

Just when the public is expecting most from the Governor the Mrs. goes off to Europe and leaves Gif all sewed up.

Probably Sunday desecration has nothing to do with it but Monday's papers are always filled with accounts of automobile accidents.

A Memorial day without a penny was very unusual. Did you see one in any of the floral tributes that were laid in the city of the dead?

A few weeks ago the missing sun spots had us thinking that real summers were a thing of the past. After the last few days' experience most of us are hoping that the missing spots get back in their places and shut off part of the heat.

To our dear old friend Chaplain Y., we suggest the idea that Al Smith signed the repealer of the Mullan-Gage law in New York because the voters of that sovereign State elected him with the understanding that he would sign such a repealer if it were put up to him.

They had a prize fight for a charitable benefit in Chicago last week. Being a charitable affair the government got no tax. The gross receipts were fifty-five thousand dollars and after the promoters and the pug took their share there were twenty-five dollars left for charity. Now isn't charity the tinkling cymbal and sounding brass, in this year of our Lord 1923?

The Phillipsburg Ledger is conducting a straw vote for President. Among the possibilities named by the Ledger as prospective candidates we notice every name but that of Henry Ford and our own. We can understand why the Hon. Harry Scott, the angel of the Ledger, passed Henry up. That is because he never had to ride in a fliver, but we're peeved—just plain peeved—because he hasn't given the world a suggestion that we might make a potential candidate.

Senators Pepper and Reed were in DuBois on Monday on their much touted tour of Pennsylvania. The distinguished gentlemen are getting acquainted with the back woods folks who elected them as their representatives in Congress. Of course there's no politics in their present pilgrimage and for that reason the King boy who blew off four toes while exploding fireworks to acclaim their arrival at Glen Campbell can't hope to have a look in for postmaster of that village while they are in the Senate.

We believe that Dr. Finegan is a very competent educator. We do not believe that Fineganism is a good thing for the State of Pennsylvania. We also believe that Governor Pinchot is proving himself a very "weak sister" by not coming out with a statement that he will appoint or discard Finegan. And if we were Dr. Finegan, feeling as secure of our ability and usefulness, as his friends and advocates insist that he is, we'd tell Governor Pinchot to go to the old job of being Superintendent of Public Instruction for Pennsylvania.

The residents of south Allegheny street have given council a nut to crack. They want that thoroughfare, meaning the portion from Bishop to the reservoir, "repaired and fixed up in general." They have a perfect right to make such a request and anybody looking at the street will grant that it is just. But what is council going to do about it? The hill is so steep that money spent on ordinary paving would all be wiped out with the first heavy rain storm, as has been the case for years. It is doubtful whether property holders in that section would vote to bear their share of a permanent paving debt and for a section of street that leads to no through road the rest of the town would be justified in refusing a major improvement such as paving with cobbles would be. South Allegheny has been renewed often and almost as often the surface has had to be carted away from the foot of the hill at Bishop street. It might be possible that asphalt-macadam, if well rolled and crowned, with capacious, strong gutters, would hold as far as Logan street, but above that council has a problem.

It is just possible we are away off in our calculations, but as we happen to know that brick paving was once laid at from fourteen to sixteen thousand dollars a mile the thought occurs that it might now be laid at least for forty thousand. If we are any way near right we suggest to council the adoption of a policy of laying a block or two of brick paving in Bellefonte every year. On the basis of our calculation it would not mean an expenditure of more than three or six thousand dollars annually. In all Bellefonte needs about seven blocks of permanent road construction to take care of every inch of heavy traffic it has, outside of the thoroughfares partially cared for by State aid laws. We include High street from the Diamond to the bridge, two blocks; Spring street from Bishop to Linn, four blocks, and High street from the Pennsylvania tracks to Thomas, one block. The entire distance is not more than half a mile and could be made permanent, we think, for less than the borough paid for the two fire pumps. Council made good on its proposition to buy and pay for the pumps in a definite time and it seems to us that the same brains that worked on the pumps might, very advantageously to the tax payers, consider a program for an annual outlay on permanent street improvement.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 68. BELLEFONTE, PA., JUNE 8, 1923. NO. 23.

Finegan the "Fly in the Ointment."

"Fineganism" is the fly in the Pinchot ointment. During the campaign last fall Dr. Finegan employed every agency of the school system in behalf of Pinchot in consideration of his open pledge that he would reappoint the superintendent if the commission which he had appointed would recommend such action. The commission investigated and cordially endorsed Finegan. But Mrs. Pinchot, with or without inquiry on the subject, has taken the opposite view and the Governor is "between the devil and the deep sea." The superintendent's term has expired and Mrs. Pinchot is in Europe. The Governor apparently won't appoint without her consent and she is not even within telephone distance to speak.

