

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—A verdict of \$700 was granted by a jury at Reading, last Friday, to Dorothy Hassler, 35 years old, against Arthur E. Clark, a motorist, through an accident causing a broken leg.

—While leading a mule to water, James Lay, of Kennedys valley, Perry county, was kicked on the head by the animal. The man's lifeless body was found by the spring several hours later.

—William Keener, of Lehigh, a brakeman on the Lehigh Valley railroad, had an eye knocked out on Monday when he was struck by a stone thrown by a boy as the train was passing through the city.

—When children at play jammed an oyster can over the head of 6 months old Donald Shultz, of York, Pa., last Saturday the baby nearly smothered. Efforts of the mother to remove the can were futile and a plumber had to be called to release the child.

—Ellis Watson, 42 years of age, died in an Erie hospital last Friday from injuries received a few hours earlier when he was run over by his own automobile. Watson's car had become stalled and when he attempted to crank it with the engine in gear it knocked him down and ran over him, causing injuries which resulted in his death.

—State police are assisting in the investigation to identify the headless body of a man found on the Watson farm, near Kane, McKean county, on October 4th. The authorities are confident the victim was a man of foreign birth, probably a miner. For a time it was believed the dead man was James Booth, but Booth has been located.

—In the presence of members of the G. A. R. and veterans of the Spanish-American and the world war, a statue of Andrew Gregg Curtin, Civil War Governor of Pennsylvania, was unveiled at Harrisburg, on Friday. The statue stands on the site of Camp Curtin, a mobilization camp of civil war days, where many Centre countians were mustered into service.

—While a son was saying his prayers in a room below, Andrew Feldon, 42 years old, a Holveta, Clearfield county miner, locked himself in a room above and committed suicide by firing four shots into his head and chest. No cause for his rash act is known as he had previously eaten his evening meal and conversed with members of the family in his usual way.

—A wave of burglary continues unchecked in Wilkes-Barre. In the past two weeks there have been fifty houses entered without an arrest being made. Seven more houses were entered on Sunday night. Clothing and jewelry were stolen. The police admit they haven't the slightest clue, but believe that all the burglaries are the work of one man or possibly two.

—Birth, marriage and death are the three most important events in a man's life. In the case of James Whitman Stringer, who was buried on Saturday at Bellewood, all three occurred on the same date. He was born in Harrison City, Pa., October 17th, 1868, married to Helen Bell Glasgow, of Bellewood, October 17th, 1919, and died at Wopsonneck, October 17th, 1922.

—A lone armed bandit walked into the Lincoln bank, at Erie, Pa., Wednesday afternoon, and, after forcing two clerks and a patron to back up to a wall, broke into the cashier's cage and fled with currency estimated by officials of the bank at \$2,450. The robbery occurred while a house was burning half a block from the bank and the robber, taking advantage of the excitement, was able to work uninterrupted.

—More than 500 men, women and children, all of them members of families unable to buy coal because of the high prices, stormed a coal train as it became stalled on the outskirts of Allentown, and before the police interfered they had carried off, Lehigh Valley Railroad officials believe, more than 500 worth of fuel. Members of the crew and two railroad detectives were unable to stop the haul, and a squad of city policemen was summoned. No arrests were made.

—A verdict of \$35,208 damages for the death of her husband was awarded Mrs. Daisy Shankweiler, of Shamokin, at Sunbury last week. She sued the Pennsylvania Lighting company, now the Pennsylvania Light and Power company, alleging that Mr. Shankweiler met death by electrocution in 1918 when he attempted to turn on the lights in his place of business, a butcher shop. At a previous trial, Mrs. Shankweiler was awarded \$17,500, but the Supreme court ordered a new trial.

