

Chairman Lasker's million dollar junket on the Leviathan every day in every way is looking more like thirty cents.

The State-wide tour of Senators Pepper and Reed is nearly finished but nobody has found out what it was for.

And now the fly has gotten busy at the work of cutting down the little bit of grain that did grow on the fields of Centre county.

The unexpected treasury surplus is gratifying, of course, but it indicates that the Secretary of the Treasury is a poor guesser.

The ordinary white-collared clerk has to work two days in which to earn enough to pay the fellow in overalls for pottering around his home one day.

There was one at least who didn't realize there were so many kids in Bellefonte until we saw the horde of them that the Elks exhibited on Wednesday night.

Just naturally the question arises: Why should the isolationists of this country be so much concerned about Japan's plans for the domination of China?

The burning of the Broad street station, Philadelphia, almost convinces us that the more fire-proof the structure the easier it burns and the hotter the fire it makes.

This is the year of the "seventeen year locusts" and the amount of noise they seem to be making in many parts of the county indicates there must be millions of them.

The Governor has his code now. It becomes effective today and it is up to him now to show it the panacea for all of Pennsylvania's governmental ills that he has insisted it would be.

For this season at least we're off further comment on the weather. Every time we prepare a dissertation on how hot or cool it is the weather changes before we get the thing into circulation.

Having evaded the mandates of the constitution so adroitly himself the Governor thought he could teach Finegan the trick. Finegan is a teacher, however, and he declined to take lessons in the little matter of violating his oath of office.

With all our doubts and misgivings as to the results of the pet measures of the Governor we take our hat off to him as the manipulator of Pennsylvania Legislatures. No other Governor within our memory has so completely dominated a legislative body.

Of course we haven't an idea that our advice had anything to do with it, but it is a fact, none-the-less, that less than twenty-four hours after we told Mr. Finegan what we would tell the Governor about the job of Superintendent of Public Instruction he went and did it.

Take it from us: Any day but Sunday is a good one to cut bean poles. We didn't know this until last Sunday when we cut a few, ran a thorn into the finger that should be guiding this pencil and have been suffering the torments of the damned, with an infection, ever since.

Voting five million dollars for a fair in Philadelphia, when they acknowledged inability to find enough money to support the schools and hospitals of the State, was what might have been expected of the Legislature, but, happily, this was one of the times when the expected didn't happen.

Because the "Watchman" did what it thought to be its duty last week! Told what it believes to be the truth about the western penitentiary, one minister of the gospel called the office to congratulate it, while another came down to discontinue his paper. If for no other than purely selfish reasons this community should be solidly behind Rockview, since it means so much in a business way to Pleasant Gap and Bellefonte especially.

The recent decision of the United States Supreme court, affecting the Kansas law on wages, is one of far reaching consequence. A new enactment of the Legislature of Kansas gave power to an industrial court, it had created, to arbitrarily raise wages in any industry coming under the jurisdiction of the court. If wages were to be fixed by law what would become of the fundamental law of supply and demand? The efficiency and quantity of labor are the only two elements that should enter into an adjudication of what it should receive and unless this can follow the only alternative is the falling of the entire economic fabric or governmental ownership of all industry.

What is he? Big faker or ignoramus! Within four days of the time he knew the Legislature of Pennsylvania would adjourn the Governor of the State writes a letter to Senator Barr asking him to present a concurrent resolution to investigate the past operations of the State Treasury. Let us tell you that a concurrent resolution can only be constitutional if six legislative days have elapsed between its introduction and final passage. Having told you this we ask all readers—friends and foes of the Governor—to answer to their own satisfaction the inquiry that started this paragraph. They are the only pertinent questions that could be asked. Think a bit, be honest with yourself, and deduce what you may from the facts set forth.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 68. BELLEFONTE, PA., JUNE 15, 1923. NO. 24.

Pinchot's Hypocrisy Palpable.

