

McSparan wants to be Governor for your sake. Fisher, Beidleman or Snyder want to be Governor either for their own or some machine's sake.

The peripatetic Mr. Bryan has a drawing power equalled only by that of an Uncle Tom Cabin show in this neck of the woods. Both always play to crowded houses.

In the light of very intimate knowledge gained during the last thirty years we believe that there is one church in Bellefonte where the good Lord, Himself, would have to turn the other cheek many a time if he hoped to serve a five year pastorate.

There isn't a chance in the world of Pennsylvania's becoming a Democratic State. But there is a chance of Pennsylvania's becoming a great, clean, honestly administered Commonwealth if capable Democrats are occasionally put in offices where they can check up on what their Republican predecessors have done.

Since Sunday we have been sure that spring is here. Flitting before our vision were many ladies with straw hats, then we saw a real blue-bird. All of these harbingers have been known to force the season, but not our old friend Henry Taylor. He stuck his onions on Monday and that ceremony having been performed we hesitate not to declare that spring is here.

The three shell men are abroad again. Fisher, Snyder, Beidleman and Mackey are out for the "come-ons" early. Every one of them is promising economy in state government and reduced taxation as the bait to get into the gubernatorial chair, but not one of them expects his hearers to inquire why he wasn't for economy and reduced taxation when he sat in the legislative halls of the State.

Eddie Beidleman has a new one. He knows of "a widow who scrims and saves with her husband." In the very nature of things that knowledge is exclusively Eddie's own. Some of the rest of us know, however, that Eddie was in the Legislature four years and in the Senate six and in all that time he didn't scrimp or save anything for the tax payers of Pennsylvania so we don't believe he wants to be Governor to scrimp and save for us now.

At State College, Wednesday night, William Jennings Bryan asked why he had to give up thirty cents on a railroad dining car for two soft-boiled eggs, when farmers are receiving only twenty cents the dozen for the fruit of the hen. At the "Watchman" office, Thursday noon, we want to know why the Phi Kappa Phi society had to give up \$350.00 to get Mr. Bryan to talk, when most anybody can get us to do it by merely starting something. It wasn't the eggs Mr. Bryan paid for. It wasn't what Mr. Bryan said that the Phi Kappa Phi paid for. It was the style in which Mr. Bryan put over some very common ideas that cost the money in both instances.

The State College Times has thrown an interesting side-light on the case of the former student, Bawiec, who was recently sentenced by the Centre county court for bootlegging. Instead of its being his first offense, as many of us had been led to believe, the Times is of the opinion that he had been carrying on the illicit business for some time and for that reason was a regular bootlegger, deserving all the punishment he received. We are not disposed to question the accuracy of the Times as to the frequency of Bawiec's visits to State College, but we do contend that he was not a regular bootlegger for the reason that he voluntarily opened his satchel to the inspection of a state policeman while any regular bootlegger knows that a satchel is legally inviolate unless the officer has a search warrant, which was not the case in this instance. Catch our private bootlegger doing anything so unethical.

If you're tired of being regulated, licensed and permitted all the way from the cradle to the grave. If you are weary with making out reports for some department or other of everything you do in your business. If you feel like you are staggering around with a couple of fat salaried state clerks perched on your shoulders. If your mind in its misery visualizes good old days when you could jump into your car and hide away for rest and solitude at the ole fishin' hole without first paying some one for a tag giving the color of your eyes and then being stopped by sundry state policemen who want to see proof of your right to be on roads that you paid the taxes to build. If you are disgusted with this practice of somebody juggling your money so that your schools and hospitals are on the verge of bankruptcy while the fellows who license and examine and spy on you get their's the day's due. If you're just plumb tired of the whole damn thing, join us for a while. If you are not a Democrat you don't have to be one if you don't want to. Let us all be just Pennsylvanians long enough to get rid of the ticks, jiggers, parasites and leeches that are pestering the sap out of us and stand up on our hind legs and rebel against a system that is milking us white and treating us as imbeciles.

Democratic Watchman

The Democratic Ticket.

The committee of seventy-two, appointed by the Democratic conference of February 24th, to recommend candidates for nomination to the various State offices to be filled at the coming election, splendidly completed its work at a final meeting in Harrisburg on the 9th instant. At the first meeting of the committee on the 2nd instant, John A. McSparan, of Lancaster county, was unanimously recommended as the candidate for Governor. The selection was universally and cordially endorsed by the voters of the State.