The constitution of the State requires that an appointment to that office shall be for four years and the tenure is beyond the control of the Governor. That is to say, when the appointment is made it stays for the full period unless there is "cause" for removal. The Governor tried to evade this mandate of the organic law by entering into an agreement with Finegan similar to that made with Governor Sprout when he got his salary as Commissioner of Forestry increased in violation of the constitution. But Finegan declined to join the conspiracy. His oath to "support, obey and defend" the constitution probably restrained him, though the Governor's equally binding obligation was ignored.

Now the League of Women Voters has taken the matter up and threaten to "make it hot" for the Governor unless he appoints Finegan for the full term. These women contributed largely toward his election and are sorely disappointed because the Governor shows a purpose to make the public schools a "foot ball of politics." They are unable to see how the Governor can flout the constitution. "It is clear," the women declare, "that the constitution intended that the Superintendent of Public Instruction should have a special rank and be as far removed from politics as possible." But they don't understand Pinchot. There is nothing sacred in him except his absurd ambition to become President.

Two cents a pound tax on sugar costs the American consumers a vast sum but the President doesn't think it worth while to strike off the tax as long as the profits go to the Sugar trust.

Bootleggers Will Suffer Most.

The ultra and unreasoning prohibitionists of the country are comforting themselves with the notion that the New York Governor's approval of the bill repealing the Mullan-Gage law is weakened by the inference that it is a bid for the Democratic nomination for President next year. There is nothing farther from the fact. Governor Smith, of New York, is not a candidate for President and is not likely to be beguiled into such an aspiration. As he has himself said he is quite content with his present job and has no ambition for higher honors. His aspiration is to measure up to the highest standard as Governor, fulfill his obligations to the people who elected him and serve his State faithfully.

In carrying out the purposes of these ultra and unreasoning prohibitionists one of the minor news associations undertook to canvass the leading Democrats in the country on the subject the other day, and submitted questions to the National committee of the Democratic party. In the published result of this inquiry it is not stated how many committeemen were interrogated but those for Kansas, Texas and North Carolina are quoted as opposed to the modification of the Volstead act and upon the basis the claim is set up that "Democrats will repudiate Smith's stand for booze." As a matter of fact Governor Smith has made no stand for booze, and in any event the sentiment of the States named will have little influence on the Democratic national convention.

As we have said before, Governor Smith was elected on a platform demanding such modification of the Volstead act as will permit each State to determine for itself the question of licensing the sale of light wines and beer. The approval of the repeal bill was simply keeping faith with the voters of the State. But it is not by any strength of the imagination a nullification of the constitution or the Volstead law or in any way an endorsement of the saloon. The repeal of the Mullan-Gage law will not promote the manufacture or sale of liquor as a beverage and will injure no individual or interest quite as much as it will hurt the bootleggers.

Those captives of the Chinese bandits ought to have promptly appealed to the Washington conference.

Half Truths That Are Lies in Effect.

Ever since the revelations of the scandalous conditions prevailing in the eastern penitentiary at Philadelphia the Public Ledger, of that city, has been desperately throwing out a "smoke screen" designed to draw attention away from the rotten mess there by spreading false impressions of what has been done at the new Rockview institution in this county.

The "Watchman" holds no brief to defend Rockview, for it will be well remembered that its lamented editor, P. Gray Meek, was almost alone in his opposition to the location of such an institution in Centre county. But the "Watchman" is fair and believes it a duty to challenge the Ledger to tell the real facts about Rockview or admit that the stories it has been publishing lately are only half truths designed to deceive the public and create sympathy with a political scheme to start another great expenditure for a penal institution in the eastern part of the State as well as give the co-schemers in the western end opportunity to do the same thing.

The story of the Rockview project is an old and long one. For our present purpose it is sufficient to say that when the State bought the land here it was with the ultimate purpose of confining all penitentiary prisoners in the one institution and later legislative action paved the way for consummation of the plan.

The work of building Rockview has been long, 'tis true, but that has not been because of dereliction or inefficiency on the part of any one in charge of its construction. Each Legislature since the beginning of the project has appropriated a specific sum of money for the work, never enough to proceed on the scale that should have been followed in such a gigantic enterprise, so that any censure for delay should be directed at Harrisburg rather than at Rockview. And through all the years it has been building never once did the Board controlling construction there go to the Legislature asking for a deficiency appropriation. It kept within its means always though the example of every other public enterprise in the State might have prompted it to do otherwise.