In his letter to Senator Barr requesting the introduction of a concurrent resolution to investigate the past operations of the State Treasury, Governor Pinchot reveals sublime faith in the credulity of the people of Pennsylvania or scant respect for their intelligence. The request is presented precisely four days from the date fixed for final adjournment of the session. Under the constitution a concurrent resolution requires six days for passage through both branches. Therefore, unless the Governor is absolutely ignorant of or utterly indifferent to the provisions of the constitution, he knew that his request could not be fulfilled and that his purpose was to deceive the people.

Soon after the opening of the session Representative Rhodes, of Monroe county, Democratic floor leader, introduced a similar resolution and invited Governor Pinchot to promote its passage. Instead of doing so, however, the most obedient followers of the Governor exhausted their energies in rushing it into the "pickling vat." Now that it is too late to make it effective he asks for a resolution and assigns a false reason for the delay. That is, he states in his letter to Senator Barr that "he has refrained from addressing the Legislature on the subject until after the courts have finished with the case." The courts finished the case and the Attorney General whitewashed the culprit exactly three months ago, giving ample time to start and finish the inquiry.

In view of these facts there is no escape from the impression that this gesture of Governor Pinchot is a flagrant fake pretense made for the purpose of fooling the people. He specifically promised during the campaign to thoroughly expose the corrupt practices of Kephart and his associate treasury looters until he completed a bargain for their support, and he has since refrained from carrying out his pledges because he was negotiating corrupt deals with Kephart's friends for legislation to promote his selfish ambitions. But now that his plans have been consummated, with the help of the recreant officials, he comes out with a request for an investigation which it is impossible to make.

If it turns out that Dr. Becht entered upon the agreement with the Governor which Dr. Finegan refused to consider, the incident is an injury to the public school system which will require years to repair.

Finegan Carries Off the Honors.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the qualifications of Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, for the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, fair minded and clear thinking men and women will agree that in his recent controversy with the Governor he has carried off all the honors. His educational system and methods as revealed during the four years of his administration are expensive, autocratic and centralizing. All these faults are undemocratic and dangerous. Because of these facts a considerable part, if not a preponderance, of public opinion was and is against his reappointment to the office. But the manner of his removal from the important and honorable office is greatly to his credit.

Article 4, Section 8, of the constitution of Pennsylvania declares that the Governor "shall nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of two-thirds of all the Senate, appoint a Secretary of the Commonwealth and Attorney General during pleasure, a Superintendent of Public Instruction for four years, and such other officers of the Commonwealth as he is or may be authorized by the constitution or by law to appoint." Obviously the purpose of this clearly expressed distinction was to protect the school system from the plots of ambitious executives. Governor Pinchot tried to inveigle Dr. Finegan into a conspiracy to evade this provision of the constitution.

Both these gentlemen had taken a solemn oath to "support, obey and defend" the constitution of Pennsylvania. The proposition of the Governor involved the violation of that sworn obligation and Dr. Finegan properly refused. In that refusal he forfeited the generous emolument of his office and relinquished an opportunity to vindicate the wisdom of his educational policies. But he has written himself up as a man of honor and integrity, and that is as great an achievement as laudable ambition could hope for. In this matter, at least, Dr. Finegan has earned the confidence and respect of all right thinking people, and that is a triumph which will endure so long as merit is justly appreciated.

The capture of a 40,000 pound fish off the Florida coast the other day proves that the big ones don't always get away.

Lasker's "Joy Ride" a Menace.

Chairman Lasker, of the Shipping board, one of the Presidential pets, is inviting trouble for the administration in his proposed million dollar "joy-ride" in connection with the trial trip of the Leviathan. Mr. Lasker is about to retire from public life to resume his vocation, which is selling advertising space in newspapers, and desiring to leave in the official circle some enduring memory of his public service, he conceived the notion of a junket de luxe as a convenient medium of achievement. He thereupon invited some 600 guests, mostly Congressmen and newspaper men, who might be useful to him in the future, and made preparations on a grand scale for a week's "life on the ocean wave."

Everything looked favorable for the fulfillment of Mr. Lasker's fondest hopes until some curious Congressmen of inquiring minds began an estimation of the cost of this hilarious and hifalutin enterprise. One item after another was noted down and figured up until the fabulous sum of a million dollars stood staring them in the face. Then it was recalled that both the President and chairman Lasker had been complaining for some time at the enormous strain upon the national treasury caused by the maintenance of the ships under control of the Board, and a mighty roar of protest against this useless addition to the total was made. Republican Congressmen were overtaken with fear and are protesting against it.

