

# Democratic Watchman

## INK SLINGS.

Beware of the apple when it is green.

No matter how hard you might crack some persons on the head you couldn't brain 'em. There's a reason.

The world is full of people who think the other fellow ought to do what they wouldn't do themselves.

Pinchot and Pepper both begin with P. So does Parade. The voters of Pennsylvania will do the rest in November.

A few Thursday afternoons in Bellefonte are all that one needs as inspiration to sing: "Every day Will be Sunday, By and By."

Nothing will ever make us see that the man who doesn't want to work himself has any right to interfere with the man who does.

It's only to save depreciation on the lawn mower and the type-stick that we succumb to the lure of the fishing rod and the golf stick.

The Presidency is being dangled before the eye of Senator Pepper and the supposition is that the Vares are out for something bigger than mere Philadelphia.

Ten days of wonderful harvest weather and a rain specially propitious for the corn and potatoes leaves nothing to be desired on the part of the farmers but three dollar wheat and forty dollar hay.

When fall housecleaning time comes remember that McSparran is the man you want to select for the job and he needs good assistants from every county in the State. Centre should give him Zoe Meek.

Of course he did the best he could and probably as much as any other man could have done under the circumstances, but it must be admitted that President Harding settled the coal strike exactly like the old woman kept tavern out west.

It seems that summer came only yesterday, yet tomorrow the Granger picnic will be here and then it will be fall and all you folks who didn't buy coal, when it was two-thirty-five, as we advised you to, will be singing that revival of "Little Annie Rooney," the high cost of living.

If foreign language papers were suppressed in the United States there would be less labor turmoil. If the alien resident were compelled to talk United States and read United States he would not be so susceptible to exploitation by frenzied agitators who get to him in the printed and spoken mother tongue.

The strike situation is growing more serious from day to day. Efforts of the government seem to avail little and it is beginning to look as though the great test, so long deferred, as to the relative rights of capital and labor is about to be made. Long ago the "Watchman" proclaimed its belief that industrial tranquility could never be permanently attained until this question is settled once and for all and certainly now is as good a time as any to do it.

It is pathetic to read the efforts of the Republican press to find something in the present administration to point to with pride. The latest boiler plate attempt is a claim that President Harding has put Liberty bonds back to par as naturally as ducgs go to lion dollars into the pockets of the American people. Liberty bonds went back to par as naturally as ducgs go to water and they would have been just where they are if Andy Gump had been President.

If the government could give those miners who really want to work absolute guarantees of personal safety all the coal that is needed would soon be coming out of the mines. Many miners who want to work are fearful that bodily harm will come to them if they do and in the light of what has already happened in some of the coal fields of the country this fear is not an idle one. The flag and a posse of soldiers on the operation should be, but is not a guarantee of personal safety.

The big benefit picnic for the hospital, that was scheduled for next week, has been called off and the effort to raise money for the local institution will be deferred until the cooler weather of October, when an intensive drive will be made. We mention the cooler weather of October feebly for some of the ladies of the auxiliary made it so hot for those who wanted to run paddle wheels at the picnic that it'll take to October for everybody to cool off and settle down to the notion that we're all trying to do something worth while; only we look out different windows when we want to see what and how to do it.

The Osceola Leader reminds its readers that "Labor day will soon be here," and wants to celebrate it with a monster celebration. There are a lot of things we don't know about Osceola, but we do know that there are a lot of people over there who might reasonably ask brother Whitmer what his big idea is. The mines about Osceola have been closed for months and there ain't no such thing as a labor day for the men who contribute most to the business of the town. They won't work because they can't be paid more than most of the editors, preachers and school teachers of Osceola are satisfied with and why the Leader should grow grandiloquent over the celebration of Labor day is a mystery to us.

# Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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## Suggestion to the Pinchot Commission.