—A representative of a Pittsburgh syndicate, doing business under the name of the Columbia Natural Gas and Oil company, went through portions of Woodward and Gallagher townships, Clinton county, last week, securing leases on lands of the farmers, more especially around Swissdale and the "German settlement," with a view to drilling test wells for oil and gas. More than 1,000 acres have already been leased. The landowners, with tracts running from a few acres up to 500 or more acres, giving the company the right to sink wells on the land and if oil or gas struck the owner is to receive a royalty on the profits.

—George Abraham, a grocer of Franklin borough, Cambria county, says in a breach of promise suit filed at Chambersburg last Thursday, that his love affair wrecked him "physically and financially." He set out in his petition, asking for \$25,000, that he used two motor cars and "nearly all of his time" in wooing Mrs. Mary S. Albert, of Conemaugh. When she promised to marry him he gave her a \$1600 diamond engagement ring, he says, which she now refuses to return. He itemizes his "lost love" costs as follows: Use of two automobiles by defendant for "her pleasure and convenience," \$2000; diamond engagement ring, \$1600; profits lost in grocery store by not remaining on job, \$5000; dis-appointment and loss of his health, \$15,400.

—Judge Lloyd, in the Northumberland county court, on Monday issued a new trial for the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company for culm damages to an island owned by Mrs. Sarah E. Brown, at Delmatia. She was awarded \$900 by a jury after a week's trial. The case is most important, according to lawyers, who asserted that on it hinges twenty-four other suits for damages from culm dumped from the mines into the Susquehanna and its tributaries and will mean many thousands of dollars for persons whose lands have been ruined by culm unless the Supreme court rules differently. Prof. William G. Owens, of Bucknell College, said that sulphuric acid constantly forming from the coal and air made the soil practically of no value for farming.

INK SLINGS.

—Still if Turkey is relying upon the "moral support" of Russia, the Kemalites are "leaning on a broken reed."

—It may safely be said that Senator Newberry, of Michigan, will not speak in Pennsylvania in behalf of Senator Pepper. Newberry is an ungrateful cuss.

—The more the political caldron boils the stronger are the indications that Centre county is to have the honor of sending the first woman to the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

—Certainly none of those who saw and heard Senator David A. Reed, at Milesburg, last Friday, will have reason to call us a nut if we remark that they are making Senators out of most anything these days.

—Giff. is still howling about getting out the vote and standing by the ticket. He isn't so cock-sure of being Governor now and if the Republicans of Pennsylvania treat him as he did them in 1912 and 1914 he never will be.

—An esteemed contemporary recommends the confiscation of automobiles as a penalty for drivers who run away after running down pedestrians on the highway. That, supplemented by electrocution, might "fit the crime."

—Don't falter! They are on the run! Stand up and be counted with the people who are determined that an end must be put to the kind of government that doesn't give back a dollar in useful service for every dollar of taxes collected.

—We can't quite agree with the several gentlemen who think McSparran will carry Centre county by two thousand or more, but we do feel, that if signs that we haven't noticed for years don't fail, he'll have a very handsome majority.

—In Philipsburg, on Monday night, we heard a group of gentlemen discussing the legislative contest. We got the impression that not one of them would support their own party nominee, but they seemed leery about "voting for a woman." From this distance we want to suggest what we might have told them on the spot, had we been a party in their discussion, that no one of them will ever live to see the day that they will regret voting, if they do, for Zoe Meek for the Legislature.

—Just to stir up the animals a bit we'll bet a year's subscription to a gallon of water from the Big Spring that more people know of Bellefonte because it is the home of the "Watchman" than because of any other single institution or personality for which the town is noted. To go further: We'll bet a gallon of moonshine—which we know our private bootlegger will supply if the bluff is called—to a half pint of grape juice that if the "Watchman" should suddenly become iconoclastic you couldn't get through the streets of the town because of the fragments of shattered near-idols.

—Don't fall for it! You Republicans who have a mind of your own and know that you are only being exploited. Each night of the next ten days there will be a party of your workers among you telling you that it's your duty to "vote the straight Republican ticket." Theirs is the same old game. They have worked and worked it until your taxes are almost more than you can bear and, besides the taxes, you are carrying on your back at least part of some inspector, auditor, filing clerk or what-not of the thousands of hangers on at Harrisburg who have helped to make the "mess" the State is in.

