

—So far as helping the Governor is concerned that's what the Legislature is doing everything but.

—Why does it so frequently happen that the man who takes the longest belt usually requires the smallest hat?

—If winter doesn't stop this lingering in the lap of spring let us hope that summer will make it hot for her.

—'Twas midnight in the cellar And dad was in a stew; 'Cause Johnny ate the raisins Stored up for his home brew.

—Jess Willard did come back. How long he will stay will be determined entirely by the amiability of his next ring host.

—Judging from the way the early fruit came through last week's freeze we must be gradually developing blossoms and buds of the anti-freeze variety.

—Always we thought it was: "Ladies first." Yet up in Canada, where they had a man and woman to hang, they led the man to the gallows first in order to be polite to the lady.

—Wednesday we ate new onions out of our own garden and thought summer was here sure. But yesterday winter set in again and we've about given up hope of ever needing an ice cream suit again.

—The wreck of the London to Paris air express, with the loss of six lives, two prominent Americans among them, convinces us all the more of the wisdom of keeping one's feet on the ground; there's more of a chance to pick a soft place to land on.

—And now Harrisburg announces that it is going to take twenty million dollars in new revenue to "clean up the mess" at the capitol. Aren't we the boob, fellow taxpayer? Didn't we have an idea that Gif. told us last fall that he was going to clean it up for nothing?

—And they used to lay all the crimes of youth to the "dime novels." Why one of our modern automobile handits makes the escapades of the James boys, Nick Carter and Jeppo the Hunchback read like they must have been mere frolics at a Sunday school picnic.

—Berlin is still insisting that the residents of the Ruhr get themselves into as much trouble as possible, but Berlin is far away from the land of the French occupation and suffers naught from it. Always there must be sumps enough to pull chestnuts out of the fire for others.

—France says she is going to stay in the Ruhr until she is paid. Bull for France. In theory she is all right, but we fear she'll spend so much maintaining herself in the Ruhr that if it is really proven that Germany can't pay any more than she has offered France will be the greater loser.

—By decisive votes the Legislature sent the gasoline, surtax and luxury tax proposals into the discard on Monday night. Now they'll have to start all over to find something on which to raise revenue or quit and come home; leaving the Governor with a great debt to pay, a government to run and no funds to do it with. And we have a suspicion that that's just the game the Legislature is playing.

—Talking about a sugarless Monday and sugar rations to bring down the cost of that commodity, has any one stopped to consider what a cessation in the manufacture of candy for one week might do. Since the war and since the country went dry we believe there is fully twice as much, if not more, candy, ice cream and soft drinks consumed in this country as before. The consumption of sugar for all of these is very great and may have as much to do with the climbing cost as the much talked of speculation.

—If all the governmental atrocities that are being perpetrated in Alaska are true the President is likely to have a lot of anxious moments when he visits that outlying territory during the summer. For years we have been reading of the subjection and exploitation of Alaska by great financial interests in the States, all of which seem to have been fostered by the red tape and isolation of governmental operations there. So that if Mr. Harding expects the trip to be a pleasant one we fear he is doomed to disappointment.

—The inroads that Dan Cupid and other deviators will make in the corps of teachers in the Bellefonte public schools this summer will be viewed by many as a distinct disaster. While all of them have been wonderfully capable in their branches three of them hold a unique position in the field of local educational endeavor and we doubt whether successors can be found who will hold the love of the children and inspire the confidence of the patrons as these three young women have done in Bellefonte for some years.

—On Wednesday the Legislature passed all of the hospital appropriation bills, as they had been reported out of committee, but as they are in considerable excess of the funds available for charity purposes and the Governor has already indicated his intention of cutting everything to the bone they are very much in the same position as the fellow who is all dressed up and has no place to go. The Bellefonte hospital is on the list for \$16,500.00 for the two years which is \$2,500.00 short of what it got two years ago. If the Governor puts a cut on this reduction, it's up to us to make up the deficit.

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Democrats True to Form.

