

The President's pet, the ship subsidy, is being treated by Congress as though it were somebody's houn' dawg.

We may be having so much snow by way of preparedness against the very dry summer that the state police are promising for Pennsylvania.

Anyhow the fellow who has made it a practice to cut out his tupples during Lent won't have as much temptation to overcome now as he once had.

Tuesday night's thunder, lightning and wind that rocked the houses of Pine Grove Mills must have been an attempt of March to jump into the lap of February.

The end of the present cold wave is not to come before Sunday, so the prophets say. Thus far we have escaped blustery zero weather and a bit of it now tends to remind us that we have been very fortunate.

Though only a few inches deep Monday night's snow was the heaviest of the winter. That being the case we delegated Tuesday's warm sunshine to save a few muscles that are well nigh worn out with shoveling snow.

From the number of our Republican friends who are throwing their hats into the ring as candidates for town and county offices one surmises that they haven't the least idea of what is going to happen to the grand old party next fall.

Dr. Auto-suggestion Coue has sailed for France with thirty-thousand American dollars in his jeans. When he gets back to his beloved Nancy surely he can shrug his shoulders, rub his hands and exclaim: Every day in every way they're getting easier and easier.

Poor old King Tutenkhamun. He must have been a grand old chap in his day, three thousand years ago and how he must be looking down from his celestial home with horror on the vandalism that is rifling his tomb of all the grandeur that he had himself laid away in for the long journey.

Probably the reason we haven't heard much comment on the Hon. Tom Beaver's bill to put fifty cents more tariff on the cost of a hunting license is because it's the fishermen who are becoming vobles now. The hunters are not thinking of the bridge they'll probably have to begin crossing next October.

Dr. Ellen Potter, the new head of the Public Welfare Department, has gotten the idea, that some of the rest of us have, that the small hospitals of the State are being burdened with accounting systems that cost more than any saving the systems can effect. Accordingly she has started revising the plans of her predecessor. More power to the lady.

This Markley fellow who got to seeing things and started a fight with himself in the library of the court house, a few days ago, much to the destruction of the furniture of that stately apartment, certainly sought seclusion for his combat. Had it not been for the noise of overturning tables he might have been alone with his souse in there for months without having been discovered.

By way of saying something complimentary of our town council—and we want you to understand that throwing bouquets at borough solons any time, any where isn't a popular American pastime—we are wondering whether the announcement made last week that they had reduced the tax rate five mills got by you without proper gratification. When the five were put on for the purpose of paying for those new pumps we had a feeling that it would be a long, long time before they would come off again. Councils often make good though very few of those who elect them ever admit it. And in this instance we want to be conspicuous among the few.

We have heard, indirectly, that based on present plans for distribution of State aid to hospitals Bellefonte's institution would have expectation of about six thousand dollars a year. This would be three thousand less than it has been receiving during the past two years and four thousand less than it had received for some years prior to 1922. This should be very disconcerting news to this community. By straining and curtailing in every way the institution is barely keeping its head above water and such a withdrawal of State support as is indicated means certainly only one of two things: Either further curtailment of hospital service or greater drain upon the generosity of the community itself.

Again we remark that the Governor must have heard from the plain people of Pennsylvania after his announcement of what he intended doing for The Pennsylvania State College. That his pre-gubernatorial surveys were not as deadly accurate as he would have had the people believe, is revealed by the discovery that what he was so confident would be enough for State's needs during the next biennium really would result in there being no Freshman class at all at the people's higher institution of learning next year. Gifford has already retired into a session of seclusion and review. Let us hope that when he emerges again it will be with a clear conception of where the State's first duty lies with regard to aid to educational institutions.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Republicans Applaud Their Own Condemnation.

The terms of settlement of the debt of Great Britain to the United States agreed upon recently by a commission representing both countries sitting in Washington has been approved by the House of Representatives by a vote of 291 to 44. Sixty-three Democratic members voted in the affirmative and forty-three in the negative. Only one Republican voted against the pact and the Socialist representative voted for it.