At the subsequent meeting Charles D. McAvoy, of Norristown, was recommended for Lieutenant Governor; Judge Samuel E. Shull, of Stroudsburg, and Colonel Fred Kerr, of Clearfield, for Senators in Congress, and A. Marshall Thompson, of Pittsburgh, for Secretary of Internal Affairs.

It would be impossible to form a more admirable ticket. Mr. McSparan, the suggestion for Governor, has been at the head of the State Grange for a number of years and has developed that helpful civic organization to a high standard of efficiency and usefulness. Mr. McAvoy has long been among the foremost lawyers of Montgomery county and during the closing period of the Wilson administration was United States district attorney for the Philadelphia district, where his services were so efficient as to command universal admiration.

Congress is determined to wipe out the army and navy. Preparedness is no longer a popular idea in Washington.

Commissioner Fisher's Announcement.

Banking Commissioner Fisher has also indulged in some surprising figures of speech in announcing himself as a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania. A member of the present State government, he might have been expected to be silent on the subject of official delinquency. But he practically censures Governor Sproul in his statement that if successful in the contest for Governor he will devote his entire time to the duties of the office. Governor Sproul has been in his office at Harrisburg less than half the time. He is constantly absent for purposes of recreation or private business and the pledge of Fisher in view of the facts seems like a censure.

Reports which come from Harrisburg are accurate the statement of Mr. Fisher above quoted is surprising for another reason. It not only sounds like a reflection upon the Governor but conveys a rather direct aspersion upon the Banking Commissioner himself. The stories which persist in coming out of Harrisburg are to the effect that the Banking Commissioner never enjoyed so lucrative a law practice as he has had since he entered upon the duties of his present office. It seems that the corporations of the State have always had a friendly feeling for Mr. Fisher, and a good many of them have employed him to resist the tax claims of the Commonwealth against them.

The State press, with considerable unanimity, has condemned the present Lieutenant Governor for accepting generous fees for professional service for the Commonwealth. It is generally held that his salary is all the compensation a public official may ask. But if it is unethical for a public official to accept fees for legal services in behalf of the State it must be infinitely worse for an official of the State to take fees for fighting the State. If the reports current in Harrisburg and leaking out constantly are true, Commissioner of Banking Fisher has been indulging in that practice, which is a poor recommendation for a reform candidate for Governor.

Mr. Beidleman's Change of Heart.

Lieutenant Governor Beidleman has not only thrown his hat into the ring but he has jumped with both feet upon every cherished tradition of his party. In a speech delivered before the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, at a luncheon in Philadelphia last Friday, he declared himself in favor of a tax on manufacturers' real property. "The value of the manufacturers' property in Pennsylvania," he said, "is \$6,000,000,000. On this vast sum they pay not a penny of State tax. The widow who scrims and saves with her husband to lay aside something for a rainy day finds when that rainy day comes that the State takes two per cent. of their savings in its inheritance tax. At the same time the \$6,000,000,000 of manufacturers' property goes scot free."

Aside from the spectacle of a widow scripping with her husband, an extraordinary proceeding certainly, the implied assault upon the fundamental policy of the Republican party to foster manufacturing enterprises for the benefit of labor by a Republican leader who aspires to the highest office in the gift of the "organization," is startling. The Republican party came into power in the beginning by pledging immunity from taxation to manufacturers. Its greatest boast from the earliest period of its control is that it has kept faith with these employers of labor, not only by exempting them from taxation but by levying tribute upon consumers through the medium of tariff taxation, in order to hand them unearned largesses for protection.

We have never felt sympathy for this policy of "robbing Peter to pay Paul," and cordially welcome Mr. Beidleman as a convert to a juster and fairer system of taxation but own to some curiosity as to what influenced him to this result. He has served four years in the House of Representatives, six in the Senate of the General Assembly and four as presiding officer of the Senate. During all this period of his official life, when he had ample time and opportunity to correct the evil, he was as silent as a sphinx. He might have introduced legislation to equalize taxation and he might have prevented the enactment of the inheritance tax of which he complains. But he did neither. He smothered his indignation until he became a candidate for Governor.

Chairman Fordney still imagines that he can fool the soldiers with a bonus bill without provision for payment of the bonus. Some of the war veterans are rather credulous but "you can't fool all the people all the time," and soldiers are just people.

Concerning Senator Crow.

