

—Mr. Naginey is in the field for Legislative honors again and Miss Zoe Meek, post-mistress and a school teacher, of Clarence, has ambitions to sit in the legislative halls.

—Now that the last bar in Bellefonte has gone dry council had better install two new water wheels instead of one.

—The impending coal strike will scarcely cause either hardship or discomfort to users of bituminous coal.

—The Altoona Tribune is of the opinion that "the thing which keeps many a big-hearted man from serving the public gratuitously is simply the absence of private wealth."

—If Mr. Odell Hauser's survey of the Congressional situation in other Districts of Pennsylvania is no more accurate than was that of the Twenty-third, published under his name in the Public Ledger yesterday, the public will be sadly misinformed as to the real situation.

—The publishers of New York are in trouble with their union labor again and another strike is threatened.

—In light of the incontrovertible fact that nearly every active Republican politician of prominence in Pennsylvania has felt called upon to explain something or other during the past year and that most of them have been driven to the extremity of throwing dust and yelling: "Stop thief!"

—Nobody seems satisfied with anything these days. A traveling theatrical company that played here last Saturday had advertised a matinee exclusively for women and stressed the announcement that no person under sixteen years of age would be admitted to either the afternoon or night performance.

—At this time in the spring of 1919 farmers were plowing, buds and vegetation were far advanced and several gentle, warm rains had brought the chlorophyll into the grass so that the landscape was green as in late May.

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The Committee Fails to Find Candidates for Senate and Congress.

The committee of representative Democrats from all parts of the county that was chosen, several weeks ago, to recommend candidates for the various offices that will be voted for in the May Primaries met again in the office of county chairman G. Oscar Gray, last Friday evening.

It was a very representative gathering, large enough, both as to numbers and geographical location to insure a fairly general expression of all sections of the county. Many possible names were considered, but in almost every instance the prospect was found to be not even a receptive candidate.

For State Senator the committee had under advisement several gentlemen, either of whom would make candidates who could rally the party to a strong fight.

While the county is clearly entitled to the candidate for Congress a careful canvass of all probabilities reduced the field to Col. J. L. Spangler. As he was not at home at the time he could not be consulted as to his feelings in the matter.

The committee adjourned to meet at the call of the chairman in the event that hopeful timber for Senate and Congress should be located in time to file applications.

To the Democrats of the county we want to say that we were present at the meeting only as a spectator, not having been a member of the committee. As such we had opportunity to form an unbiased opinion as to the methods of procedure and the fairness with which all matters were considered.

It is needless to add that the recommendations that were and might have been made are not binding on Democrats. The purpose of the committee's appointment was merely to seek and call to duty candidates who might command the united support of the party and reflect credit on it if elected to office.

—At this time in the spring of 1919 farmers were plowing, buds and vegetation were far advanced and several gentle, warm rains had brought the chlorophyll into the grass so that the landscape was green as in late May.

—And to add to the deluge of shameless corruption that seems to pollute every department of our government came the Walnut scandal.

Mr. Pinchot's Mistaken Course.

If Mr. Gifford Pinchot were sincere in his pretenses of reform he would not be a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor.

Mr. Pinchot has acquired a vast fortune by inheritance and marriage and has had a long and varied experience in public life. He has had much influence in the party to which he gives allegiance, as is shown by the fact that he was able to defeat its candidate for President in 1912, for it was he who projected Roosevelt into the fight against Taft.

Everything which Mr. Pinchot has promised to do in the event of his election ought to be done. Evils have been multiplying with startling rapidity during recent years and if the Sprout administration, of which Mr. Pinchot was a part, has accomplished nothing else it has made the Brumbaugh regime both respectable and economical, by comparison.

—Recent events lead to the impression that base ball is also a sort of asylum for political "lame ducks."

A Complicated Party Deal.

In last week's issue of the "Watchman" comment was made on the mystery of Senator Crow, and the impression was expressed that the Senatorial seat of Mr. Crow "is on the auction block and will be disposed of in the near future to the highest bidder."

Of course all the parties directly charged with participation in the transactions have issued denials. Senator Crow has since declared that unless his physician forbids he will serve out his appointment, but will not run for election.

The Pepper connection with the transaction is somewhat remote but within the limit of possibility. The story was that Crow would resign and Sprout appoint Bell to succeed him. Then either Attorney General Daugherty would resign, Harding would appoint Pepper to that vacancy, and Sprout would be named by the next Governor to the Pepper seat in the Senate.