In this connection the brief speech of Representative Garrett, of Tennessee, floor leader of the minority, is significant. "I share the resentment of my colleagues, that all fair minded men must feel, because of the way this business has been handled by this administration. I share the resentment against the majority party," he said, "for its unfair tactics in the last campaign. I share the resentment for the policy indulged in for political purposes in the main by which the great after-the-war program laid down by the Democratic administration was interfered with. As a result of that interference desolation spreads over the world. For that folly, men, women and children throughout the world have paid in torture and tears."

Having thus pilloried the partisan Republicans of the House Mr. Garrett added: "But that does not justify me in opposing this settlement. I shall support it for there is a greater proposition involved. This settlement looks toward the stabilization of the world. More than that it will advance the happiness, the prosperity and the peace of the human race. I am willing to forget the partisanship manifested in this matter. I am willing to forget the narrowness of this administration. I am willing to forget the indecencies of the majority party's campaign of 1920." And this scathing rebuke compelled the applause even of those upon whom it was administered. It was a unique spectacle.

Our exports for 1922 were 5,500,000 tons less than in 1921, owing of course to the Fordney tariff. At this rate the business will have about vanished before the ship subsidy bill gets through Congress.

President Harding obviously had an ulterior purpose in mind when he linked together the British debt settlement and the ship subsidy job. There is no natural relationship between these propositions. The debt settlement question involves justice and honor. Great Britain owes this country a vast sum of money and is anxious to pay with as little distress as possible. The United States needs the money but in exacting it wants to be as lenient as possible. These amiable purposes on both sides appeal forcefully to the better nature of men and create a feeling of liberality. The ship subsidy scheme is predicated purely and solely on graft.

President Harding probably imagined that by linking these antipodal propositions together he would strengthen the weaker of the two. The appeal to generosity during the consideration of the British debt, he probably imagined, would carry forward over the line the subsidy scheme. Thousands of men are influenced even in important matters by emotions. Impulse is a potent force if skillfully employed. While in a generous frame of mind induced by an amiable desire to be kind Congress might easily supplement a service to Great Britain by voting largesses to a group of grafting ship owners who had contributed freely to the campaign corruption fund.

It was a stupid trick of a small mind and is practically certain to fail of its purpose. The plan to settle the enormous war debt which Great Britain owes this country will go through as it ought to, but the iniquity which President Harding linked to it will fail if Congress is just to its obligations to the people. The ship owners who hope to make a grab bag of the treasury in pursuance of a corrupt bargain with the Republican campaign committee will be disappointed. The money they invested to elect Mr. Harding is lost forever, for with the expiration of the present Congress in a trifle more than two weeks ship subsidy will die and remain dead forever.

Obviously that Turk official at Smyrna had some weak nation in mind when he ordered foreign ships out of the harbor. In any event he didn't mean Great Britain.

Another Isthmian Canal.

The administration at Washington, according to newspaper correspondents, is seriously considering a proposition to build another Isthmian canal. It seems that receipts of the Panama canal have been somewhat in excess of the expenditures for operation for some time and the "best minds" about the White House have reached the conclusion that the fact would justify the investment of a few billion dollars in another ditch. It is true that the excessive revenues have not reached sufficient proportions to pay interest on the money invested in the Panama canal, but it is not likely that interest payments were ever contemplated. The balancing of income with operating expenses is all that was expected.

President Harding, having made up his mind to be a candidate for re-election, it is natural that he and his friends should be looking about for some opportunity for achievement that would command popular admiration. The construction of a ship canal across the Isthmus might serve this purpose. It seems that there is some claim to a "right of way" in Nicaragua and that being the case there would be no serious obstacle to overcome in carrying out the enterprise. There is the price to consider, of course, but an administration which proposes to pay a hundred million dollars or so in subsidies for fifty years to millionaire ship owners, is not likely to give much serious consideration to the matter of cost.

The maimed and emaciated veterans of the world war, who were promised a bonus which in the aggregate would amount to no more than the ship subsidy and less than half as much as the proposed Isthmian canal, may take a different view of this question. But the "best minds" about the executive office in Washington don't mind what war heroes do or think. The veterans were beguiled by a false promise three years ago and may be fooled again by some other plausible promise as easily shattered after the next election. The subsidized ship owners and prosperous contractors who build canals can supply funds to buy votes if the veterans are not willing to give theirs for nothing. It is a great game.

