

—And this is spring. —The new moon is lying too far around to the north to make it safe for you to shake your flannels—if you wear 'em.

—Those fifteen miners who presented themselves to the sheriff of Somerset yesterday because they couldn't raise the bail that would give them release until their trial for contempt, next April, put that officer in a nasty hole. His bastille would hold only five more and there were fifteen in this party. He just plumb refused to let them in.

—Let's get behind Billy Betts' bill to bond the State for eight million dollars to make The Pennsylvania State College what it ought to be. We bonded her for fifty million for joy riding. Why not bond her for eight more to put sense enough into the heads of coming generations to understand that good roads are an economic, not a frivolous, requisite of progress.

—We fear the Governor is losing too much power to make it on high. He slipped back into second on Tuesday when he acceded to the demand for a change in his proposal of making hospital appropriations in a lump sum to the Welfare Department. Don't be surprised if he goes into low in a week or so and finds his machine struggling along with only two cylinders hitting.

—The auditor's statement of the condition of Bellefonte has just been made public. On the face of it we appear to be in debt \$78,911.73. That isn't so bad, especially when comparison with the last statement indicates that we are going down—not up. We're a couple of hundred iron men better off in 1923 than we were in 1922. But how much of the \$36,548.80 in delinquent taxes and paving assessments counted as assets are good? Tell us that and we'll tell you whether the auditor's statement is a mere book-keeping record or a statement of fact.

—The lamented Roger Brouse had a pet phrase to the effect that a man ought to be one of two things: Either a mouse or a long-tailed rat. The news from Harrisburg indicates that our Member, the Hon. Tom Beaver, has stood up to be counted among the long-tailed rats and, whether he is right or wrong, in principle, we think he should win the admiration of his constituency for having had the courage to move out of the ranks of the pussey-footers and tell the Governor that he isn't both the executive and legislative branches of the government.

—The Philipsburg jingler, whose rhyme, not rhythm, appears in another column of this issue, has spiked our guns completely. When we look over the list of those who are willing to immolate themselves on the altar of public service to Centre county we have to admit that the Centre of the Republican universe seems to be in Bellefonte. Of the ten candidates, thus far announced, eight are from Bellefonte and Spring township and there are more to follow. All the Republicans in the other sixty precincts in the county are expected to do us produce the votes. Their bosses in Bellefonte can be relied on to supply the men to be voted for.

—What right has the Legislature of Pennsylvania or any other State to make it unlawful for any community to have daylight saving, if it wants to, yet that is exactly what the Derrick bill is designed to do. If Bellefonte elects to start to work at six a. m. and quit at 4 p. m. what business is it of the people of Bedford? Daylight saving during the war brought more of God's sunlight into the faces of the country's toilers, brought more little folks to know their fathers and brought more happiness for homes that have mighty little of it than anything we ever knew of. Adopted as a war measure it would have been continued as a peace practice had it not been for the opposition of the farmers and for the life of us we have never been able to figure out how it enforced half the inconvenience or loss on them that it was declared to have done.

—The Pennsylvania Railroad Co., having issued orders to its trainmen to eliminate all noises and rough handling of sleeping cars, so that their occupants may be as little disturbed as possible while trying to rest, has done something constructive, recreatively, for the night traveler. Before the day we got curious to find out whether two could really live cheaper than one we admit having had some experience in night traveling. In fact, we recall one session of twenty-eight successive nights in an upper. We've been too cold, too hot, rolled clear out into the aisle, worried about whether the porter would call us in time for a connection, had some of the hair we no longer have scraped off on the partition panel by a rough engineer at a division point and all the other torments that night rider's pay for enduring, but we don't recall anything that disturbed us half so much as the fellow traveler in the next berth who snored and snored and snored through it all. Orders are orders, of course, and the trainmen will do their best, but there will be no joy in sleeping cars on the Pennsy until the Pullman conductor is authorized to apply mutes or mufflers to them that lie on their backs and forget that their adenoids work while they sleep.