—Our unknown friend Elisha Kent Kane, of Kushesqua, who advertises his willingness to represent us in Congress in this issue of the "Watchman," states that he and Snyder and Swoope are dry. If Elisha is right, then there is certainly no competition among the gentlemen engaged in the Congressional contest on that issue. Accepting the revelation of Elisha, we advise the wets to join the dries and vote for J. Frank Snyder. The wets have no chance at all. The dries have no chance with Elisha because he doesn't have a place on either of the old party tickets, so the best thing both of them can do is to combine and vote for a man who has a chance and a man who will make a real Congressman.

—The national convention of the American Legion concluded its sessions in New Orleans, last Friday, by tabling resolutions dealing with the Volstead act and the Ku Klux Klan. They caustically criticized the Marion doctor, whom President Harding took to Washington and elevated to the rank of Brigadier General and stood firm on their demand for "adjusted compensation." It is gratifying to see that the Legion refuses to be dragged into purposes other than for which it was organized. The boys are sticking together for their disabled comrades first and for their own reward, second. They were promised a bonus, or "adjusted compensation," by the Republican party two years ago and all they have gotten, up to this time, has been lemons. They made good in 1917 and 1918. They have a right to wonder why the party that promised them so much in 1920 hasn't made good in 1922. You might fool them once, but never again. That's why so many of them are not going to vote for Pepper, Reed or Swoope.

Great Incentive to Effort.

The official records show that the Democratic registry this year in the city of Philadelphia is less than 2000 below that of 1916, when Woodrow Wilson polled 92,000 votes. The Republican registry in that city this year is more than 100,000 less than that of last year. Throughout the State the registration and enrollment reveal advantage to the Democratic candidates in the same ratio. As compared with last year the Republicans have lost in the cities alone upward of 400,000, while the Democrats have gained. These official figures indicate a safe majority for the Democratic candidates next month. It is up to the Democratic voters to determine how great this majority will be. The greater the better for the people.

In every election district in the State one or more voters who have registered in the cities or enrolled in the rural regions as Republicans can be prevailed on to vote for the Democratic candidates if the Democratic voters are active and vigilant in campaigning. Every day we hear of men and women, heretofore Republicans, declaring their purpose to vote the Democratic ticket. The failure of the administration at Washington, the "mess" at Harrisburg, the disgusting quarrels among the Republican leaders in Pennsylvania, as revealed in the primary campaign, and the menace of Newberyism as expressed in the profligate expenditures of the Pinchot family in the purchase of the nomination, combine to turn thoughtful voters against the Republican ticket this year.

There are many and potent reasons why the Democrats should be vigilant this year. We have an admirable ticket to support and splendid results to achieve. For a quarter of a century the several administrations at Harrisburg have been conspiracies to loot the public. Taxes have been heaped up and pyramided until the burden has grown beyond endurance. The people have been deprived of their inherent right to local self government in order that an invincible political machine might be built up to perpetuate the power of a gang of political pirates. We have a chance to rescue the government of the State from these enemies this year and if voters, men and women, are just to themselves this will be accomplished.

—Lloyd George has won in a good many scourgings but he is now engaged in a real battle and the result is conjectural.

Trend of the Political Mind.

On Thursday of last week two important events, kindred in purpose, occurred in this State. In Harrisburg a monument erected at considerable expense to the people, was dedicated to the memory of the great war Governor, Andrew Gregg Curtin, of Bellefonte. In Philadelphia a potential political boss, Edward H. Vare, was buried. The dedication of the Curtin monument was a beautiful ceremonial. The figure in bronze on a pedestal of granite is a sublime spectacle and the dedication afforded opportunity for eloquent recital of historical events and patriotic sacrifices. The funeral of the late Senator Vare was a magnificent pageant. It expressed the bereavement of a host of admirers.