The Democratic Representatives in the Legislature fulfilled their obligations to the people and the party by voting with practical unanimity against the increase of taxation. They stood almost solidly against the increase of the tax on tobacco. They assumed the impregnable position that there is no necessity for increased taxation at this time, and that it is unjust to put additional burdens upon the people already groaning under the weight of excessive taxes. They wisely expressed a willingness to equalize taxes by placing a fair share upon the manufacturing corporations who pay nothing except a contribution to party corruption funds for the protection given them by the State government.

In the discussion of the subject, on the floor of the House on Monday evening, Representative Rhodes, floor leader of the minority, accurately declared the Democratic attitude. "Governor Pinchot campaigned last fall on a platform of economy, efficiency and no new taxation," he said, "and now confusion reigns on the tax problem and from the Governor down we have had nothing concrete on revenue." Representative Sarig, of Berks county, was equally incisive. "It is an attempt," he stated, "to place the burden of taxation on those who would emit the least amount of squeaking. What is planned here," he continued, "is to place the tax on the fellow who is helpless and who is unable to present organized opposition." That is the exact situation.

As the "Watchman" has frequently asserted, there is no public need for additional taxation at this time. It is true that there is a shameful financial mess at Harrisburg, the fruit of criminal purposes. Governor Pinchot has it can be cleaned up within a comparatively brief period by economizing in administration and applying honest and practical methods in discharging the business of the Commonwealth. In the nearly five months of the present administration not a single step has been taken to accomplish this result in this simple way. Not one of the redundant offices has been abolished nor has a single surplus official been dismissed. In his campaign for election the Governor solemnly promised these reforms; "made to the ear they are broken to the hope."

The proposed increased taxes are not needed for the roads, the schools or the hospitals. No additional revenue is required to meet the commercial, industrial or charity obligations of the State. But the sum of twenty millions of dollars is needed for political purposes. Governor Pinchot has become obsessed with an absurd ambition to be President and imagines that with that amount of additional revenue he may achieve results in a couple of years which will mark him as a sort of super-administrator and thus recommend him to the next Republican National convention as an available candidate. It is a well laid scheme, but we can see no reason why the people of Pennsylvania should be taxed to the amount of twenty millions to carry it out.

President Harding's Big Trip.

The itinerary for President Harding's western trip has been arranged, according to Washington news dispatches, and he is now engaged in preparing his speeches. The objective point of his trip is Alaska, where he will spend a few weeks in observations, and during the period of his absence from Washington he will deliver twelve prepared speeches. These the news writers tell the public will take the form of "a report to the American people on the stewardship with which he was intrusted two years ago," and also "an outline of the future policies of his administration."

His first speech will be delivered at St. Louis and will present his views on the proposal for membership in the permanent Court of International Justice. In his message to the Senate just before the close of the last Congress, and his subsequent speech in New York, he has probably said all he has to say on that subject, unless the opposition has forced him into a reversal of his opinions. In the other speeches he will endeavor to discuss subjects of local interest to his audiences, and as he is a skillful phrase maker, he will probably make a strong appeal to the favor of those in attendance.

Of course the pretense that the trip is not an electioneering enterprise is all bosh. Ever since Andrew Johnson made the circuit nearly sixty years ago Presidents aspiring to second terms have made similar trips, and it is worthy of remark that most of them have been disappointed in the results. The experience of Benjamin Harrison and William H. Taft, men infinitely more capable, come to mind and might have served as admonitions. But in any event Harding will cut a good figure and make a pleasing impression on the public mind during his long journey, and we cordially hope it will afford him all the enjoyment possible.

Pinchot Getting Ready to Strike.

Governor Pinchot is about to take the Old Guard bull by the horns, according to the Harrisburg correspondent of the esteemed Philadelphia Public Ledger. The Public Ledger is very friendly to the Governor and exceedingly anxious that he shall have his own way in everything concerning official and political life at the State capitol. "For a long time," writes the correspondent, "many of Mr. Pinchot's friends have been slightly out of patience with him because of his apparent complacent submission to the slings and arrows of an outraged organization, which to all appearances is intent upon destroying him in the public confidence and shattering the platform with which he drove its leaders into the slough of defeat."