Democratic Watchman

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Feeble Scheme of the Machine.

The latest scheme of the Republican machine to "outwit" the Governor must have been conceived in the brain of a paster and folder, or some other sub-cellar employee of the General Assembly. The plan is to take a recess when all legislation has been disposed of and reassemble to act on measures that have been vetoed by the Governor. An adjournment would leave the Governor in absolute control of legislation enacted within ten days of the date of adjournment. A recess would place the Governor under the necessity of returning the measure with his objections within ten days of the date he receives it and upon reassembling after the recess the legislation could be passed, "objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding."

When the late Senator Boies Penrose died obviously the brains of the Republican machine "were interred with his remains." It was thought that Mr. W. Harry Baker, who had so long maintained intimate personal relations with him, had acquired sufficient understanding of his methods to successfully administer his political estate. A shadow of doubt was cast over this illusion when Gifford Pinchot was allowed to buy a nomination for Governor at a comparatively small cost at the primaries, but the machine victory in electing Baker for chairman sort of revived faith. Recent events, however, have completely dispelled even the hope of restoring the machine to power. It is as dead as the most ancient mummy in the mind of the most enthusiastic necrologist.

Governor Pinchot has acquired a "strangle hold" on the present Legislature. Ignorant of the provisions of the constitution and unfamiliar with the practical work of the administration he messed things up woefully at the start. But his wife seems to have rescued him from the quagmire of blunders into which he had plunged and now he is safely seated on the throne of authority and able to snap his fingers at his opponents. He may fail to force his budget in its entirety, because local pride and conscious merit of some of the local charities will encourage Senators and Representatives to rebellion. But under no circumstances will any of his vetoes be overcome. Two-thirds of the General Assembly will not antagonize him on any question.

The bill that was designed to make a woman who fails to pay her poll tax subject to a prison sentence was defeated on third and final reading in the Senate last week. Our Senator, William I. Betts, voted against it.

Small Progress in Cleaning.

When Governor Pinchot somewhat ostentatiously announced his budget to the General Assembly he positively and confidently asserted that no new taxation would be needed. He and his educated figure man had determined to limit the disbursements of the State government to about ninety million of dollars for the biennium, and existing laws would provide revenues sufficient to pay that amount and discharge the deficit of fifty millions inherited from previous profligate administrations. Of course he contemplated the retention of the anthracite coal tax and all other levies provided by the last Legislature. But Joe Grundy was assured that his pet policy of letting manufacturers go free would be continued.

The Legislature of 1921 appropriated \$116,000,000, the largest sum in the history of the State. In addition to that sum there was expended during the two years some thirty or forty millions which must be provided for in appropriations this year. Since the budget announcement it has been discovered that a mistake of some magnitude like \$18,000,000 was made in the estimate for school expenditures, and that sum added to the total of the deficits will bring the requirements of this Legislature in the matter of appropriations up to the enormous aggregate of about \$140,000,000, with the chances that some of the most meritorious of the State institutions will be left to suffer because of insufficient funds.

This is "cleaning up the mess at Harrisburg" with a vengeance. It is the logical result, however, of electing a dreamer to the office of Governor, or allowing such a character to buy the office with the view of promoting his more or less absurd ambition to be President of the United States. Governor Pinchot will succeed, no doubt, in forcing his enforcement legislation through the Legislature, and he may get most of his budget legislation through. But he will not "clean up the mess" and the State will be fortunate if it is not engulfed in a worse mess at the end of his administration. But the people of Pennsylvania have made their bed and they must lie in it.

Legislators are Indignant.

A week ago the signs plainly indicated the passage of the Pinchot enforcement bill in the House of Representatives. It had passed the Senate by a surprisingly large majority and there was no perceptible reason to expect a reversal in the House. But subsequent events have materially altered the legislative horizon with respect to that subject. The publication by the State Council of Republican Women of a list of members alleged to have given pledges of support has created such a volume of resentment as may defeat the measure. On Monday evening three of the Representatives claimed as committed to the bill declared that they had not given such a pledge and will not vote for it.