The Ledger has sent broadcast the cost of construction at Rockview and couples with it the inference that there is nothing there to represent the outlay of millions by stating that it has permanent accommodation for only ninety-four prisoners. It doesn't tell that there are nearly six thousand acres of the most beautiful and fertile land to be found anywhere in Pennsylvania. That there are miles and miles of permanent roads traversing them; reservoirs dams and water lines supplying such water as Philadelphia can never hope to have to all parts of this great reservation. It doesn't tell of the farm barns, and houses that have been remodeled, of the vast equipment in farm machinery and stock and of the completion of two great permanent buildings.

It doesn't want the public to know that an inventory taken at Rockview today will show that there is there in realty and improvements more than a dollar for every dollar the State has put into it.

When stating the cost thus far it assembles and deceives by failing to state that most of the rough labor was done by inmates and charged in construction cost at \$1.00 per man per day and thereby thousands and thousands of dollars that the Ledger would lead the tax payer to believe were taken from his pocket never cost him a cent.

But the crowning deception of all this tissue of misrepresentation that a great and supposedly reputable newspaper has been broadcasting is its subtle play on the permanent accommodations for only ninety-four men. That is for no other purpose than to lead the public to believe that there are only ninety-four prisoners at Rockview after an effort of ten years in building a prison. Yesterday the roster at Rockview was 666 inmates and almost from the beginning of the work there have been more than 300 there; all better housed than any of the inmates of the old western institution or those of the eastern and with healthful work in God's great out-of-doors every working day in the year.

The only unfortunate who can't be reclaimed at Rockview is the derelict who won't be. The only real trouble they have ever had there has been fomented by men who wouldn't exercise, work or take the opportunity that is offered all there. And the Ledger, inspired by political intrigue and abetted by a lot of mawkish parlor uplifters, urges the State to buy more land to give her convicts more breathing space when there are nearly two acres of ground at Rockview for each inmate of a penitentiary in Pennsylvania.

General Assembly Yields.

Governor Pinchot seems to have completely terrorized the Senators and Representatives of the General Assembly. His latest threat is that unless \$20,000,000 of new revenue is levied and the "administration code" is passed, he will "call the Assembly back to Harrisburg for a special session." According to one of the news writers at the State capitol this "threat spurred the would-be leaders to some semblance of action and they agreed to carry out the program of the Executive." In other words they have promised to put a heavy burden upon an already over-taxed constituency rather than face the wrath of an exacting master. It is a lame conclusion.

At the beginning of the session the Governor protested that no new taxation was needed and that with the resources existing he would "clean up the mess" in the brief period of two years. The law makers protested that he was mistaken and insisted on levying additional taxes. So long as the Senators and Representatives held to this opinion the Governor was not only emphatic but persistent in his declaration against new taxes. But when the other side weakened he trumped up the idea that there is a necessity for more money to keep the schools in operation and now he threatens coercive measures in his effort to bring the law makers to his feet. They must prove their servility.

In view of this aspect of the case we are unable to say why the Governor insists on the passage of the "administration code." The ostensible purpose of that extraordinary piece of legislation is to give the Governor power to flitly administer his office. But no Governor, no King and no Czar has ever exercised greater power in administration or more complete domination over the affairs of a Common-

wealth than Mr. Pinchot has claimed and secured thus far in his office. The Auditor General has shown that no new taxes are needed for the schools and the budget reveals the fact that the additional revenues are for use in promoting the ambitions of the Governor.

If Governor Smith, of New York, would express his real opinion of Governor Pinchot, of Pennsylvania, the series would probably stand "hoss and hoss."

Why Gravel Was Used.

Many times since the resurfacing of the Nittany valley highway was begun, we have been asked why a three mile section of the road should have been dressed with river gravel, hauled here from Pittsburgh, when so much limestone chips is being manufactured here constantly. The same question came into our mind when driving over the road and the explanation we gave to ourself was that it had been done as an experiment: To observe the durability of gravel as compared with limestone chips on the same road-bed.

The real reason, the one given by the Highway office here, is that when the work of the top dressing was begun enough limestone chips could not be secured here to keep the trucks and men busy and the gravel had to be imported from Pittsburgh to supply the deficiency.

Of course our knowledge of road-making is very limited, but we have been puzzled to know why the water pockets in the surface were not all brought up to the original grade before the top dressing began. In many places they remain as depressions just as they were before the work was done. While they are resurfaced they are still water pockets and will disintegrate very rapidly.