Just where these signs of sympathy with the Governor's purposes have revealed themselves to the correspondent is left to conjecture, but they are probably most conspicuous in the executive offices at Harrisburg. In any event, however, the cause of them will be removed in the near future, for though the Governor has not been inclined "to be rough or to seek the destruction of men not in sympathy with his ideals and aspirations," he has finally decided "to use the ax and use it where it will do most effective." This is really interesting information. It will encourage the public to hope for better things, and there is great need for better things in Harrisburg. It must be admitted that the rotten mess that existed has become more putrid since Pinchot assumed control.

It can hardly be said that Senator Max Leslie is the head of the Old Guard, but according to the Ledger's correspondent he is the main stick in the woodpile into which the Pinchot ax is to be plunged in the near future. "Mr. Pinchot has been pushed just as far as he proposes to be pushed," declares the correspondent, and Senator Max Leslie and certain of his colleagues who are fighting the administrative code and other administration bills undoubtedly will awaken to that fact right soon." Senator Shantz, Senator Craig and Senator Sisson are equally culpable, while Senators Daix and Vore, of Philadelphia, are guilty in a somewhat lesser degree. "In this purpose the Governor has the wholehearted sympathy of the public. 'More power to his elbow' and 'let heads fall where they may.'"

At his "home-coming celebration" Uncle Joe Cannon declared that he "wants to retire from public life and live in seclusion." Well, he is retired all right and the manner of his future life depends upon himself.

Enormous Cost of Roads.

The maintenance of the highways of the State will cost twenty-eight million dollars a year, according to a statement made by Highway Commissioner Wright to the committee on roads of the House of Representatives the other day. Of this sum \$4,000,000 will be for general repairs, \$1,500,000 for bituminous treatment of stone roads, \$5,500,000 for resurfacing stone roads, \$5,000,000 for replacing stone roads, \$750,000 for replacing guard rails at dangerous points, \$550,000 for widening roads, \$500,000 for repairing and replacing bridges, \$200,000 for oiling earth roads, \$250,000 for maintaining State-aid roads, and \$1,600,000 for overhead charges on maintenance operations.

In addition to these items of expense there will be disbursed by the Highway Department for expenses of the automobile division the sum of \$600,000, for maintenance of equipment \$400,000, for maintenance of borough roads on state highway system, \$1,750,000, for township rewards \$1,000,000, for the elimination of grade crossings \$1,500,000 and for construction to meet federal aid, \$3,000,000. The estimate on the replacement of stone roads is for a twenty-five year program and that for replacing guard rails at dangerous points for a four year program. It is an ambitious as well as an expensive undertaking and when the cost of construction is added it is actually stunning.

Every thoughtful citizen, man or woman, in the Commonwealth favors good roads, and most of them will concur in the opinion that even so great a sum is wisely disbursed if it is honestly spent. But it is a matter of record that road construction and maintenance costs from thirty to fifty per cent. more in Pennsylvania than in Ohio, New York and New Jersey. Therefore if the program of Highway Commissioner Wright contemplates the continuance of the profligacy indulged in in the past, the people will have a just right to complain and they will complain not only loudly but long. The people of Centre county would be glad to get assurance from some source that extravagance is ended.

The present session of the Legislature threatens to be the longest in the history of the State. It has already proved to be the most worthless.

Lodge Hamstrings Harding.

Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, and his associate bitter-enders are preparing to ham-string President Harding's plan to join the International Court of Justice as they defeated Woodrow Wilson's effort to put this country into the League of Nations. Their scheme is to so hamper the movement with reservations as to alienate its friends in Congress, and in the event of failure of that malicious purpose, to make it impossible for the court to accept the conditions. These lobbyists for war material makers and profiteers are determined to keep the ways open for recurring wars and they oppose any measure or movement that promises permanent world peace.