The State Council of Republican Women was organized by Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, presumably for the purpose of promoting the plans of the Governor. The list of members pledged to support the enforcement legislation was given to the head of the Council by the Governor. In protesting against it Representative Haas, of Lehigh county, said "the person or persons who told the Governor that I would support this bill or any other special program, told a deliberate falsehood." An impression is current and increasing in volume, that nobody told the Governor that and that he invented the story not only with respect to Mr. Haas but in relation to several other men in the published list.

The enforcement bill was received in the House on Monday evening and promptly referred to the committee on Law and Order. It will be reported without delay and take the regular course. There will be no effort to prolong the consideration or delay action but it will be discussed fully and freely. If the vote had been taken last week the chances are it would have passed by a safe majority. Now there is no certainty of that result. Governor Pinchot expresses confidence, but as a rule his estimates are crude guesses and the indignation expressed at the misrepresentation of pledges may cause the defeat of the bill. The Governor dictates too much, some Legislators say.

Senator W. I. Betts, on Monday evening, introduced a bill providing for a constitutional amendment authorizing a bond issue for \$8,000,000 to make necessary improvements and erect much needed buildings at The Pennsylvania State College.

Daugherty Speaks for Harding.

The statement of Attorney General Daugherty to the effect that Warren Gamaliel will be a candidate for reelection may be taken as ex cathedra. Most people accepted the announcement of Senator Watson, of Indiana, supported in some measure by Secretary of Commerce Hoover and the appointment of Harry New as Postmaster General removed any reasonable doubts. The matter might well have been left there so far as the public is concerned. But Congressman Clyde Kelley turned the joke of Pinchot's ambition into a serious proposition by suggesting our Governor as a suitable figure for prohibitionists to rally around, and that probably induced Mr. Daugherty to speak.

But even that will hardly account for the manner in which the Attorney General has spoken. "The President will be a candidate. There will be no other candidates for the nomination," he said, "except one, and he is always a candidate." Who that is is left to conjecture. It might be LaFollette or it might be Senator Johnson, of California. Both of them were mentioned in the convention that nominated Harding in 1920, and Johnson still thinks he was cheated out of the nomination. But he has not always been a candidate. In fact with that single exception he has never been a candidate, so that Daugherty's statement doesn't quite fit him. It is not easy to see how it can be applied to LaFollette, either.

Moreover Mr. Daugherty in his zeal to promote the interests of Harding adds: "The President will be renominated and re-elected. The country and the party will demand it." This is certainly surprising. At least so far as observation goes there has been no very loud shouting for Harding outside of the postmasters and revenue officers who are in the enjoyment of his official favors. Possibly this contingent constitutes the party, as Mr. Daugherty understands the matter, and certainly it will have a good deal to do with the selection of the candidate. But there is little available evidence that the country is greatly concerned about the future of Warren Gamaliel.

If the American Law Institute carries out its expressed purpose to "simplify justice" it will accomplish a great and useful result. But it will vastly diminish the revenue of the lawyers.

The Hon. Tom Beaver Has a Run-in With the Governor.

Big news is coming out of Harrisburg these days. Senators and Members are dropping the petticoats, standing up on their hind feet and declaring that, notwithstanding the Nineteenth amendment, they still wear the pants when it comes to legislation.

For weeks there have been signs that the worms would turn under the Pinchot heel and now they're doing it. Monday night they passed the anthracite tax repealer bill and a regular rebellion broke out against the Governor's prohibition enforcement act because women lobbyists first tried to vamp then scare the men into support of it. Resentment against the tactics of Mrs. Leah Cobb Marion, president of the State Council of Republican Women, in attempting to stampede members of the House into voting for the Pinchot enforcer on the ground that they had "pledged" their support in the campaign last fall.