Mr. Pinchot's self-appointed, non-salaried and purely philanthropic commission to inquire into or do something with the irregularities of the State government at Harrisburg, is having all sorts of trouble in beginning its work. The commissioners are without legal authority or standing. They have no power of investigation, no right to administer oaths and no authority to examine records. Of course everybody knows of the irregularities in Harrisburg. They are running wild on the streets and riding about in automobiles of the most expensive type and at public expense. But the commission can't stop them either by force or persuasion, and the commissioners can do nothing except look wise.

Thus far the commission has done nothing but rent an office and instal some furniture. Of course that is "true to form." All commissions must have a home and habitation and it is essential that the homes have desks and chairs for the commissioners to sit in and put their feet on. But sitting on the chairs and putting their feet on the desks gets them nowhere. It is necessary to do something else if they expect to fool the public to any great extent. And this particular commission is expected to do a great deal in that direction. It is a creature of false pretense, organized to deceive and intended to confuse. But it doesn't know how to begin. The threats are all tangled and it is impossible to find an end.

We are strongly in sympathy with the professed purpose of this commission. We get frequent inquiries from subscribers and others concerning the rumors of graft, salary-grabbing and other abuses practiced in Harrisburg. Judging by these inquiries we assume that salary-grabbing is the greater of all the evils and therefore it has occurred to us that probably the best lead for the Pinchot commission would be an inquiry into the circumstances in which Gifford Pinchot secured an increase in his salary as Commissioner of Forestry, in violation of the constitution. He entered upon the duties at \$5000.00 a year and drew out of the treasury \$8000.00 a year. The commission might tell the public how and why.

If American ships are allowed to "boot-leg" they oughtn't to ask for subsidies. One big favor is enough at a time.

## Defeat of New and McCumber.

In searching for the cause of the defeat of Senator New, in Indiana, and Senator McCumber, in North Dakota, the Literary Digest has consulted the columns of a great many influential newspapers and published their comments on the subject. Many opinions are expressed and of course they vary widely. The tariff gets some of the blame and the failure of the Harding administration a considerable part of it. In the case of Senator New two reasons are conspicuously brought forward. One is that he was the intimate friend of President Harding and the other that he was particularly active in the campaign to seat Senator Newberry, of Michigan, after he had been convicted of fraud in procuring his election.

With respect to the McCumber defeat the preponderance of opinion appears to be his vote to seat Senator Newberry. Some of the papers say that his support of the bonus bill hurt him and others blame his wavering attitude on local political disputes. For example, one paper says he "was too radical for the conservatives and too conservative for the radicals." But all the papers agree on one point. That is that his attitude on the Newberry question was obnoxious to the moral sense of the voters and that more than any other question influenced the vote against him. Even in far off Dakota, in the wild and woolly west, the outrage upon decency in politics inflicted by the seating of Newberry is resented.

In view of these facts how is the country to interpret the nomination of George Wharton Pepper, in Pennsylvania? Mr. Pepper makes pretense of a high standard of morality. He sedulously and fearlessly fought the iniquities of machine politics for many years. He frequently aspired to office and failed in his ambitions because of his reputation as a church man and champion of civic righteousness. Yet the first vote he cast in the Senate was in favor of seating Newberry and he acted without the least understanding of the subject. Do the people of Pennsylvania care less for political integrity and official morality than those of Indiana and North Dakota? The primary vote indicates yes. The next vote will tell.

Germany has paid the July reparation claims. "Swearing she'd ne'er consent, consented."

## Fordney Tariff May Fail.

Out of the discord and confusion among the Republicans in Congress there are coming signs of failure of the Fordney-McCumber tariff bill, that passed during the present session. President Harding's program contemplated the forcing of the measure in time to hold up the beneficiaries for campaign slush funds this year. The lavish contributions in the Presidential campaign were obtained by the promise of speedy tariff taxation and the long drawn out unsuccessful effort to keep that pledge has made the contributors resentful. The party is sadly in need of money for the impending Congressional contest, and the failure to pass the bill during the present session may leave the organization stranded.