The future of Senator William E. Crow continues to be a subject of earnest if not anxious speculation among politicians. Three or four months ago he was taken or went to a hospital in Pittsburgh for the ostensible purpose of resting. For more than a year before that he had been reported variously as critically ill, under the weather, convalescing and perfectly well. Since he has been in the hospital the reports of his condition have been quite as conflicting. Every statement contains an expression of hope and a note of despair. But he doesn't get about and the inference is plain that he is a very sick man.

Why this mystery concerning the health of Senator Crow should be persisted in has not been revealed. It can hardly be on his own account, for except that he was for many years a faithful messenger for Senator Penrose, he has nothing to commend him. Upon the death of Senator Knox he was appointed to the vacancy but nobody has ever been able to find out why. He is not a foremost lawyer or a citizen distinguished for any civic service. But in the face of the fact that he was then physically unable to perform the duties of the office, he was commissioned. He has only been in Washington once since and never in the Senate chamber since he took the oath of office.

Various theories have been advanced to account for his attitude and that of his party. The latest and most likely to be correct is that the place is on the auction block and will be disposed of in the near future to the highest bidder. Of course any one aspiring to the favor must be satisfactory to the corporations of the State and especially agreeable to Brigadier General Atterbury. But most any of the millionaires will be able to meet that condition quite as well as Crow, and it is not reckless to add that many of them might do it better, for they would bring a larger measure of ability to the work.

Great Britain is willing to give this country credit for helping to win the war and the privilege of paying most of the expenses.

An Unproductive Meeting.

What might justly be called a "seance" of Republican candidates was held at the Bellevue Stratford, Philadelphia, the other day, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, which claims to be a non-partisan organization. Mrs. John O. Miller, president of the organization, presided and she did her best to pervert the meeting into a Republican convention. Besides Senator Pepper, who is a candidate for the Republican nomination to fill the Penrose vacancy, all the Republican candidates for Governor thus far named were present and addressed the meeting, and when Banking Commissioner Fisher was sharply called down for making a partisan speech, Mrs. Miller adjourned the session.

Senator Pepper was the first speaker and he said that he is a candidate because he imagines he has been called to public service. He did not indicate whence the call came but left that to conjecture. It hardly came from the ex-service men or those who are opposed to buying party favors, for his first vote in the Senate was in favor of ratifying Senator Newberry's purchase of a seat in the Senate, and his first public declaration of policy the soldiers' bonus. He might have said that the call came from General Atterbury and other corporation managers, but that would have sounded harshly on the ears of wage earners of the State. The candidates for Governor unanimously declared in favor of "the old flag and an appropriation."

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania is a partisan organization doing business under the false pretense of non-partisanship. Some Democratic women have affiliated themselves with it but the proceedings of the Bellevue-Stratford revealed to them that Democrats have no rights there, not even the right of courteous treatment, for when Mrs. Brown, of West Chester, protested against Banking Commissioner Fisher's statement the announcement that "he is only a Democrat," put an end to her complaint. But even at that the meeting afforded little comfort to the followers of the Republican machine. The bulk of the applause went to Gifford Pinchot, whose name is anathema to the bosses.

That Philadelphia jury that drank up the evidence against a man charged with selling liquor disagreed after the libation. Supplementing your own experience with the effects of liquor with this fact what would you say as to the quality of the evidence this Philadelphia jury drank. Was it good or bad? If you answer at all everybody will know that you are now or have been wet.

Lots of fellows to whom a dollar looks as big as a cart wheel now will be driving golf balls into the rough, within a month or so, and then putting out another with as much nonchalance as though they grew on this-tile bushes.

Justice can't be too swift and sure in its punishment of the perpetrators of that bombing crime in Snow Shoe. Centre county isn't accustomed to this manner of vengeance and doesn't propose to tolerate it.

The Sproul administration appears to be a sort of gubernatorial kindergarten. Four members of the cabinet and the understudy are candidates for the office this year.

There seems to be a dispute as to whether the bride's gown or Ambassador Harvey's knee breeches attracted most notice at the royal wedding in London recently.

The ultra Republican New York Herald says that Congressman Fordney is wrecking the party. If that be true Mr. Fordney may take rank as a public benefactor.

Fruit growers who have examined the buds on their trees aver that they have not been damaged so far by the cold weather, and let us all hope they will not be.

The authorship of "Beautiful Snow" has been definitely fixed but nobody is able to find out who wrote the treatise adopted by the Washington conference.

The women laughed at Charlie Snyder at the League dinner in Philadelphia, the other day. Well, as a candidate for Governor Charlie is certainly a joke.

The soldiers of Pennsylvania are likely to make it hot for Pepper. Sort of making it of the red variety.