The International Court of Justice, which has been functioning successfully for nearly three years, is a feature of the League of Nations. Its members are chosen by the assembly of the League and its deliberations are under the authority of the League. The war lobbyists of the Senate have determined to change this method of procedure, if the United States becomes a member. One of the reservations which they propose is that "future vacancies among the judges or deputy judges of the permanent Court of International Justice shall be filled by the nations, members of the court, acting severally and independently, each sovereign nation having an equal vote in such selection."

The sane and sensible method of joining the court would have been to follow the example of the other nations participating in it, that is to say, without reservations or conditions of any kind. But as that seems to be impossible the protocol prepared by Secretary Hughes and President Harding might have been accepted as "a step in the right direction." In the future such alterations might be made in the conditions as would have brought them within the range of reason. But the envious and malignant Lodge imagines that would be gratifying to Woodrow Wilson and he insists on conditions that will not be accepted by the Democrats in Congress or the Court itself.

The cold weather of last week and the succession of hard frosts which prevailed for a number of mornings has not materially damaged the fruit crop in Centre county, according to fruit growers who have examined the plum, early cherry and peach trees. If the weather man is kind and sends no more killing frosts there should be an abundance of all kinds of fruit, as the trees were all heavily laden with blossoms.

We may look for promises of tax reduction and assurances of public debt decreases at frequent intervals from now until after the Presidential election. Some politicians imagine such statements are valuable.

If Germany would try half as hard to meet her obligations under the Versailles treaty as she does to avoid payment of just debts she would have no trouble in getting French troops out of the Ruhr valley.

Whether Ambassador Harvey is home for good or only on a visit a good many thoughtful people will feel easier while he is on this side.

Some of those now striving to keep foreigners out of the country would not be in themselves if their daddies had been kept out.

President Harding would be perfectly willing to go into any international agreement if he had the privilege of starting it first.

Interpreted literally Governor Pinchot's latest threat against the machine leaders looks like a cordial invitation to negotiate.

Mother's day might have afforded greater enjoyment to many a worthy woman if wash day hadn't followed so closely.

Possibly Old Glory is a trifle out of proportions, artistically speaking, but it "looks good" to most of us, notwithstanding.

A combination of strong legs and weak minds ought to guarantee a successful marathon dancer.

Germany's thirty billion gold marks look like thirty cents to President Poincare, of France.

After all it must be admitted that Jupiter Pluvius is the champion forest fire extinguisher.

A law declaring gathering dandelion blossoms a misdemeanor might help some.

The straw hat and May temperature are equally behind time this year.

Reparations and War Debts.

Some time ago French statesmen proposed that if the indemnity from Germany were reduced the war obligations of France to this country and Great Britain should be reduced. The same proposition is now reported from Paris to be a part of the government plan, though it is not formally and officially set forth.

The substance of this is that France does not care who pays the indemnity, so long as it is paid. If America and England are willing to pay a part of it Germany may be released from a portion of its pecuniary penalty. Our government has stated very definitely that it will not allow the indemnity and the war debts to be thus connected.

We are not pressing France for payment, or even for settlement, but as Great Britain has very readily entered into arrangements with this country for the discharge of its debt to us over a period of 62 years it is naturally assumed that in due time France will do the same. We have waived any claim to a part of the indemnity, and we decline to wipe out a part of the French debt in consideration of France's assent to a reduction of the fine imposed upon Germany. The two matters have got to be considered separately and on their respective merits.

But the fundamental question is what Germany can pay and whether the indemnity shall be collected by France, irrespective of its Allies, or by the nations that won the war. The British Chancellor of the Exchequer tells the House of Commons that the government regretted the precipitancy of the Franco-Belgian reply and that it believes Italy is in accord with England, and the government "regretted the loss of an opportunity once more to testify to the solidarity of the Allies by a joint communication to Germany."