It is admitted, even by the most ardent supporters of the tariff bill, that its levies are vastly in excess of those of the McKinley bill and considerably higher than those of the Payne-Aldrich measure. It is a fact, moreover, that the pending bill discriminates against the wage earners and in favor of wealth in greater measure than either of those bills. Every article of household necessity is taxed under the provisions of this bill and experts estimate that it will increase the cost of living anywhere from fifty to eighty per cent. But the conspirators who are pressing the measure imagine that these facts will not be revealed until after the election, while the prospective beneficiaries will be encouraged to make liberal contributions to the slush fund.

While the discord among Republicans on the subject of schedules may compass the defeat of the bill during the present session these differences are not on principle. There is perfect agreement upon the question of looting the public but each Senator wants the loot to be levied on the communities and interests represented by the other. For example, Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, one of the most ardent of the regulars, objects to the tariff on dye-stuffs because it hits the print factories of his State. Other radical tariff mongers protest against levies which will directly affect their constituents. But the public has little interest in these differences. They are welcomed if they defeat the bill.

Mr. Pinchot got something like \$8000 out of his salary grab but that was only about one to sixteen of the dollars he paid for the nomination. Probably he imagines there is a way to get the rest.

## Purely a Bargain and Sale.

Those men, women and newspapers that interpret the nomination of Gifford Pinchot as a great achievement in political morals are utterly destitute of a sense of proportion. The nomination of Mr. Pinchot was simply the result of a purchase and sale of votes. If a millionaire and a mechanic go in competition to the same butcher's stall at the same time the millionaire will get the choice cut of the beef. The mechanic hasn't the money to outbid. Mr. Pinchot and his friends approached the primary election under exactly like conditions. They had the money, they paid the price and they got the goods.

There is an adage that "a fool and his money are soon parted." Mr. Pinchot may be fool enough to pay three times as much for a nomination to office as the salary of the office will yield, though his scheming to get his salary as Commissioner of Forestry increased doesn't indicate it. But Mr. Joseph R. Grundy, who invested \$80,000 in the enterprise, is not that sort of a man. Mr. Grundy wants a generous return for all his investments and it is practically certain that he has a guarantee of a fair profit in this adventure. As president of the Manufacturer's association he has vital interest in legislation and will exact from Pinchot all that is coming to him.

So far from being a triumph of political morality the nomination of Gifford Pinchot is the severest blow against equality and justice that has ever been struck in Pennsylvania. It makes public office purely a matter of barter and trade. The question of fitness will not enter into the consideration hereafter, if this deal is ratified by the people. Ability, integrity and experience will have no place in the computation. It will be simply and solely a matter of buying and paying and the poor man will have no standing in the market. The election of John A. McSparran will avert this scandalous condition.

Six months ago Mr. Beideman was as confident that he'd be the next Governor as Mr. Pinchot is now that the distinction will come to him.

If Wayne Wheeler doesn't look sharp the Literary Digest's poll may show a majority in favor of light wines and beer.

## Treasurer Snyder's Reform Gesture.

The slashing of salaries in the office of State Treasurer Snyder in Harrisburg, is the latest development of the false pretense of reform in the State government. During recent years official salaries in all the departments of the State government have been climbing and the expenses of government multiplying with amazing rapidity. As the "cost-plus" system of letting contracts was an advantage to crooked contractors, large salaries were a boon to the Republican machine. Three per cent. of all salaries, large or small, went into the campaign fund automatically and the greater the salary the larger the "voluntary" contribution. Delinquencies were met by deficiency appropriations.

