

Bellefonte, Pa., May 19, 1922.

AT THE TOP.

Whenever you see some one up at the top,
Don't imagine he got there by luck
For back of his glory lies many a story
Of battle and struggle and pluck;
He may seem to be taking things easy to-day.

And dodging the trials which irk,
But the years of his past, from the first to the last,

Were a constant succession of work.
Whenever you see some one crowned by success,

Don't fancy he won it by chance;
Though he's walking today on an easier way,

And you cannot behold at a glance
The scars of his battle, just to keep in mind.

Life's laurels don't go to the shirk.
And if you knew his life's history through,

You'd know he once had to work.

Success doesn't come to the indolent hand,
With busy men life is concerned;
Be the man who he may, he will find on the way,

That it's prizes all have to be earned.
So whenever you gaze on a leader of men

Up on top where glory is fair;

You can know with his luck there was courage and pluck—

You can bet that he worked to get there.

—Edgar A. Guest.

PROGRESS BACKWARD.

By Margaret H. Barnett.

That which is called "Corruption in politics," is very discouraging to new voters, and also surprising. They hear some strange stories in regard to campaigns and elections. For example, a candidate for an important office, on one occasion, shook hands with a voter, and as their hands unclasped, a friend of the candidate, standing by, saw a dollar bill flutter down to the ground. The friend related the incident as a good joke, merely as a joke,—the candidate had not done the thing skillfully.

Here is another. A lady of color, Sarah by name, who had been for years housekeeper in a substantial family, having been recently accorded, along with her white sisters, the highest privilege of citizenship, fared forth, on election day, armed with a pencil, to exercise the newly conferred right. As she entered the voting booth, a pencil provided for the general use of voters, rolled down from the desk to the floor. A white gentleman, who was in the polling place, at once entered the booth, presumably to pick up the pencil, and as he did so, he said,—"Just mark your ballot here, and here, and here," and was about to suit his actions to his words. But Sarah responded firmly, and with a spirit worthy of an American citizen, "I will mark my ballot myself," which she proceeded to do, and the white law-breaker retired from the booth.

A prominent daily, commenting recently upon the political situation in Pennsylvania, remarked that there were now no liquor interests in the State with which a candidate could safely make an alliance. The inference is that in the too recent past, when the liquor interests were powerful in the State, candidates formed alliances with them, in order to secure their elections. How much poverty, suffering and crime, how many ruined lives and untimely graves, paid the price of such elections?

There was a vacancy on the bench, recently, in one of the counties of the State. An appointment was made, to fill the vacancy. A daily paper, commenting on the appointment, says that the appointee is said to have the support of the "practical politicians" of the county, "who are believed to control votes." A judicial position is an important one. The man who occupies it will be called upon to pass upon questions which affect the property, the reputation, even the lives of his fellow citizens. A natural supposition would be that a man appointed to such a position would be chosen because of his legal ability, his integrity, and uprightness, rather than because he had the support of "practical politicians, who are believed to control votes." But that is evidently a notion of the uninformed. Are these things straws which show which way the political wind is blowing?

Then, too, there is a great deal to be read in the papers about violations of election laws by officials from United States Senators down, and in regard to actions brought against election boards for falsifying election returns. What do these things mean?

Then there are Acts of Assembly and constitutional provisions, which, by aiming to check corrupt practices, establish the fact of their existence and prevalence.

It seems that corrupt practices, in connection with elections, were not so general and so pleasant, in the earlier history of the State, as they are today. The first Constitution of Pennsylvania, adopted September 2nd, 1790, contains no official oath and no provisions as to corruption in elections.

This first constitution was amended February 22nd, 1838. As amended, it contained no provisions relative to corruption in elections. Its oath of office was as follows: "Members of the General Assembly, and all officers, executive and judicial, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support the Constitution of the Commonwealth, and to perform the duties of their respective offices with fidelity."

The next change in the Constitution was made in 1874, when that which is at present in force was adopted. Its Preamble is as follows: "We, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this constitution."

A decided change seems to have taken place during the years which intervened between 1838 and 1874. Political corruption seems to have ap-

peared, and to have become so common and so flagrant as to menace the public good. This is indicated by the oath of office, and by certain provisions of the Constitution of 1874. Its oath of office, which is strikingly different from the oath in the Constitution of 1838, is as follows:

"Senators and Representatives, and all judicial, State, and county officers, shall, before entering on the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation: 'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity; that I have not paid or contributed, or promised to pay or contribute, either directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing, to procure my nomination or election (or appointment) except for necessary and proper expenses expressly authorized by law; that I have not knowingly violated any election law of this Commonwealth, or procured it to be done by others in my behalf; that I will not knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing, for the performance or non-performance of any act or duty pertaining to my office, other than the compensation allowed by law.'