We are not inclined to criticize the public record of the late Senator Vare. The Latin proverb, "speak no ill of the dead," is beautiful and worthy of respect. Senator Vare represented an element in the affairs of the country which can hardly be avoided, is entirely too numerous and is much to be regretted. It exercises power through sinister influences which promote contempt for authority. It is easy to admire the benevolences which he freely dispensed among those who were servile, but almost impossible to forget that his charities were frequently misplaced and the means to indulge them acquired by questionable expedients. But it is not our purpose to dilate upon this phase of the Curtin monument.

The dedication of the Curtin monument was an event that appealed to the best impulses of the human heart. The proper staging of it was a work of great, loving care on the part of those in charge of it. The program was arranged weeks in advance. The Governor of Pennsylvania had accepted an invitation to receive the monument on behalf of the State and the Lieutenant Governor to preside at the ceremony. Both of them preferred to pay tribute to the memory of a political boss. Happily others were found to do reverence to the war Governor, who performed their offices well. But the incident shows the trend of the political mind in Pennsylvania. Gifford Pinchot was also at Vare's funeral.

—Another war would about give the Turks control of the world with full license to murder Christians at will.

Pinchot Has Found a "Mare's Nest."

We are almost persuaded to express sympathy for Gifford Pinchot. He is in a most wretched predicament. Last May he bought the Republican nomination for Governor at a price which makes the now infamous Truman H. Newberry look almost like "a piker," and was so pleased that he sent his wife over to Europe to tell his sister, Lady Whats-her-name, who had married and English title, that in a short time he would be Governor of Pennsylvania, and his wife in quite as honored a position as any duchess. But now things are "breaking bad" for him. The people are disgusted with his absurd pretensions and every time he utters a promise of reform something turns up to confuse him.

For example, he had hardly completed his promise to "clean up the mess" at Harrisburg when the fact that he was responsible for the worst feature of the "mess" was disclosed. His direct violation of his oath of office and inferential betrayal of the constitution by soliciting and accepting an increase of salary as Commissioner of Forestry was a refutation of his pledge of improvement. Then he dodged the question as to his attitude on Fineganism, appointed a lot of commissions without power to do anything and struck a bargain with Senator Larry Eyre to be "good" in the event of his election, which was "the blow that killed father." Larry Eyre and Max Leslie, of Pittsburgh, take nothing for granted.

Thus driven to the political ditch Giff. conceived a great idea. He states that a great many lead pencils are annually taken from the State capitol at Harrisburg and used by officials who steal them or others to whom they are given or sold for other than official purposes. Here is a reform that just about fits Giff's intellect. The lead pencils must be saved at any cost. No matter how much money is stolen by salary grabs or other infractions of the law the sacred lead pencils must be protected. Fineganism is all right so long as it doesn't hand out lead pencils. Gephart may have juggled the finances for the benefit of favorites but he never stole a lead pencil. At last Giff. is on the right track.

—We do not complain much because William Randolph Hearst aspires to control the public press of the country but protest against his aspiration to direct the politics of both parties. The job is too big for him.

Gifford Pinchot and Fineganism.

The relations, personal and political, between Gifford Pinchot and Thomes E. Finegan, are revealed in a booklet recently issued by the Department of Public Instruction under the false pretense of encouraging the observance of Arbor day. Mr. Pinchot has frequently been asked to define his attitude on Fineganism. But he has evaded the question by saying that he has appointed a commission of inquiry on the subject. Dr. Finegan is equally evasive when interrogated upon their political relationship. Both are obviously trying to deceive the public. But the booklet "lets the cat out of the bag." Dr. Finegan is distributing propaganda in support of the ambitions of Pinchot, at public expense.

