phone message from the young man in question assured relatives that reports were very much exaggerated, that as a matter of fact, he was very much alive. Some unknown person telephoned the parents Saturday night of the young man's death and now an investigation has been started to discover the perpetrator of the hoax.

-Mrs. Margaret Scripko, of Cambria, Schuylkill county, placed a novel claim before the State Compensation Board recently at Pottsville last week, when she asked compensation for the death of her husband, who was shot by bandits while on his way home from Eagle Hill Colliery, August 11th, with his semi-monthly pay. The man was killed because he did not hold up his hands promptly when told to do so by the bandits. The Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company will contest the claim, inasmuch as the man was not killed while in the course of his employment, but the United Mine Workers are backing up the widow and claim that, while the man was returning from work, he still was acting as an employee, and the killing took place on the company's premises.

This Marine Shot to Kill.

From the Philadelphia Record.

In the course of time the bandits will find out to their sorrow that mail cars are guarded by men who can shoot. Either they did not know of the new policy, or they failed to appreciate its significance, and several of them have been shot. Near Savannah a Marine guard fired at three men who were robbing an express car, perhaps under the impression that the jurisdiction of the guards was limited to mail cars. Two of the men are reported to have been badly wounded. After a few more shootings the bandits will begin to understand what the Marines are there for. In the meanwhile Governor Blaine, of Wisconsin, is very indignant because the Postmaster General will not surrender the guard who shot a man. The Governor wants him tried for murder. Of course if he could be convicted it would afford much encouragement to the bandits.

-The political pot is beginning to boil and the chances are that some of the candidates may get scalded.