It is interesting though not altogether surprising that the largest cuts were made in the salaries of those treasury officials who gave incriminating evidence in the investigation of the accounts of Harmon M. Kephart, Mr. Snyder's predecessor in office. W. H. Kreider's salary was cut from \$5000 to \$2500. Harvey J. Smith was cut from \$4800 to \$4000 and J. B. Lecompte from \$5000 to \$4000. Each of these gentlemen had given damaging testimony against Kephart's methods of conducting the office and incidentally damaged the party. All the other employees were made to suffer in the ratio held by them to the higher paid officials and it is estimated that the saving will amount in the aggregate to about \$20,000 a year. The luxurious traveling expenses are also cut out.

Of course this reform "spasm" is simply a gesture like Pinchot's proposed investigation, to fool the public. The defeat of the Sprul machine at the primary and the exposure made by the inquiry started for factional purposes by Auditor General Lewis admonished the machine managers that a day of reckoning is imminent and they are now pretending to make improvements in the hope that public indignation will be checked. But the people of Pennsylvania are intelligent enough to see through such schemes. They know that unless the Republican conspirators are driven out completely the old practices will be resumed. They know that the real remedy for existing evils lies in the election of John McSparran.

In this issue of the "Watchman" our Pleasant Gap correspondent discusses the "jolly bachelor" and takes issue with those people who are all the time declaiming that "it is not good for man to live alone." Our correspondent not only defends the bachelor but intimates that he is far better off than living with some woman. On the other hand the Methodist minister at Hazleton defends the "bachelor girl" and asserts that she is such from choice because she couldn't find a man who came up to her expectations. Of course there will always be men and women who for various reasons of their own prefer going through life in a state of "single blessedness" and no writer or preacher can alter this fact. But the arguments our correspondent puts up in his article on page two make interesting reading, even if the women do not coincide with his views.

There was no meeting of borough council on Monday evening, principally because the majority of the councilmen decided it was too hot to sit in the council chamber; and especially as there was no business of importance demanding action at this time.

The Democratic State committee will get all the money necessary to conduct a clean campaign and the signs are that an attempt to buy the election this year will be a foolish enterprise.

Mr. Pinchot seems to imagine that he is already elected, and from the beginning of time counting chickens before they are hatched has been the most prolific source of disappointment.

When Governor Sprul dramatically declared that "Pennsylvania pledges immediate and continuous support to the Federal government," the whole world was thrilled.

The railroad and coal mine strikers must use lawful methods to win. That affair in Illinois was a back-set that will be hard to overcome.

Senator Pepper voted against every proposition to decrease tariff tax rates. Possibly he thinks that was "spitting in the face of a bull dog."

Henry Ford's supporters are not as numerous as his "tin Lizzies" nor as useful.

## The Ill-Fated Tariff.

We do not believe that the Democratic Senators were actuated by partisanship in voting against cloture on the tariff bill. It would be more disastrous to the Republicans to have the bill enacted a few weeks before the election than to have it still pending, which condition could be attributed to the Democrats. Five Republicans joined the Democrats, and we believe the object was not to prevent the enactment before the election, but to give the fullest information to the country regarding the provisions of the most extreme and obnoxious of all tariff bills.

Mr. La Follette is not in very good odor with the Republicans, but he is certainly not a Democrat, and his State is always counted by the Republicans as one of theirs. Mr. La Follette's warning may not change the character of the bill—it is rather late for that—but it will increase the apprehensions which many of the Republican Senators contemplate in the future. The bill is most unpopular, and deservedly so, among Republicans, and in view of the warnings of history in 1890 and 1892 and 1910 and 1912, the probability that the Republican party will be defeated this year and in 1924 seems exceedingly strong.

In supporting this preposterous Fordney-McCumber bill the Republicans have been sinning against light, their own light. Two years ago the slight and spiritless reference of the Republican national platform to the tariff, long the dominant issue with Republicans, caused grave disgust in the offices of a good many G. O. P. organs. It was a warning that interest in the tariff was waning. Manufacturers were becoming more conscious of the benefits of exports, and more restless under the burden of taxed raw materials.