The surprising frequency of President Harding's "rest periods" is beginning to make the people tired.

The Treaty Fight.

From the Philadelphia Record. If the Republicans are having trouble over the conference treaties and agreements they are alone responsible. The treaty of Versailles was never beaten on its merits or its demerits. It was beaten solely to discredit a Democratic President. There was no demerit in the Republican party prior to the Congressional elections in 1918 for the purposes of Chief Justice Taft's League to Enforce Peace, or Mr. Roosevelt's arguments for a "posse comitatus of nations," or the only road to peace expounded at Union College by Senator Lodge. Everybody expected and longed for an association of nations to prevent one nation from attacking another.

But the Republican victory in the elections of November, 1918, created a possibility of a partisan attack on President Wilson, and Mr. Lodge and the rest of the Republican Senators made the most of it, and won. But, of course, they could not say frankly that there was nothing in their course but partisanship, though Mr. Lodge touched on the truth when he said: "We are fighting President Wilson." What they said publicly was that they objected to the covenant of the League of Nations because it bound the United States to do something in a specified contingency. It did not bind the United States to do a specific thing, except the application of the economic boycott, but it did pledge the United States to do something to prevent war. If that were contrary to the Constitution and to public policy, all previous treaties looking to the future were obnoxious, and the treaties prepared in the Washington conference are obnoxious.

What the American delegates in the conference tried to do, and what the majority of Republican Senators are now trying to do, is to frame an agreement that isn't binding, and yet which will accomplish results we desire. The thing is impossible. If the President was strictly correct in telling Congress that the conference agreements imposed neither legal nor moral obligations upon the United States, they impose neither on any other country, and they become perfectly worthless; they merely express the present mental state of the participating nations, with no binding effect upon any nation, and are wholly void in value.

If the Republican opposition to the treaty of Versailles was justifiable, the opposition to the present treaties is justifiable. Mr. Harding admitted to Congress that in those agreements we ceded something of our sovereignty in consideration of other nations doing the same and of the reciprocal cession by the other signatories. That is all that the treaty of Versailles did. We do not expect much of the Republican Senators. Inconsistency is a very common frailty. But the Republicans are in trouble now because they committed a political crime two years ago. They cannot keep their record straight and ratify the Four Power treaty.

Chaste as Ice; Pure as Snow.

From the New York World. "To the New York almost everything's rotten," sang Mr. James Montgomery Flagg, and that is the burden of Secretary Hughes' note to the Italian Ambassador declining, in the name of the United States government, the invitation to attend the Economic Conference in Genoa.

The last word in self-righteousness has now been said by the State Department. We can have nothing to do with the Genoa Conference because it is to be "a conference of a political character." Wherein it is to be a conference of a political character Mr. Hughes does not say. One might think that a government which had been discussing political and economic questions relating to Asia with the governments of Great Britain, France and Italy might with reasonable security discuss political and economic questions relating to Europe with Great Britain, France and Italy; but they order those things otherwise in Washington. The fact that our real interests in Europe are a hundred times greater than our interests in Asia has nothing to do with the case either.

To the United States the Genoa Conference is socially impossible. For one thing, Russia isn't there, and Washington is not on speaking terms with Russia. If Russia is invited we must stay home, although we are most deeply and piously concerned about Russian rehabilitation and Mr. Hughes expresses the beautiful thought that none of the nations at Genoa will try to take advantage of Russia's extremity and rob her. But if anything of that sort should take place, it must be understood at the outset that the United States shall have an even chance. There must be "fair and equal economic opportunity," which means that nobody will be permitted to grab first and the United States is not to be penalized for its superior purity.

As for the rest, Mr. Hughes hopes that even in our absence "progress may be made in preparing the way for the eventual discussion and settlement of the fundamental economic and financial questions relating to European recuperation," but just how this is to come about if the conference is to be political and not economic is not quite clear.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Decision to build a new road at a cost of \$50,000 between Fisher's Ferry and Herndon was made by the Northumberland county commissioners.

Pine Street, Williamsport, Methodists are taking time by the forelock and will extend an invitation to the Central Pennsylvania conference to be their guests in 1924, when the lay electoral conference will be held.

Somerset is to have a new industry. Stock to the amount of \$100,000 is being subscribed in the Martin Tractor Shovel company by local people and the concern will have a Delaware charter. The inventor is a Somerset county native.

Margaret McCintic Treaster, two year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Treaster, of Locks, Mifflin county, is dead after days of suffering following the swallowing of a whole peanut which lodged in her throat and working down finally embedded itself in her lungs.