The language of this oath is very comprehensive. It could scarcely be made stronger. Compare it with the earlier oath of office, which contains no hint that officials might have procured their election by the use of "money or other valuable thing," which contains no hint that they might be bribed to perform or not to perform any duty pertaining to their office.

The Constitution of 1874 contains this provision: "Any person who shall, while a candidate for office, be guilty of bribery, fraud, or wilful violation of any election law, shall be forever disqualified from holding an office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth; and any person convicted of wilful violation of the election laws shall, in addition to any penalties provided by law be deprived of the right of suffrage absolutely, for a term of four years."

Mr. Justice Paxson, in commenting on this provision of the Constitution, says,—"The object of this provision is to disqualify from holding an office of trust or profit in this Commonwealth; and any person convicted of wilful violation of the election laws shall, in addition to any penalties provided by law be deprived of the right of suffrage absolutely, for a term of four years."

Shortly after the adoption of the Constitution of 1874, an Act of Assembly was passed to define the necessary expenses of candidates. After defining them, the Act continues,—"But nothing contained in this act shall be so construed as to authorize the payment of money or other valuable thing for the vote or influence of any elector, either directly or indirectly, at primary, township, general or special elections, nominating conventions, or for any corrupt purpose whatever, incidental to an election." The penalty for violating this act was, a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, or either, at the discretion of the court.

But in spite of the constitution and legislative efforts to check the evil of liquor interests, were powerful in the State, candidates formed alliances with them, in order to secure their elections. How much poverty, suffering and crime, how many ruined lives and untimely graves, paid the price of such elections?

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Then, in 1906, that act which is frequently called the "Corrupt Practices Act," was passed, in "response to a vigorous demand by the people that a remedy be found to stop the corruption fast becoming an incident of our popular elections," again to quote Judge Head. This act makes another effort to define legal expenses in connection with elections, and to prevent illegal expenses. But political corruption is with us still, as any reader of the daily papers must admit. A negligible quantity in the earlier history of the State, it has increased alarmingly in the last fifty years, if the Constitution of the State, its Acts of Assembly, and the opinion of some of its judges can be taken as evidence.

The question suggests itself, who is responsible for this state of affairs? There are many, very many, of the electors of the State, who would have no interest whatever in corrupting elections, who would not have it in their power to do so. Of those outside this class, who is responsible for what is appalling?

Many officials have been elected since 1874. They have taken the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution.

The question suggests itself,—Were these officials in any way responsible for existing conditions? Unless this question can be answered in the negative, we must face an alternative, which is appalling.

Under conditions such as these, the women of the country have entered the electorate, entered right into the "mire and filth of politics," from which the men tried so long and so gallantly to save them. By their entrance into the electorate, they can do one of three things—they can make political conditions worse than they are; they can let them remain as they are; they can help to make them better. This last, and much-to-be-desired end will not be attained unless they vote carefully, intelligently and conscientiously; unless they hold the ballot as a thing to be used for the general good, and not as a thing to be bought and sold, for personal advancement and aggrandizement; unless, in a word, they perform their political duty, as a thing for which they shall answer to God at the last Great Day.

Pennsylvania has advanced in many ways since the first constitution of 1790. Has it retrograded in other ways? Has the quality of the citizenship of its people deteriorated? Has it weakened and decayed at the very foundation of its structure as a State? Any facts which will tend to disprove such a conclusion will be welcome.

Historic Office at Penn State Passes.

After being used for more than sixty-three years as the office of the presidents of the Pennsylvania State College, the room on the south-west corner of the first floor of Old Main, the first building erected on the college campus, has been abandoned in

favor of larger and more convenient quarters on the second floor of the building by president John M. Thomas. The room that has been the office of ten Penn State presidents is now the headquarters of the Alumni Association.

Read the Following and See Whether You Have Omitted Any of These Important Items in Your Spring Clean-Up.

Look over the roof gutters, flower pots, cisterns, wells, rain barrels and drains for places in which water may stand. Standing water breeds mosquitoes.

If you have no stand for the garbage can, make one that will clear it several inches from the ground. See that the garbage can doesn't leak and that it has a tight fitting lid.

Make wells and cisterns safe by proper protection against surface drainage, dust and insects.

Stop up the rat holes and set rat traps.

Stables and stable yards should be cleaned and manure hauled away.

The ground upon which manure heaps rested, should be sprinkled with a solution of borax, 1 pound to 3 gallons of water or with kerosene oil.

Privies should be inspected to see that they are dry tight.

Doors and windows should be screened.

All buildings in which crowds congregate should be included in the clean up.

Refuse should be hauled to a dump and either burned or buried.