—It would be a good idea to ratify the four-pact treaties just to show how absolutely worthless they are.

New Scandal in Politics.

A new cause of complaint against the Republican management of Pennsylvania has sprung up and a new reason for suspicion developed. The summary discharge of an assistant district attorney would be a matter of local interest ordinarily.

The facts are that Mr. Walnut, who is a Republican, was appointed to the office by a Democratic district attorney because he is a capable lawyer.

In view of these facts an impression has taken lodgment in the public mind that Mr. Walnut was removed in order to avert action which might involve some conspicuous party workers in violations of the Prohibition laws.

—Those well meaning persons who are memorializing the President to recall Ambassador Harvey may as well save themselves the labor expended in writing their resolutions.

False Pretense of Reform.

Of the five avowed candidates for the Republican nomination for Governor four are members of Governor Sprout's cabinet and the other, State Treasurer Snyder, is closely related to the administration by virtue of his office.

All of these gentlemen have been in position for some time to urge their party to adopt the policies they now pretend to favor. It is not a reckless statement to say that if they had joined in a protest against the riot of profligacy which characterized the last session of the Legislature, it would have been stopped.

Do these distinguished gentlemen imagine that they are fooling the people by oral declarations of reformation? If so they pay scant respect to the intelligence of the people.

—It is better to have cold weather now than to have frost when the fruit trees are in bloom.

A Paradox.

If a deal had been arranged between the friends of Senator Crow and the friends of a Pittsburgh millionaire for the transfer of a Senatorial seat from the former to the latter, and if the terms of the dicker had been made public, one would hardly expect the parties to the transaction to rush into print with corroborative statements.

Messrs. Crow and Bell have indignantly denied that any negotiations have taken place for relieving the incumbent of any of his responsibilities and imposing them upon one better able to bear them.

Of course, we must put all evil thoughts out of our minds in considering the following facts bearing on the situation:

(1) The G. O. P. is in urgent need of oodles of money for use in the impending fight against the embattled taxpayers.

(2) Mr. Bell has oodles of money.

(3) Mr. Bell publicly states that he aspires to the Senatorship.

(4) Senator Crow, who has been too ill since he was sworn in as a Senator, in October last, to perform any of the duties of his office, is going to consult his physicians to determine whether his health is good enough to allow him to strenuously campaign for election; and he intimates that in the event of an adverse decision he will withdraw from the race.

(5) The Governor has announced that none of the rumors about the use of money would prejudice him in considering Bell's availability in the event of Crow's resignation.

People who can put two and two together may conclude that Bell, the millionaire, is to succeed Crow; but they may feel assured that no money will change hands, and that there will be plenty of money available for the G. O. P. campaign notwithstanding.

An Old-Fashioned Financier.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

Chairman Fordney, of the House Ways and Means committee, ought to be convinced that the effort to convert Secretary Mellon into a friend of the bonus project can never succeed.

After a searching analysis of the certificate plan and after considering some of its possible alternatives, Mr. Mellon concludes by saying that as the taxpayers must bear the burden in any event, the only proper way to meet the expense, assuming that bonus legislation of some sort can be forced through Congress and receive the President's approval, is to impose new taxes.

Mr. Mellon might well stick his tongue in his cheek as he offers this suggestion. He knows that the tax man crowd in Congress do not dare impose new taxes. Taxes hurt the general public and the general public has more votes than the American Legion.

Life's Tragedies.

From the Altoona Tribune.

One who studies the news columns of the daily papers from day to day perceives that tragedy still plays a leading part in the life of the world. Old as the planet is and as far as humanity has advanced in the scale of being, there is still much savagery extant.

—Up to this time the Democracy of Centre county has entered no candidates for Senate or Congress, though we are really entitled to both.

—Let us be Pennsylvanians long enough to save Pennsylvania.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—A number of new homes are to be built at Woolrich soon, besides an addition to Rich Brothers' woolen mill and one to their general store.

—Three silk mills at Easton have been closed by the announcement that they will remain closed "until the employees realize that the plant is not being run on union headquarters."

—James O'Donnell, of Summit Hill, Pa., and a member of the town's fire department, claims to be the biggest volunteer fireman in Pennsylvania, being six feet two inches high and weighing 385 pounds.

—William Walker, of Harrisburg, was sentenced to three years in Atlanta prison at Scranton, last week, by Judge Witmer in federal court after he pleaded guilty to having stolen three coats from the parcel-post transfer station in Harrisburg February 11.