There was talk of calling Mrs. Marion before the House to have her explain where she obtained the list of "pledged" members, or at least have her submit a statement defending her position or revealing the source of her information. Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, wife of the Governor, has been drawn into the controversy, and in some quarters it is charged she is responsible for publication of the list and the statement demanding that the lawmakers mentioned stand by their alleged campaign pledges.

Indications that even Governor Pinchot has little faith in the genuineness of the "pledges" were presented when he sent for several members of the House and endeavored to get flat declarations that they would vote for the measure. Among those invited to the sounding-out party were Representative Beaver, of Centre county, and Representative Behney, of Lebanon. The names of both lawmakers appeared in the list of Mrs. Marion.

BEAVER TELLS IT TO THE GOVERNOR Both told the Governor they made no pledge to support the pending dry bill, although the Centre county Representative admitted he went along on the proposition to "drive the saloons out of the State." Beaver is said to have informed the Governor that from the beginning he was opposed to the provision of the bill authorizing searching of private homes and, even with this clause slightly modified, he is not in sympathy with the measure. The Governor then said to him: "Don't you think your promise to help drive the saloons out of the State helped to get you some votes in Centre county?"

"Maybe it did," Beaver is said to have responded, "but the fact is that I carried the county and you didn't."

The Hon. Thomas Beaver presented the Bellefonte hospital appropriation bill in the House last week and it was immediately referred to the committee on appropriations. The presentation of the bill was more or less of a formality. If the Governor's budget system is adopted the local institution will be cared for through the Department of Public Welfare, but if it should fail of passage the hospital's bill will be already in the hands of the committee that would then have to act on it.

The country is waiting patiently for a word from Senator Lodge on the question of going into the International Court of Justice. Of course that word will come, for Lodge can't live outside the favor of the President.

Those Chicagoans who are about to invest \$15,000,000 in the building of a hotel must think that the Volstead act will be repealed sooner or later.

Every little helps. By the defeat of the subsidy bill the tax payers will save the hundred million dollars a year it would have given to the ship owners.

Secretary Hoover wants government building operations held off until next year so as to make prosperity during the presidential campaign.

If some wise guy would suggest to Germany that the way to resume specie payments is "to resume," he might do a lot of good.

One trouble with women in politics is that there are so many women who seem to have nothing to do but talk politics.

The indications are that King Tut was very wealthy, but it's hardly fair to accuse him of having been a bootlegger.

Spring and the blizzard appear to have come in on the same train.

Sabotage in the Ruhr.

From the Philadelphia Record. A French troop train has been thrown from the track, a bridge has been blown up by dynamite, and telegraph and telephone wires have been cut, which it will require six months to replace. This is sabotage in its most serious form. The authority in existence at the time and place has got to punish this if it can.

But it was inevitable that the occupation of the Ruhr by the French should lead to serious sabotage. And that sabotage will lead to severe penalties and reprisals, and this in turn will lead to more derailments and more dynamite explosions and more destruction of means of communication. It was because these things would be inevitable that the friends of France deplored the excursion into the Ruhr.

Germany must pay, but it has paid a good deal. There is grave doubt whether it can, or will, pay 132,000,000 gold marks, and American and English friends of France believed it would be better to give Germany more time, and perhaps reduce the principal, than to embark upon a military adventure. The French government may have had no purpose beyond putting upon Germany pressure that would force it to pay faster, but the French people applauded the invasion because they felt that it would lead to the annexation of the left bank of the Rhine.

Of France's Allies, Italy takes no action. Great Britain proclaims its neutrality and points to the violation of the peace treaty by some of the French operations east of the Rhine. Only Belgium has associated itself with France, and Belgium is conspicuously lacking in enthusiasm, has warned France not to think of annexing any territory, and insisted that the Ruhr shall be evacuated progressively as Germany pays money. Possibly this explains why Germany, in arrears to other Allies, is punctual in paying 48,000,000 gold marks due to Belgium.