According to information from Harrisburg the State appropriations for the public schools are not only exhausted but there is a new deficit of something like \$12,000,000 in the account, which will be necessarily increased to upward of \$40,000,000. The Auditor General of the State is authorized for these figures. School appropriations due last February are now in default. Local school authorities have been compelled to borrow funds to maintain the schools and teachers to work without pay because of these facts. But the high salaried officials of the department at Harrisburg are paid regularly every two weeks and Finegan spends thousands of dollars of the school funds to promote the election of Pinchot.

This is Fineganism, but Mr. Pinchot requires the help of a helpless and futile commission to find out whether he approves it or not. It is such a condition that is responsible for "the mess at Harrisburg" which Mr. Pinchot wants authority to "clean up." As in the case of the salary grabbing abuses he is part and parcel of the "mess" and no man of reasoning mind would appoint a criminal to pass judgment on the degree of his crime. A clean-up in Harrisburg will involve the dumping of all the salary grabbers, embezzlers, misusers of public funds, and conspicuous among these is Gifford Pinchot, the owner of a purchased nomination of the Republican party for Governor of the State.

—It may be said that the First district Senatorial seat is a Vare heirloom and Brother Bill assumes it under the law of inheritance.

Repudiate the Corrupt Bargain.

Lest they forget, the attention of the men and women of Pennsylvania is again called to the fact that for more than a quarter of a century the State or the people have not had representation in the United States Senate. The constitution of the United States declares that "the Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years." But the people of Pennsylvania renounced this right long ago. Under an alleged agreement, for a reputed consideration in cash, the Republican machine conveyed to the Pennsylvania railroad and the Steel trust the right to appoint the Senators for Pennsylvania, and the Senators thus commissioned have represented those corporations rather than the people of Pennsylvania.

George Wharton Pepper was selected Senator to succeed Boies Penrose by the Pennsylvania railroad and as an evidence of ownership the principal officers of the corporation attended the ceremony of his induction into office. The Steel trust selected David A. Reed as the successor of William C. Crow, but the urgency of getting a vote against a just claim of the heroes of the world war probably prevented a similar exhibition on the occasion of his qualification for service. In accordance with the agreement these appointments were subsequently ratified by the Republican machine in nominating them to succeed themselves.

No other candidates were permitted to enter the contest. The principle of "honor among thieves" was scrupulously preserved.

It is now up to the people to say at the election one week from next Tuesday whether or not this shamefully corrupt bargain with the two most predatory corporations in the country will be made perpetual. The Democratic party has offered them a medium of escape from this humiliating situation. It has nominated for Senators in Congress two most capable, courageous and sincere men in the persons of Samuel E. Shull and Fred B. Kerr, who are "of the people and for the people," and if they are elected there will be an end of the corporate domination in Pennsylvania. This is certainly "a consummation devoutly to be wished for." It will be a new and valuable experience for the people of Pennsylvania and a great service for the cause of good government throughout the country.

—It wasn't necessary for Ambassador George Harvey to say that women do not have souls. His previous statement that the United States entered the world war because of selfishness and cowardice settled his right to a permanent seat in a mad house.

—In answer to a current falsehood it might be said that Mr. McSparran is striving to keep politics out of the schools. The Republican machine has put it in through the medium of Fineganism.

—Senator Pepper says he would like to settle labor strikes by popular vote. But he seems to believe that the best way to dispose of political favors is by the auction block.

—The "Watchman" can settle the squabble as to when football was first played at Penn State. From our issue of November 25th, 1881, we note that "a match game" was played with Bucknell University at Lewisburg "one day last week" and State won. Our personal knowledge of later football activities at State date back to the fall of '86. About that time, or a year later, regular schedules with other colleges began and we recall having solicited the money by subscription that sent the team to play Lehigh and Lafayette on the same trip. Of course it was disastrous as to results as State started the second game with only nine men.

—On Sunday evening a stranger appeared at the home of Arthur Thomas, near Wadde, and asked for something to eat. He was invited in and a good supper placed in front of him. While he was eating Mr. Thomas noticed a striking resemblance to the picture of Frank Smith, one of the prisoners who recently escaped from the penitentiary. Prison officials were notified and guards were sent to the Thomas home. The guest proved to be the right man and Mr. Thomas will receive the reward of fifty dollars in payment for the man's supper.