Miscellaneous Business Transacted by Borough Council.

Eight members were present at the regular meeting of borough council on Monday evening, the one absentee being Mr. Bradley, of the North ward.

S. D. Gettig appeared in behalf of the trustees of the United Evangelical church and explaining that it was the intention to begin work on remodeling the church within ten days or two weeks requested permission to use the vacant piece of ground belonging to the borough, lying alongside of Logan's branch, as a temporary dumping ground for the stone and clay which it will be necessary to remove from the foundations of the addition to be erected to the church. This is the piece of ground the church is anxious to buy from the borough, but so far council has reached no decision in the matter. Mr. Gettig stated that in the event of council's decision not to sell the land the church would remove all or as much of the deposit placed there as council might direct. His request was referred to the Water committee and borough manager with power to act.

A petition was presented from residents of Reservoir hill demanding that south Allegheny street be repaired and fixed up in general. Referred to the Street committee.

Residents of south Spring street presented a petition asking that a fire plug be placed in that section, as there is no adequate protection against fire in that locality. Referred to the Fire and Police committee.

A communication was received from D. C. Stackpole, state highway superintendent, notifying council that the department will co-operate with the borough in top dressing Bishop, Allegheny and Linn streets to a width of eighteen feet. The entire expense will be \$808.00, the borough to pay one-half. A resolution was passed accepting the proposition and authorizing the borough manager to execute contracts to that effect.

The Street committee reported Thomas and Mill streets in shape for oiling. The committee also reported the receipt of \$10 for a sewer permit.

The Water committee reported repairs to the Phoenix mill pumping station and that the pipe has been received for the extension of the water service to Coleville. The committee further reported the collection of \$12.00 on the 1921 water taxes and \$2.00 for old iron sold.

The Fire and Police committee reported the resignation of G. Smith, as a policeman, and the fact that there are two applicants for the vacancy, A. T. Garis and a Mr. Geissinger, the latter asking \$110 a month. The latter is an ex-state policeman while Garis has on one or two occasions served as an extra officer. The police situation in general, and especially the lack of enforcement of the traffic laws in Bellefonte was thoroughly discussed from all angles. Mr. Emerick advocated posting the town with traffic signs and then employing an officer who would enforce the ordinance, even if it is necessary to pay him more money than the police are now being paid. Half an hour or longer was spent in discussing the matter and finally a motion was passed that traffic signs be posted and that the burgess be requested to recommend a man for election as a police officer to take the place of Mr. Smith.

The Finance committee presented the report of the borough treasurer showing a balance on hand of \$3202.77. The committee also asked for the renewal of notes totalling \$12,100, which was authorized.

The borough manager reported that borough engineer Shattuck had made a survey of east Curtin and north Wilson streets, but so far had not returned the profiles, so that no action on the grading of the two streets could be taken.

Mr. Brouse stated that complaint had been made to him of the parking of dray wagons on Spring street, opposite the Centre County bank building. Complaint was also made about the unsightly surroundings at the Phoenix mill. Both matters were referred to the Street committee and borough manager.

Bills to the amount of \$3214.40 were approved for payment after which council adjourned.

Because they didn't like the food served at the Rockview penitentiary was the excuse given by some of the prisoners transferred to that institution from the eastern penitentiary for starting a rough house party in one of the dormitories on Sunday night. In the neighborhood of two hundred and fifty inmates were in the building with only one guard, James Noll, a comparatively new man, and he had his hands full trying to quell the disturbance until help arrived. It was somewhat on the order of a free for all fight and five or more prisoners were knocked out, though none seriously hurt.

We haven't heard anybody complaining of cold weather for a week.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Dr. Charles H. Fisher, principal of the Bloomsburg State Normal school, has announced that he has accepted an offer to become president of the State Normal school at Bellingham, Washington.

Walter Snyder and J. F. Geaton, Scranton employees of a Sunbury garage, were held in bail for a hearing at Lewisburg charged with having knowledge of the theft of \$14,000 worth of diamonds from the Cherry Run bungalow of Federal Judge Charles B. Wimer, of Sunbury.

The Pennsylvania Railroad is planning to spend \$1,850,000 on two four-track bridges across the Susquehanna, between Sunbury and Northumberland, according to reports. They will replace two two-span structures that are considered obsolete and an obstruction to the heavy freight traffic at that point.

Harry Long, of Deer Park, near Pottsville, tried to imitate the fire eaters at Ringling's circus and is in a serious condition as the result thereof. The boy filled his mouth with gasoline and when the flames started about him his clothes ignited. He probably would have been fatally burned if those near had not quickly smothered the blaze.