Undoubtedly Germany is hoping to escape a good deal of the payment. Its chance of doing this depends chiefly on a division of the Allies. France ignores the nations that rescued it in the world war and England and Italy observe this indication of the impaired solidarity of the Allies. The moral effect upon Germany of a joint reply of the Allies would have been vastly greater than that of the reply of France alone. That moral effect has been defeated by the action of France in replying with only the joint action of Belgium. Germany's hopes that England and Italy may intervene to prevent the Ruhr situation from kindling another war are stimulated by the fact that France acted alone and England and Italy regretted it.

America has only the warmest feelings for France, and it may pursue a generous course regarding the war debt. But it is not to be coerced into wiping out the French debt, or else putting the screws upon Germany, by the effort of France to connect the war debt with German reparations.

A Shrine Worth Preserving.

From the Doylestown Democrat.

The nation-wide movement to raise a million dollars to be expended in the purchase, the restoration and the future preservation of Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, deserves the full support of every subject of the nation regardless of political preference or personal prejudice.

Monticello, situated near the city of Charlottesville and overlooking one of the fairest of Virginia's valleys, is one of the noblest and most historic estates in America. In some respects the house and its immediate natural environs are more impressive than Mount Vernon itself, and that is saying a good deal. In a modest cemetery near the entrance to the estate reposes the dust of the famous American. A simple shaft bears his name, but the inscription makes no reference whatever to the fact of his having been a President of the United States, although the epitaph explicitly states that Jefferson founded the University of Virginia, wrote the Declaration of Independence and was the author of a Bill of Rights.

The most noted men of Jefferson's day were guests at Monticello at one time or another—the great Lafayette among them. Unfortunately, with such a generous heart was its hospitality dispensed by the master of the estate that he bankrupted himself and the place became destined to pass out of family ownership shortly after his death. The political controversies and partisan excesses of that dramatic act of our national play in which Jefferson assumed the leading role is of secondary interest at this time. The inherent greatness of those who were making history then is of primary importance and affords unending interest to succeeding generations. That of Thomas Jefferson is one of "the few, the immortal names that were not born to die."

Lost Confidence in Governor.

From the Clearfield Republican.

Explaining his change of front on the question of knocking Pinchot's \$250,000 spy fund from the General Appropriations bill, Representative Alexander said, "I have lost confidence in the Governor." So will every other red-blooded man or woman who gets close to Gifford, and has the opportunity of taking his actual mental measure. The only kind he will impress and who will likely stay impressed, are the direct opposites of the red-blooded species of humankind.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—During a heavy thunder storm at Allentown, one night last week, Ammon Lattimore, a member of the police force, was struck by lightning as he was running for shelter from the downpour of rain. He was thrown fifteen feet and badly injured.

—A man who breaks his father's jaw is deserving of no sympathy from the court, said Judge Edwards, of Scranton, on Saturday, as he imposed a sentence of two years in the eastern penitentiary on Lester Shafer, 30 years old, who admitted a vicious attack upon his parent.

—A sentence totaling twenty-four years was imposed by Judge Potter, of Columbia county, on George Jacobs, 50 years old, who recently robbed Captain Raub, of the Salvation Army, of \$50. Jacobs had been paroled from the eastern penitentiary, through Raub's efforts, when he was serving time for another robbery.

—The mysterious disappearance of approximately 100 young chickens from the premises of Marion Ruskowski, of Nanticoke, in the heart of the town, was solved last Saturday when the poultry fancier shot a full-grown raccoon prowling about his hennery. The animal had wandered down into town from the mountains, about half a mile away.

—Romeyn Henry Rivenburg, assistant headmaster of the Peddie Institute, at Hightstown, N. J., has been named as the next dean at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, by the committee on instruction of the board of trustees. Mr. Rivenburg is a member of the class of 1897, and has been at Peddie for twenty-five years. He will fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dean Llewellyn Phillips last January.

—Another important coal transaction was consummated at Ebensburg a few days ago whereby the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke corporation, with its main offices in Cresson, purchased the property of the West Branch Coal company from the Bituminous Coal corporation, comprising an acreage of approximately 1,000 acres, located in Barr township, Cambria county. The consideration is said to have been about \$500,000.