But the Republicans in Congress paid no attention to this cautionary signal hoisted in their own convention. The framing of a tariff law was left to Mr. Fordney, who comes from a raw material State, and who has always been the most extreme protectionist possible. No duty was high enough to suit him under which foreign goods could get into the country. The Republican platform was a tip to go light on the tariff, but Congress paid no attention to it, and probably Fordney was too blind to see it. He has prepared a higher tariff than we have ever had. He has introduced the American valuation plan in order to raise duties higher than he liked to say out loud. The Senate has raised many duties, and in both houses of Congress this distribution of tariff benefits has been frankly personal and political.

Fordney and McCumber are still trying after fifteen months to pass their bill, and the reason they have been so long about it is that Republicans in Congress and out of it balk at the pending measure. Whether passed before the election, or still pending when November comes around, the people know pretty well what is in the bill and the Republicans will be beaten. Their defeat will be completed in 1924, when there will be chosen a Democratic President and a Congress Democratic in both branches.

## If This is a Free Country.

If this is a free country—its free dom bulwarked by the reign of law over lawlessness—every man on its territory, outside of its prison, has a right to work where and when he pleases, if he can get work. Every man and every combination of men have a right to quit work—to strike—when and where they please, unless in violation of contract. But no man, no combination of men, have a right to say that others shall not do the work which they themselves refuse to do. When they say that and resort to violence to enforce it they attack the very foundations of a government of freedom.

Union labor has got to come to a thorough realization of this if it is to attain to the full the laudable ends for which it is organized. The more intelligent of its leaders do realize it and deplore such crimes as the Herrin infamy, not only as crimes against civilization and humanity, but as crimes against union labor. They know that in the long run their cause is bound to suffer from violence, whatever temporary local successes it may force.

## The Coal Strike.

Thus far the only change in the coal situation, from the standpoint of the observer and the consumer, has been an advance in price. Those having the cash have had no difficulty in keeping up their supply. But cold weather is just around the corner and something must be done before the furnace fires are started in private residences. The conference of operators and miners called by the President has done nothing and is not generally expected to reach an understanding. Nobody is greatly excited just yet, but trouble of a serious nature is right ahead unless something occurs to end the strike in time to get a proper supply into the market before the snow and the cold weather arrive. It is probable that the government will take possession of the mines, as a last alternative, although some folks have an impression that the remedy might prove worse than the disease.

## SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSSTONE.

—Junia valley barns are not big enough to hold the wheat crop.

—Painfully injured when she fell into a hole in the main street of Fairchance, Fayette county, Mary Lewis, a widow, has filed trespass action for \$15,000 damages against the borough.

—In tearing down an old house on the property of W. W. Sullivan, near Avondale, Chester county, carpenters found a wallet hidden under the eaves of the house, containing almost \$300 in cash. It had evidently been placed there by some one afraid of banks.

—Members of the Improved Order of Red Men from all over Central Pennsylvania met at Sunbury, Friday night, and took preliminary steps toward selecting a site for a \$100,000 home for orphans and aged members of the order. A site between Sunbury and Selinsgrove on the west side of the Susquehanna was favored. It was said, but will be determined by all lodges.

—Charles Summers, who was knocked down and robbed in the locker room of a Williamsport factory, on July 1, has discovered on recovery that the blow which the thief struck him on the head has restored the sight of one of his eyes, in which he was nearly blind. He suffered an injury to his eye while at work in the Altoona railroad shops several years ago which virtually destroyed its sight.

—Trying to follow book instructions in swimming, Albert Brown, 29 years old, of Wilkes-Barre, was drowned Thursday afternoon in the Susquehanna river. Brown entered the water with a book that explained the various essentials to propelling the body, and in his interest he got beyond his depth. Feeling the bottom go from under him, he screamed and went under. Before rescuers could reach him he was dead.