Germany is waiting for something to happen. The powerful English Labor party is demanding that the British government oppose the Ruhr proceedings, and the Labor party may come into possession of the government at any time. Bonar Law has already warned France more than once that it may do that which will compel England to withdraw from the continent, and that would dissolve the Entente.

This is precisely what Germany is hoping for, and what Premier Law may at any moment be compelled to do. On the last vote that involved the Ministry Mr. Law's majority fell to 48. Three members of the government have been defeated in their constituencies. Mr. Law is trying to maintain himself between France on one side and the Labor party, with a good deal of the Liberal party, on the other. He may at any time throw France overboard to save himself.

That would be the moment for which Germany is waiting. When that comes there will be something worse than sabotage. Hence it is of the utmost importance to the peace of the world to reach an adjustment. The United States will do nothing because the Administration is not interested in anything that happens in Europe. England has done nothing so far because Mr. Law is still clinging to the Entente. Germany will make no direct overtures. France will make no overtures that are not direct. And meanwhile acts of violence, shootings, sabotage and reprisals are going on in the Ruhr.

Hope for the Hardboiled.

From the New York Herald. The President has tenderly picked Mondell out of the pile of discarded Republican Representatives and deposited him in the office of the War Finance Corporation as a director. If such appointments must be, this one was appropriate—a hang-over Congressman sent to a hang-over bureau of the government.

Presently the War Finance Corporation will disappear, and then perhaps a job elsewhere can be found for Mondell. He has had the officeholding habit for 35 years, and it is hard for an addict like that to be reformed. His grief at being turned down by Wyoming may not be perfectly assuaged by this new and comparatively obscure job, though he will get \$12,000 in the place of \$7500, the wage of a Congressman. Keeping him on the payroll means much to a politician of the Mondell type. And it will give hope to other discarded politicians not yet cared for.

And Now Japan.

From the Dearborn Independent. Plapperism has invaded Japan. The Herald of Asia is protesting against this importation and complains that some of their more light-minded girls are trying to emulate this latest affliction of a much-suffering civilization. Bobbed hair, short skirts and raucous-tongued pertness are conspicuous in the port cities of Japan as well as Tokyo.

Subject Unimportant.

From the Boston Herald. In learning that Senator Borah spoke in our national chamber for two hours and three minutes on the recognition of Russia, will the Russians learn also that any other theme would have served his purpose quite as well?

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Elmer Groff, of Bareville, Lancaster county, last week purchased at the public sale of the household effects of Mrs. Peter Wenger an old chest. His bid was \$14. On getting the chest home he made an investigation and found \$25 hidden in one of the compartments.

—A message from Washington, D. C., announces the death in a hospital there of Elizabeth King, 8 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John King, of Reading. The child was taken ill with sleeping sickness a week ago while visiting relatives in Knoxville, Va., and was then sent to the hospital.

—After withdrawing a sum of money estimated at \$9500 from a Bethlehem bank, Mrs. Helen Gross, aged 24 years, wife of Harry Goss, who conducts a store in that city, left on Saturday for parts unknown. She left a note telling her husband that she was leaving him and that he could dispose of the property as he sees fit.

—Burglars cracked two safes at Sharpsville on Sunday night and were rewarded for their night's work by getting only \$2. The office of the Wade Mertz Coal company was entered. There was no money in the safe. The safe in the Bert Roberts' store was not locked, but the burglars locked it in attempting to open it. They then knocked off the combination and blew the door off. They got 200 pennies.

—Mrs. Amelia Hahn Nichols, of Columbia, Pa., is seeking her daughter, Catherine, Hahn, who is now about 21 years old and whom the mother has not seen since she was a child. After an estrangement between Catherine's mother and father, James Hahn, the child was placed by the father in the home for the friendless in Reading. When Catherine was 3 years old she was taken from the home and adopted by a family whose name the mother does not know.