Roger Babson thinks "Europe needs religion more than reparations." The need of religion is beyond question but how it might be utilized to restore devastated cities is not quite clear.

The Pittsburgh Dispatch passed out of existence with the Wednesday issue, after a publication of seventy-seven years. The plant, good will, etc., were purchased by the other newspaper plants in that city. For a number of years past the Dispatch had been under the direct management of Col. C. A. Rook, and his recent appointment as director of public safety of Pittsburgh may have had something to do with his decision to discontinue publication of the paper.

The astonishing increase in the cost of running Pennsylvania is revealed by the following schedule which shows the receipts and expenditures of the State from 1850 up to May 31st, 1921. It cost over eighteen times as much to keep things going in 1920 as it did in 1850. The figures given for 1921 cover only the first six months of the year, as it has been impossible to compile receipts and expenditures since that time.

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Fault of a Single Track Mind. The is no just cause of complaint against Governor Pinchot's purpose to enforce the prohibition laws of the United States and the State of Pennsylvania. The constitution of the State requires that "he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed" and his oath of office binds him to "obey, support and defend" the constitution. In exerting the full power of his authority in the enforcement of prohibition legislation, therefore, he is simply fulfilling his moral and legal obligations with respect to this important matter. Some Governors may have done less and he inferentially charges his immediate predecessor in office with such laxity. But it is his business to do his duty.

But neither the constitution nor the oath of office requires the Governor to exhaust all his official energy and executive power in enforcing one law, to the necessary neglect of other equally important laws. One evening last week, according to newspaper statements, a committee of the Legislature in session in Harrisburg heard testimony concerning ballot frauds in Pittsburgh which were so gross and rank that even Senator Vare left the room in disgust. But Governor Pinchot was not perturbed in the least by the disclosures. It was freely admitted that fraudulent voting and false returns of elections were common and had long been practiced in Pittsburgh, but the disclosures never turned a hair on the gubernatorial head.

It has long been recognized that the gravest crime in the calendar is debauching of elections. Upon the purity of the ballot depends the perpetuity of the Republic. All the boot-leggers in the State in a generation couldn't do as much harm to the government as is done "in the strip" in Pittsburgh and "the neck" in Philadelphia at a single election. But Governor Pinchot is oblivious to the evils of ballot frauds for the reason that he and his party are kept in power by these nefarious methods. We have no quarrel with his attitude on the prohibition question. But we complain because of his indifference to, if not his actual acquiescence in, the ballot frauds, infinitely more dangerous.

Let us hope that broadcasted sermons will not greatly diminish the collection.

Pinchot Spurns the Machine.

Every day and in every way Governor Pinchot is growing better and better in the art of practical politics. It is true that he hasn't much to contend with, for Leslie and Eyre and "Bill" Vare are pigmies in comparison with Penrose and Crow and "Ed" Vare, who obligingly left the arena just before Pinchot actually appeared in "the ring." But we gravely doubt if any of them had anything on "Gif" in the matter of manipulating official patronage. The latest demonstration of the Governor's improvement in this direction was his declaration the other day that there will be no distribution of spoils until after his legislative program has been completed.

Of course if there were the least bit of principle, or even a suspicion of earnestness, behind the opposition to the Governor's legislative plan it would be "knocked into a cocked hat" in a jiffy. Two-thirds of the Republican members of the House of Representatives and an equal proportion of the Senators of that party faith are opposed to his program. But the only thought that enters the minds of these Senators and Representatives is control of patronage, and in the hope of securing spoils they yield to any condition he imposes, and when his purpose has been achieved he will proceed to dispense favors on the basis indicated in the selection of his cabinet members.

When Martin Brumbaugh became Governor he set out to create a party machine which would be obedient to his wishes and responsive to his ambitions. But Penrose interposed and though the then Governor had the help of Ed. Vare his organization vanished "like the baseless fabric of a vision." There was something beside spoils in the mind of the "big boss." He had pride of opinion as well as fidelity to tradition and he cast all consideration of patronage to the winds. The result was fatal to Mr. Brumbaugh and a warning to his successors in office. Governor Pinchot has no such force to contend with and after intelligently appraising the conditions he snaps his fingers at his opponents.