—A Tyrone gentleman who attended the dedication of the soldiers monument at Milesburg last Saturday claims to have had his pocket picked of a valuable Hamilton watch.

—Just 2340 hunters licenses had been issued by county treasurer L. Frank Mayes up to noon on Wednesday.

A Woman for the Legislature.

The campaign in Centre county has progressed to the point where a fairly accurate estimate of the trend of the voting mind may be made. While it is generally believed that this is to be a Democratic year in Centre, as well as in many other parts of the country, the candidacy of Miss Zoe Meek, of Clarence, for a seat in the Legislature, has been met with unusual favor.

She is such a splendid type of woman, so well qualified and so engagingly frank in canvassing for votes that from every quarter of the county she has visited comes reports to the effect that the political tide is running strong in her favor. The only indifference to her candidacy appears to be on the part of a few who cannot bring themselves to the point of voting for a woman for office. The reason, of course, is not personal to Miss Meek. It is due to the novelty of the situation brought about by the Nineteenth amendment. While it may seem strange to many of us to find the names of women on the ballots and in the jury lists now it will be only a few years until that will all wear off and such perturbation of mind as is now affecting some will have passed.

Women are in politics to stay. They were given the franchise because it was believed their active interest and participation in governmental affairs would have a most salutary effect. Centre county, always forward and progressive, has been one of the first to give one of them an opportunity to attain an important office. Many others will follow the trail that Miss Meek is blazing during this campaign. Hers is a hard and courageous undertaking. Hedged about by limitations beyond which a woman may not go she has made a canvass and headway that is surprising, and at the same time set an example for fairness and dignity in soliciting votes such as demonstrates beyond question the value of women in politics.

She has a platform. During a conversation with her a few days ago we learned something of it and here condense its aims into three words: The betterment of Pennsylvania. Since last spring, when she decided to be a candidate for nomination this woman has been making a study of Legislative practice. She knows what former Representatives from this county have done. She knows what she expects to do herself, if elected. She has no middle ground to take on any question. She is either for or against and is so serious in her ideas of duty that a decision is never made until every phase of the issue has been carefully and intelligently considered.

Miss Meek was born in Ferguson township, her ancestry running back to Captain George Meek, of Revolutionary fame. In her girlhood the family moved to Snow Shoe township where they have since lived. From the common schools she was graduated to Juniata college and then to Valparaiso University and to the Anthony Wayne Institute. Splendidly educated it was but natural that she should have been successful in her career as a teacher. She has taught at Clarence, in the Clearfield High school, and was principal of the South Avis schools until she resigned to accept the appointment as post-mistress of Clarence.

While teaching in her home town she was continually in contact with all of the nationalities represented in that mining region and it seems that her personal knowledge of the needs that should be supplied for and the restrictions put upon the foreign element of our population would be a great asset in the Legislature of this State where the question of the proper assimilation of the foreign born is such a grave one.

On the public school question she has the viewpoint of a woman and a teacher and on any other that may come up with which she is not so familiar she has the advantage of a well balanced, well trained mind and the will to do the best for the county she hopes to represent.

As a woman she is a pioneer in Centre county politics. As a woman she may see many things at Harrisburg that escape the men Members. As a woman, her election would bring another distinction to Centre county. Let us send her there.

Hunting Season Will Open Next Wednesday.

The open season for hunting bear, rabbits, squirrel, wild turkeys, pheasants, quail, etc., will begin next Wednesday, November first, and hunters everywhere are busily sharpening their shotguns in anticipation of the event. Pheasants are reported to be quite plentiful and various flocks of wild turkeys have been seen on the mountains, but squirrels are scarce.

—Arbor day exercises will be celebrated in the public schools today (Friday).