The warden of the Erie county jail seems to have solved the high cost of eating at least. A report submitted by him to the county commissioners shows that in February he fed his prisoners at an average cost of 19 cents a day, and there is no record that any were underfed.

Mrs. Oliver Leasure, of Greensburg, Pa., who sought damages from the road supervisors of East Huntingdon township for an accident in which her husband was killed, was awarded \$500 by a jury. The automobile broke through a guard rail and turned turtle in the stream below.

Boliver, New Florence and Cramer are considerably excited over the operations of robbers supposed to be two young men who have their headquarters near Cramer and ride on freights to the scene they select for their operations. Vigorous measures are being taken to apprehend them.

A score of girls charged with loitering in Hazleton railway stations and meeting men have been committed to the Luzerne county jail as a result of arrests made by detectives D. T. McKelvey and James McDermott, acting, respectively, for the Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton Railway and the Lehigh Valley Railroad company.

Charging that his wife attends meetings of the Holy Rollers and then threatens to put poison in his apple dumplings, Henry C. Moringstar, a 78 year old Civil War veteran, of York county, has asked for a divorce. Moringstar claims that his wife had a mania for the Holy Rollers and that she stays away from him far into the night, neglecting him and her household.

A barking dog at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bell, of Wynno, Westmoreland county, last week saved the family from being burned to death. Awakened by the dog, Mr. Bell found the house filled with smoke. Snatching their children, Mr. and Mrs. Bell managed to fight their way through the smoke and release the dog before the house was a roaring furnace.

William Provo, negro, 29 years old, and detective Wilbur Myers, of York, Pa., were both wounded by a bullet said to have been fired by Provo, resisting Myers' attempt to arrest him. The detective received a flesh wound, the bullet rebounding from the pavement and lodging in Provo's leg. Both are in a hospital, but the condition of neither is serious. Police were summoned when pedestrians complained that Provo was insulting women along the street.

J. P. Haugawaut, a farmer near Sunbury, was saved from being crushed to death under an avalanche of rocks as he was driving along the road because his horses, scenting something wrong, plunged ahead and got out of the way, just as several rocks hit the back part of the wagon. Mr. Haugawaut's brother Harry a few weeks before, had his wagon go over the edge and drop sixty feet. The wagon was demolished, but the driver jumped and escaped serious injury.

The Pennsylvania section, Society of American Foresters, was organized at Harrisburg on Friday at a meeting held in the Senate caucus room in the state capitol. Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot was elected chairman; John Foley, chief forester of the Pennsylvania Railroad, vice chairman, and secretary. Virtually every technically trained forester in the State attended the meeting. The object of the association is to conduct studies in technical forestry subjects.

Health boards, physicians and surgeons from Huntingdon, Centre, Bedford, Fulton and Blair counties will convene in Altoona today in a sectional convention to devise ways and means for better co-operation between the various local health boards, the doctors, the State Department of Health and others interested in better health. The sectional conference has been authorized by the State Department of Health, and will be in keeping with similar conferences held in different sections of the State.

Dr. Abraham Owaroff, formerly a practicing physician of Jeannette and New Kensington, Pa., was arrested last Friday at the City of Pittsburgh Home and Asylum, on a charge of violating the Harrison narcotic act. When arraigned before a United States commissioner he was unable to furnish bail and was held for a hearing next Tuesday. The complaint charges that Dr. Owaroff used regular government forms to obtain morphine tablets without having registered with the collector of internal revenue.

Isaac and Casper Kassab, of Phillipsburg, brothers, are being congratulated on the advent of their first babies, who arrived within three hours of each other. The young men about the same time decided to woo and wed. They became engaged on the same day, had their engagements announced on the same day, and had a double wedding, the brides being cousins, on October 29, 1920. One of the babies is a girl and the other a boy, but it is said the boy came where the girl was wanted and vice versa. However, neither would trade and there will be a double christening.

Starving to death, but surrounded with food, a man who gave his name as John Smith, of Virginia, was found buried up to his neck in a carload of potatoes when the door was opened by Palmisano & Co., fruit dealers at Sunbury, on Monday. The man's arms were pinioned by the tubers, Palmisano said, and he declared he could not move his head. Shifting of the load by car jolting, the stranger said, was the cause of his predicament, and he asserted he had been there for three days. Smith was ravenous with hunger, but had no chance of even biting into a potato, so tightly was his head pinioned, he said.