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La Folletteffects. From the Detroit Free Press. The president of the Simons company in the Kenosha, Wis., announces that his concern does not care to live longer under the shadow of LaFolletteism, and will move to Chicago, reducing the Wisconsin plant to a branch. Turning to Moody's Manual, one learns that the Simons plant covers seven-tenths of the area in Kenosha, and does a business approaching \$20,000,000 a year in metal furniture, wire mattresses and similar articles.

A threat in the Wisconsin Legislature of a new law laying heavy taxes on industry for the purpose of establishing unemployment insurance and a return to income tax collectors public are among the immediate causes of the proposed change in location, and both of these laws are directly inspired by Senator LaFollette. Doubtless the Senator will turn all of the floods of his oratory against Simons' company, and its efforts at self-protection will be denounced as capitalistic ruthlessness; but that will not alter the fact that business will not thrive where laws are oppressive when better fields are open.

For many years Senator LaFollette has been preaching doctrines which tend to make any kind of success in business an object of suspicion and envy. He always couples wealth with some kind of wickedness, and in his own State, with the help of his friends, the Socialists, he has built up a strong following ready to put his doctrine into operation. That sort of thing can go on for a while, but it cannot go far in the United States, because those who imagine that antagonism is the correct attitude toward successful industry, discover that they have hurt themselves more than they have hurt business.

The Mate That Scuttled the Ship. From the Philadelphia Inquirer. A Kentucky jury has acquitted the woman who killed the man she said "broke up her home." The fact that she was a partner in the destruction didn't seem to have much weight with the 12 good men and true. We'd like to hear the husband's opinion.

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France and Russia.

From the Philadelphia Record. France has been the most determined opponent of the Soviet regime, with the possible exception of the United States, because the French investments in Russia before the war and the French purchases of Russian bonds had been enormous and the Soviet repudiated the public debt and confiscated the private property.

The Soviet regime has been consuming the public and private capital of Russia, and production has fallen to incredibly small proportions. While the immediate occasion of last year's famine was climatic, yet the reduction in agricultural production was less than the reduction of several lines of industrial production. The country is not supporting itself, and it needs money. It tried at Genoa and The Hague to get the hated capitalistic countries to lend it something less than two billion dollars. But when a man is "broke" and his business has gone to smash his need of a loan is at its maximum, and the disposition of any one to lend him anything is at a minimum. Russia was willing to make large concessions to the capitalistic countries, but at Genoa it defended its right to confiscate while promising not to confiscate any more if a couple of billions were lent to it. It did not get anything.

At Genoa Russia and Germany felt that they were treated as outlaws and that they had common interests in antagonizing the Western Powers, in addition to the commercial interests that had long bound the two countries, the man-power and materials of Russia and the capital and business capacity of Germany. And so the treaty of Rapallo was made between the two.

But Germany, with a vast indemnity to pay, could not be of much financial help to Russia, and while that country could give great aid to Germany, the event of war it was quite uncertain whether the Germans would fight, and rather doubtful about the amount of aid Germany could give Russia if the latter got into a war. Consequently Rapallo was not quite enough. In spite of that, Russia was anxious to establish close relations with France.

France was more disposed to accept Russian terms than it was at Genoa because the Ruhr and Lausanne had occurred since then. And Russia is probably willing to give more than it offered in Genoa and talk less about the justification for confiscation. France has trouble enough with Germany, its relations with England are subject to some strain, and the Turks have turned and bitten the hand that fed them. The economic situation in Russia is growing worse. Both countries have felt the need of more friends and fewer enemies, more principal for Russia and more interest for France.

So we learn that a French financial and commercial mission is about to go to Moscow, and it is conjectured that the groundwork for an agreement on the recognition of debts and security for foreign capital was laid by the French and Russian delegates to the Lausanne conference. Sense of their need of each other has been growing in France and Russia since the oratorical fireworks with which the Genoa conference closed.

Social functions during the Pinchot administration will have to get along with Frank P. Willits, Secretary of Agriculture, in an ordinary dark business suit or else get along without him. The new Secretary of Agriculture told members of the cabinet at a conference with the Governor that he never owned a dress suit and did not propose to own one now. "I guess I'm long on farming, but short on society," he said. "I've lived on a farm all my life and have worn out a good many dozen pairs of overalls, but I never found it necessary yet to get into a dress suit." The dress suit question, as far as Secretary Willits is concerned, is closed.