—William Delong, a deserter from the marine corps, was arrested at Shamokin on Saturday by his own father. The elder Delong had letters from the Navy Department telling him of the desertion, so when the son turned up at home the father decided he would collect the \$50 reward and took his son in tow. The elder Delong left immediately for League Island, Philadelphia, to deliver the boy to the naval authorities there.

—J. H. Bigley, of Huntingdon, was held in \$500 bail for the next sessions of United States court at a hearing before Commissioner Burket at Lewistown, on Saturday. He was charged with having used the mails to defraud through the old scheme of advertising that a company at Huntingdon would send 10 yards of silk upon receipt of \$1. It is surprising how many bit and received 10 yards of silk thread instead of the cloth expected.

—Timely discovery of a twenty-ton iron casting that had toppled off a flat car at a curve a mile west of Northumberland classification yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad early last Friday saved a Philadelphia-Williamsport express train from crashing into the obstacle. William C. Fenstermacher, a flagman, was first to see what had happened. He seized a lantern and ran down the tracks in time to bring the rushing train with its passengers to a standstill.

The new bridge which spans the Susquehanna at Harrisburg cost \$3,000,000. It is 3450 feet in length and thirty-six feet wide, with forty-seven piers in the foundations, and forty-six arches. It required 1,000,000 feet of lumber to construct the forms and the materials used in the great bridge including 60,000 barrels of cement, 45,000 tons of sand and 800,000 pounds of steel reinforcing. In the building of the bridge no one suffered serious injuries. The electrical switch control of tracks cost \$250,000.

—Private Lester Hetherington, of Bristol, Pa., sentenced to seven years in military prison, for an alleged swindling operation, after a court-marriage at Coblenz, Germany, was last seen in Bristol three years ago. At that time he returned home following the expiration of his enlistment in the marine corps, in which he served during the war. He had entered the marines before the war. After a short stay at home he re-enlisted, choosing the regular army, and was subsequently sent to Germany. Hetherington is the son of Robert Hetherington, of Bristol, who was drowned ten years ago in the Delaware river near that place.

—A bear, chased into a tree by dogs, furnished amusement for hundreds of campers along Loyalsock creek, in Lycoming county, one night last week. When the bear took refuge in the tree, word of its predicament quickly spread along the creek and campers came from all directions to watch it. Some one suggested raising a plate of ice cream to the bear on a long pole. This was done and the bear enjoyed the ice cream with so great relish that the trick was repeated eight times. The bear also drank from a bucket of water raised to it in the same manner. After several hours' exhibition, the owners of the dogs called them and permitted the bear to escape.

—Mrs. Joseph Luce, wife of a striking coal miner, was shot and killed while picking berries on a farm near Revere, Fayette county, late last Thursday, according to word received by Sheriff I. L. Shaw. Deputies who went to the scene reported that Mrs. Luce and the wives of three other strikers were ordered to leave the farm by a man armed with a rifle. They refused, the women said, and the man fired, the bullet striking Mrs. Luce and passing through her heart. The man, they said, then turned and walked away without looking at his victim. The three women carried the body to Revere and notified the sheriff. The deputies arrested Ennod Endsley, a farmer.

—Charged with looting the treasury of the Citizens' Insurance Agency and Mortgage company, a \$2,500,000 corporation of Butler, A. L. Hepler, manager and treasurer, and his wife, Nina A. Hepler, secretary of the company, were arrested last week by Sheriff Harvey Hockenberry, of Butler, on warrants issued from the office of Alderman E. P. Tomer and placed under bond for appearance at the September term of court to answer charges of conspiracy, embezzlement and fraudulent conversion of property. Hepler and his wife are charged with organizing a fictitious sales company for the purpose of selling the stock of the insurance agency and mortgage company. It is alleged they took \$200,000 of the funds of the company for "good will," and also took \$5 from each share of stock sold at \$15 per share, and entered the shares on the books as sold at \$10 per share, cleaning up \$100,000 or more.