—One man was killed and two others seriously wounded in a brawl at a stone quarry shanty near Anville, Pa., late Saturday night. Steve Westmere, 55 years of age, was cut in the back with an axe and killed, while Mike Nocavic was stabbed in the side with a knife, and Lazo Umlotz received a fractured skull. The wounded men, who were taken to a hospital in Lebanon, are not expected to recover. All were quarry workers.

—Members of the Altoona Rotary club are now engaged in compiling a list of the crippled children of Altoona, with a view to having them treated and helped or cured. Where parents are unable to afford the expense of treatment, the club will pay all the bills. Where parents are able to bear part of the expense, the club will assume the remainder. The idea is to make it possible for every child in need to receive the advantage of surgical science and skill.

—Sets of the Dickinson alchometer, a device invented to permit rapid tests for beer and other wet goods taken from bootleggers have been supplied to members of Troop B, state police, at Wyoming, Pa. The contrivance is such that it can be carried in the pocket and a test can be made within five minutes' time. One of the chief purposes of issuing the alchometer is to make it possible for the police to test the contents of brewery trucks without seizing the goods before the nature is actually known.

—Samuel Ditt, 30 years old, is at the Lewistown hospital with a bullet wound in his left arm. Ditt went to Lewistown from Burnham, hunting his former housekeeper and tried to force an entrance to a room occupied by J. T. Campbell at his boarding house. Campbell opened the door cautiously in an answer to his summons, but closed it with heavy pressure from the inside when Ditt forced his arms through the narrow opening. Some one from the inside fired a 32-caliber revolver bullet through the muscles of his arm.

—Simple ceremonies marked the dedication of the \$300,000 Zion Lutheran church, the Rev. Dr. C. R. Bowers, pastor, at Sunbury, on Sunday. More than \$100,000 was pledged during the two services. The Bible class named for Dr. J. M. Francis, of Waynesboro, of which Benjamin Apple is teacher, pledged \$33,000 and paid in cash \$18,500. The Bible class taught by J. William Stroh pledged \$25,000, of which \$12,000 has been paid in cash. The largest individual subscription was that of W. D. Leiby, \$5,000 for chimes for the church tower.

—The elimination of the grade crossing over the Pennsylvania Railroad company tracks near Val station, Snyder township, in Blair county, has been ordered upon complaint of the State Highway Department, the Public Service commission announced last Friday. The crossing is on the state highway known as the "Lake-to-the-Sea" route and will be relocated to avoid curves at each approach. The work is to be completed by October 1, 1923. The expense will be in excess of \$90,000 and will be divided between the railroad company, the county, the township and the Highway Department.

—Judge H. C. Quigley, in criminal court at Pittsburgh last Friday, freed Mrs. Felixia Demshuk, who was charged with attempting to murder her husband. The woman said she had been estranged from her husband, and that when she was physically unable to defend herself, he attacked her. She shot him three times, she said, in self-defense. "No jury in the world would ever convict this woman if her husband had died as a result of this attack," said the judge. "Though the court does not condone such offenses as this woman admits, we cannot brand her as a criminal simply because she defended herself against her husband. Without placing the stamp of approval on her act, we will suspend sentence."

—Signaling his engineer to stop as he lay in the agony preceding death, Thomas Effinger, a brakeman on the Philadelphia and Reading railway, brought his train to a stop in time to avert a possible wreck on the heavy grade between Locustdale and Barry early last Thursday. Effinger, who was a Shamokin resident, was crossing his train when the bottom of a steel hopper car filled with coal on which he was walking, suddenly gave way. He was carried downward with the rush of coal, landing between the tracks, and rolling over one of the rails. Though his right arm and his right leg were cut off, he still firmly gripped his lantern, and in the instant before the wheels passed over his arm flashed a signal which was seen by the engineer who brought the train to a quick stop. He died in the hospital.