Louis Ross, aged 41 years, a Mount Union Italian, was shot and killed by his American wife after a bitter fight at their home Saturday evening. Mrs. Ross, who is now in jail at Huntington, told the police that her husband had beaten her with a heavy club and that she acted in self defense. She fired five shots into his body. One lodged near the heart and caused his death. A coroner's jury declared her act justified.

Fire on Sunday destroyed the 1,200 foot covered bridge across the Susquehanna river between Northumberland and Blue Hill, causing an estimated damage of \$250,000. The bridge was completed in 1826. In 1865, when General Lee was on his triumphant march up the Cumberland valley, residents stuffed the bridge with hay and stood ready to burn the ancient structure should Lee succeed in getting that far north.

Thomas J. Smull, who was postmaster at Mackeyville fifty years, last week celebrated his eighty-ninth birthday anniversary. Mackeyville has had only two postmasters and the name of each is Smull. When Thomas J. Smull, who was the village's first postmaster, relinquished the position several years ago, he was succeeded by his son Roy, who is also his business partner in the general store he has conducted nearly half a century.

The Du Pont Powder company, of Wilmington, Del., has started construction of the first of the series of five huge warehouses to be erected in an isolated spot five miles west of DuBois, to be used as storehouses from which the company's demands from western Pennsylvania will be handled. The site is located a mile from the lakes-to-sea highway and a new road is being built over which the building supplies will be transported from the trunk line to the scene of construction.

Arrested in Phoenix, Arizona, as a fugitive from justice, Andrew L. Hepler, indicted at Butler, Pa., for conspiracy and embezzlement, was returned to that place on Friday by Sheriff Avery. Hepler's trial is set for June 12. Hepler disappeared last December. Later it was reported that he had been drowned in the Ohio river. The charges against him were of activities in promoting the Ideal Squab company and the Citizens' Insurance Agency and Mortgage company of Butler. Mrs. Hepler is returning alone to stand trial.

Lightning struck the large coal tippie owned by the Altoona Coal and Coke company, Saturday afternoon, and the entire structure was destroyed in the fire which followed. The loss is estimated at \$10,000. The tippie was operated by Baker Brothers and extends over the tracks of the Coalport branch of the Cresson division, Pennsylvania railroad. The heat from the fire was so intense that passenger trains were held up for two hours. The Cresson fire department was called out, and worked far into the night before the flames were extinguished.

Washington county peace officers believe that Paul Cherch, of Perth Amboy, N. J., whom they arrested on Sunday, is the ringleader of the bandits who on March 11, 1922, held up three employees of the W. J. Rainey Coal company, and fled with \$28,000, the payroll of the Allison mine, near Brownsville. Cherch was recognized on the streets of Monongahela by Albert Fleming, store manager at the Allison mines, one of the three who were in charge of the payroll when it was stolen. He was arrested with Dan Rastell and Orlando Favor, under surveillance for months.

William Felder, aged 33 years, a real estate man, died at Warren, Ohio, on Thursday morning from injuries suffered on Wednesday, when an airplane in which he was riding as a passenger fell and was destroyed by fire. Kirk Harvey, of Warren, Ohio, the pilot, suffered burns and cuts. Mr. Felder had just sold a number of building lots at Warren when he saw an airplane waiting for passengers. Telling one of his salesmen that he would like to see the property "from up above," he entered the plane, which later fell in flames. He leaves his widow and four children.

Elaborate plans for the official opening of the Susquehanna trail in September at Williamsport, are under way, according to Dr. Charles E. Aikens, of Selinsgrove, president of the trail association. When that approved route from Mason and Dixon's line to the New York State boundary is dedicated it is the intention of the organization to have participating in the exercises the Governors of Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania. The association, at their late meeting, discussed plans for identifying the trail throughout with Indian heads painted on telephone poles. The men in charge of that part of the program intend to have the work completed by the latter part of the summer.

Connellsville society received a jar last week when it became known that Katherine M. Luce, daughter of Wash Herd, a wealthy coal operator of that place, had been granted a divorce from Eugene M. Luce to whom she was married on October 22, 1922. The Luces lived together only four days before their matrimonial troubles began, according to Mrs. Luce. Mrs. Luce, to whom she was married on October 22, 1922, when she insisted that her husband obtain a job. After making numerous suggestions along that line without effect, the wife said that she got the desired position for her husband. He worked about five weeks, according to the wife's testimony, and when she upbraided him he replied, "The Murphy's never work," referring to his mother's people.