No dump should be located on a winter shed.

Get your job work done here.

Prominent Speakers for Penn State Summer School.

More than a dozen of the country's most prominent lecturers and educators have been secured to address the Pennsylvania State College during the eight weeks' term that opens on June 26th. Dr. Will Grant Chambers, dean of the summer session, has provided a special feature for practically every day of the term, which will continue until August 19th.

Among those who will visit the Centre county institution for talks to the 3000 school teachers expected, is United States Senator Frank B. Willis, of Ohio, who early in August will speak on the disarmament conference, international and local problems of the United States. It is possible that United States Commissioner of Education John J. Tigert, will speak the following week. Others include Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, state superintendent of public instruction; Rabbi Nathan, of the Jewish Chautauqua; Dr. Hamilton Holt, editor of "The Independent"; Dr. David Sneden, Columbia University; Mrs. Corinne Roosevelt Robinson, of New York; Dr. Frank P. Graves, Commissioner of education in New York; Miss Charl O. Williams, president of the National Education Association; Dr. G. Stanley Hall, president-emeritus of Clark University; Dr. Thomas H. Briggs, Columbia University and Dr. J. H. Kelley, editor of the Pennsylvania School Journal.

Subscribe for the "Watchman."

What the State Department of Health Accomplished the Past Year.

95,685 visits were made by State Health Department nurses during the year 1921 for the purpose of correcting insanitary conditions, helping the tuberculous, aiding venereal disease control, and giving little children the chance to have good health.

Employment was found for 1,203 members of families in which there was sickness and proper nourishment secured for 5,625 undernourished children, according to the annual report of Miss Alice M. O'Halloran, director of state nurses. \$85,328.76 was collected and paid out for rent, coal, milk, ice, and general relief of families suffering from poverty and disease. 807 sources of venereal infection were located and brought to treatment; 3,988 cases who dropped treatment before danger of infecting others was removed were followed up.

These nurses also made 55,724 visits to homes of tuberculous patients, not only to care for the sick but to teach the well how to protect themselves against infection. To secure better health for babies 26,367 visits were made to homes.

In addition to this field work the 120 nurses employed by the State Health Department gave service during clinic hours at 106 well baby clinics, 21 genito-urinary clinics, and 98 tuberculosis dispensaries, throughout the State.

PENN STATE TO PLACE WAR MEMORIAL TABLET.

An immense bronze tablet bearing the names of the seventy-three former students of The Pennsylvania State College who lost their lives in the world war, will be erected as a college war memorial in the auditorium at State College on Memorial day, May 30th. The tablet is over six feet high and was secured through student subscription and a benefit play staged last year by the members of the Penn State Rehabilitation club, composed of service men who were wounded overseas and who are now receiving training at the college.

A large recreation hall to be built on the campus within a few years will be dedicated as the college memorial to the men who served in the war, and the tablet will be placed there permanently. R. R. Burtner, of Palmyra, and R. B. Baer, of Toledo, Ohio, are student council representatives on the committee to place the tablet; L. M. Sternier, of Schuylkill Haven, and Charles V. Ber, of Newville, who designed the tablet, represent the "Rehab club." The State College post of the American Legion will participate in the Memorial day dedication.

Penn State Co-eds Elect Officers.

The women students at The Pennsylvania State College enjoy their own form of student government which they operate with great success. Popularity and the extent to which the girls participate in their college activities count in the annual election of officers. The selections for next year have already been made, with Miss Sara Hartman, of Philadelphia, receiving the highest honor, that of president of the Women Student Government Association. She was president of her class, that of 1923, during its Sophomore year. Alverna Bur-

dick, of Uniondale, is vice-president, with Grace Glance, of Hazleton, treasurer, and Elizabeth Croll, of Middle-town, women's editor for the Penn State Collegian, the student newspaper.

Real Estate Transfers.

Luther L. Weaver, et ux, to James K. Reish, et al, tract in Miles township; \$2,000.

Emidion Torsel, et ux, to Clarence L. Rice, tract in Bellefonte; \$3,300.

William Burnside to Edward J. Purdey, tract in Benner township; \$1,200.

Sarah Buttles to Theodore D. Boal, tract in Boalsburg; \$1.

Sarah Buttles to Theodore D. Boal, tract in Washington, D. C.; \$1.

S. W. Smith, et ux, to Edward Durst, tract in Centre Hall; \$12,000.

Geo. W. Barton, et ux, to Clyde Wells, et ux, tract in Union township; \$1,600.

H. P. Kelley, et ux, to John P. Kelley, et al, tract in Snow Shoe; \$1.

Samuel L. Shortledge, et ux, to Jacob C. Heaton, tract in Boggs township; \$1.

Martha J. Thomas, et al, Admr