"Holy Moses, a royal flush," exclaimed Charles Haas as he sat in a poker game at Pittsburgh, on Sunday. He had drawn the jack and ten of spades. The ace, king and queen he had held. Two other players thought his remark was a bluff and prepared to cover his bets. Haas reached for his chips, prepared to burden the mahogany with the size of his wager. Before they were placed in the pot he had died of a paralytic stroke. He had been in apparently good health.

—Fifteen state troopers under command of Lieutenant W. C. Snyder, of the Pottsville barracks, raided a cockpit near Shamokin, on Saturday, and arrested 154 participants and witnesses and confiscated about thirty game chickens. Justice Hestler transformed the cockpit into a temporary court, and one by one the prisoners were arraigned and each fined \$10. Twenty-six were without the necessary funds and were sent to the county jail at Sunbury to serve ten days, but at that the harvest of fines totalled \$1280.

—A coroner's jury in the office of deputy coroner Charles Howell, of Pittston, has placed responsibility for the death of Peter Dominic and his children, Lucy and Louis, upon the People's Light company, of Pittston. The father and his two children died from the effects of illuminating gas escaping from a gas main in front of their home in Pittston township about a month ago. Through the jury placed responsibility for the tragedy on the company, it failed to offer any recommendations to the district attorney's office to prosecute.

—John E. DuBois, of DuBois, has added another item to his long list of public benevolences. He has turned the spacious DuBois fair grounds over to the American Legion post for a period of three years. The legionnaires have already proved their ability to handle large public events, and have arranged for a big Fourth of July celebration, as well as several other celebration numbers for the coming summer. Their biggest bet, however, is a revival of the DuBois fair, upon the same basis that made it the most important fair in that section of the State a decade ago.

—John H. Miller, of Lewistown, better known as the coal, lumber and iron king of central Pennsylvania, is building himself a mausoleum on the Miller farm, located one and one-half miles due east of Lewistown. The spot is at the head of the Lewistown Narrows, one of the most picturesque in all central Pennsylvania. The mausoleum will be 15 feet long by 10 feet high, built of solid reinforced concrete covered by a foot of granite on which will be erected a monument of granite 20 feet high. The monument will stand in the center of an acre of ground which will be used as the family burying ground. The monument will cost \$20,000.

—For half an hour early last Thursday morning a burglar hid in the bedroom of Peter G. Cameron, State Banking Commissioner, at Harrisburg, while he slept and Mrs. Cameron watched the intruder. Mrs. Cameron was afraid to awaken her husband for fear that he would try to capture the robber, unarmed. The burglar was armed and stood in the corner apparently under the belief that Mrs. Cameron was not sleeping soundly. Mrs. Cameron finally awakened her husband, remarking that she was sick and in need of a doctor. The burglar ran, pursued by the Banking Commissioner, but made his escape. He took a \$200 necklace.

—C. H. Graff, second deputy Banking Commissioner, on Thursday last week took charge of the Farmers-Mechanics bank, at Honesdale, upon a report by George W. Brown, banking examiner, that he had discovered defalcations amounting to \$50,000, which, together with alleged bad loans, he reported, would bring the total loss to approximately \$168,000. Warrants were issued for the arrest of C. A. Emery, cashier, who is charged with manipulating notes, altering accounts and other practices to conceal the shortages. The bank was incorporated May 7th, 1907. It has a capital stock of \$75,000, surplus of \$45,000, undivided profits of \$23,000, and more than \$800,000 deposits.

—Placing the safety of his father above the value of his own life, Daniel Kerr, aged 25 years, world war veteran, of Portage, took a death ride on a runaway mine car Sunday noon in the Beachley No. 6 mine, rather than jump to safety. The younger Kerr was bringing a trip down the mine slope when a coupling parted and his car started to dash down the grade. Knowing his father, David Kerr, was at the bottom of the slope, Daniel stuck to his post in an effort to lessen the speed of the runaway car. When the car crashed into a pile of coal, young Kerr sustained internal injuries which resulted in his death an hour later at his home. The father witnessed the accident.