—Two employees of the American Railway express at Latrobe quit some weeks ago and left the region. Since then it has developed they are wanted in connection with a supposed robbery of the office of \$2,500 in goods and small sums cleverly removed from time to time.

—Mayor James G. Harvey, of Hazleton, has directed that an investigation be made of the sale of peppermint which many men, arraigned on charges of intoxication, claim was responsible for their condition.

—Boys removed a cannon ball from the Laurel Hill cemetery at Johnsburg, last Saturday, and started it down the hillside toward Vennard Island. The ball landed in the home of Andrew Mishenko, tearing away a window and plowing through the kitchen and dining room, bringing up against the parlor door, smashing it to splinters.

—A horse purchased at a sale in Lycoming county last week made trouble for Joseph Shoemaker and William Gohr, of Salladaburg. They tied it behind their buggy and when it saw a trolley car it tried to jump into the back of the buggy.

—Johnstown officeholders are having their share of troubles. Mayor Couffel was called into court a few days ago for neglecting to pay a portion of the costs in a trial which the jury had placed upon him, he having been the prosecution's chief witness. He was reprimanded by the judge. The deputy constables are charged with extortion and face court trials.

—Frank W. McCall, until recently postmaster at Morton, Delaware county, has been held for court in \$5,000 bail following a hearing before a United States commissioner, on a charge of opening mail. McCall is said to have admitted before the magistrate that he did not intend to take anything, but opened letters addressed to a Republican aspirant for his position to satisfy a curiosity as to who his successor would be.

—Angela, four year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Snyder, died at her home in Hawtenside Sunday evening from burns received late Saturday, when her clothing ignited while playing about a rubbish pile fire in front of the general store. Merle Cunningham, proprietor, was seriously burned on both hands in his efforts to prevent the child from breathing the flames. Others smothered the fire with their clothing.

—Suit for \$100,000 damages for alleged breach of promise was filed in court at Mercer on Saturday, by Miss Elizabeth Pfeleider, former professor of music in Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, against John Fahaline, a wealthy retired manufacturer, of Sharen, Mercer county. The case is listed for trial at the May term of court. Miss Pfeleider, who is now employed in Indiana, gave her home address as Bucyrus, Ohio.

—Federal agents who raided the supposed piggery of Andy Orzechowski, on the outskirts of Kane, last week, declare they found the place to be a well-equipped distillery, and that portions of the garbage its owner had gathered from the refuse cans of the city had gone into the manufacture of the whiskey and not into hog troughs. Fifty gallons of garbage distilled whiskey were seized, with nearly 100 gallons of prepared mash.

—Women who fail to pay their taxes may be immune from imprisonment under the terms of an old act of 1834, but the tax collector can seize their jewelry, personal effects and such parts of their wearing apparel as can be conveniently spared. This is the text of an opinion given tax collector Whitman, of Middletown, Dauphin county, by borough solicitor, John R. Geyar. Tax collectors in many communities have reported much difficulty in collecting the tax.

—The time between 10 o'clock Friday night and 3:30 o'clock Sunday morning was required for a mixed jury in Fayette county court, composed of five women and seven men, to decide the case in which Andrew John and Joe Coury were charged with receiving stolen tobacco. They were found guilty after, it is said, the women and six men jurors had out-argued the other man. It is the first case on record in that county in which a mixed jury had spent the "wee" morning hours in the jury room. The husband of one of the women became so uneasy about his wife that he went to the court house to determine the cause of her absence.

—A Millin county jury returned a verdict late Friday night in the sum of \$8,438.48 in favor of the plaintiff, Mrs. Martha Corbin, of Alexandria, Pa., in her legal battle against the Haws Refractories company, of Johnstown, Pa., to recover damages for the loss of her husband, Cloyd Corbin, 38 years old, one of the directors of the defendant company and an officer of the Silica club, an organization of men banded together for their own betterment in the manufacture of silica brick. Mr. Corbin was drowned on May 10th, 1919, with four others when an improvised ferry boat, maintained by the defendant company, capsized on the Juniata river opposite Hawtenside, throwing the fourteen passengers into the swollen stream. One of the drowned was Clair Miller, superintendent of the Superior Silica brick plant, at Port Matilda, and his widow has also brought suit to recover damages, but it and three others will probably not be tried until the above verdict is tested out in the higher courts.