A workman on his way to lunch is protected by the State Workmen's Compensation act. Judge George S. Criswell has ruled in Venango county court. He dismissed exceptions filed by Mrs. Margaret Flannigan, of Oil City, Pa., against Day & Zimmerman and the Liberty Insurance company. The court directed that the full amount of the award by the compensation insurance board be paid without delay. This amounts to \$8 a week for 300 weeks, with \$100 for expense of last illness and burial, or \$2500 in all. The husband, Thomas Flannigan, met his death while crossing the tracks of the Pennsylvania railroad while going to lunch.

Pittsburgh police have decided that a woman whose body was found in a bathroom in the Anderson Hotel in that city on Saturday morning, shot three times, had committed suicide. There was nothing about her to reveal her identity, her only possession being two two-cent stamps. She was not registered at the hotel, and the employees said they never had seen her before. She was about 30 years old, was dressed in an expensive tailored suit and had silk underwear. Another element of interest was added to the mystery when it was learned that an unidentified woman suffering from alcoholism had been wandering in the corridors of the hotel Friday night and had been arrested not far from the bathroom where the tragedy occurred. She was sent to a hospital for questioning later.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Governor Pinchot authorized the observance of April 13 and 20 as arbor days and bird days.

Miss Ethel K. Striebert, of Cleveland, has been elected assistant principal of the York High school.

Sitting in a rocking chair, Miss Carrie Fiscus, aged 57 years, was found dead in her room in New Kensington.

From a fall in which she suffered a broken hip, Mrs. P. H. Teats, aged 85 years, died at her home at a Sunbury suburb.

Claiming her vocation as a washwoman was ruined because of injuries, Filomena Duprospero, of Norristown, has sued Helen Malcahy, of Conshohocken, for \$10,000 damages because of being run down by Miss Malcahy's automobile, which ran onto the sidewalk.

As the result of stubbing the big toe of his right foot while walking out of his bathroom several weeks ago, Matthew F. Fox, aged 58, one of the best known business men of Pottsville, died on Monday. Gangrene set in because of the injury, and blood poisoning of the entire system followed.

At a meeting before Squire David Ruffler, of Madera, Friday night, Mrs. Russell Doyle, teacher of the third room of the Beccaria school, pleaded guilty to the charge of assault and battery on the person of Marce Koplichic, 12 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Koplichic. She was fined \$30.25, the costs of the case.

W. M. Grant Corbet, a well known young farmer near New Castle, met with a terrible death last week when he was attacked by a bull while performing his duties about the farm. The animal's horns pierced his neck, his skull was fractured and his chest crushed. Corbet was a veteran of the world war and was recently married. He served with the army of occupation in Germany. His body was found by his wife, who had gone to call him to the house.

It is estimated by the officials of the Cambria Steel company quarry that 200,000 tons of rock were dislodged Saturday at Nagay, in one blast. Seven holes were drilled with 1,000 pounds of dynamite in each hole. Each hole was drilled down through the rock 80 feet and was set back twenty-one feet from the face of the quarry with seventeen feet of space between each hole. Box charges will be used by the workmen in order that the large pieces may be made small enough to handle.

As the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal church at Thompsontown, Juniata county, filed out for the morning services on Sunday, flames broke out in the basement of the structure. Turning fire fighters, the congregation organized a bucket brigade and attempted to extinguish the fire. Their efforts were futile and the church burned to the ground, causing a loss estimated at from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The parsonage built against the church was saved through the efforts of the fire fighters.

Sergeant D. H. Austin, of the Greensburg troop of the state police, was fined \$25 in Common Pleas court at Pittsburgh on Monday for failure to obey a writ of habeas corpus issued last week. Helen Hess had been acquitted in federal court for alleged violation of the federal narcotic law, and was immediately arrested by Sergeant Austin on the state charge. Her attorney obtained the writ of habeas corpus, which the trooper did not obey. In court on Monday the habeas corpus matter was disposed of by placing the woman under \$10,000 bail. She was at once rearrested by Sergeant Austin and an additional bond placed at \$10,000.

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