Chairman Lasker probably imagined that his close friendship and intimate relations with the President would shield him from serious criticism, especially as a large proportion of his guests were to be Senators and Representatives in Congress, but he seems to have "reckoned without his host," for several leading Republicans of the House and Senate have appealed to the President to call the event off. Now chairman Cordell Hull, of the Democratic National committee, who is a member of Congress, declares that he will demand an investigation of the affair immediately upon the re-assembling of Congress, and the Republican majority in the next House is so slender as to afford small protection.

Possibly that Washington stenographer may have trouble in getting the \$50,000 claimed as heart-balm from former Representative Herrick, of Oklahoma, but it's certainly worth that much to escape marriage with him.

Perfidys at Harrisburg.

Those Democratic members of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg who voted to increase taxes, on Tuesday of last week, wrote themselves down as party recreants. According to the newspaper reports of the proceedings the Democrats "split even," one-half voting for and the other half against the measures. There was no valid reason for any Democrat voting in the affirmative. Auditor General Lewis, whose business it is to know, had repeatedly declared that no additional revenues were needed to meet the obligations of the State. Unnecessary taxation is simply legalized robbery.

As we have repeatedly said, the Democratic party is not in the least measure responsible for the financial mess existing at Harrisburg. It is true that Democratic members of the General Assembly are morally and legally bound to concur in legislation providing sufficient revenues to finance the operations of the State government economically administered. But levying taxes beyond that is robbing the people. Providing funds to employ spies or pay the expenses of espionage is not only unjust and undemocratic, but a criminal usurpation of authority. Democratic assemblymen who voted for increased taxes at that time have committed this fault.

At the opening of the session of the Legislature the Democratic Senators and Representatives pledged themselves to vote against increased taxes unless the need for additional revenues was clearly shown. So far from this need having been established the Auditor General repeatedly stated that there was no need for increased taxes. Some of the misleaders of the party who are in sympathy with Governor Pinchot's centralizing policies because of his prohibition proclivities, may have encouraged this party recidivism. But it was none the less perfidious on that account.

It is a safe bet that the chairman of the Republican National committee will not have a commanding influence in dispensing patronage during the rest of the present term of the President.

Now that some contemporaries are discussing the quality of patriotism the definition of our late friend Sam Johnson deserves some consideration.

Heaven Help Pennsylvania.

The reorganization code was forced through the General Assembly at Harrisburg, last Thursday afternoon, and within a brief period afterward was approved by the Governor and became a law of the State. It was a great event and "a cheerful occasion" for the Governor, as he stated at the time. It made him master of the people. It invests in him a power greater than the Czar of Russia ever wielded. But even in this there is a recompense. It completely and for all time smashes the odious and corrupt Penrose machine. There is grave danger that it will create another machine more destructive and more selfish than the Vares and the Leslies ever dreamed of. But the peril is present.

The measure was forced through the House of Representatives by the most reprehensible methods. A lawless combination of political mercenaries rode ruthlessly over the rights of protesting Legislators and outraged every principle of parliamentary practice in order to secure the favor of a huckster in spoils in consideration of patronage promised or implied. But there is no surprise in this result. Soon after the measure was introduced the "Watchman" expressed the belief that if it came to a vote it would be enacted into law. The lust for spoils and the servility of the Legislators gave the Governor a guarantee that a crafty trader with favors to offer could get what he wanted and "when he wanted it."

There may be an appeal to the Supreme court to protect the rights of the people under the constitution. Under the authority of this monstrous law the Governor will undertake to usurp functions committed by the constitution to other departments and that tribunal may revoke the unlawful authority and rebuke the usurpation. The Auditor General, the State Treasurer and the Secretary of Internal Affairs have ample cause of action. But they will enter the contest without powerful support. The old machine is so completely crushed that it is as helpless as it is worthless and the spineless Legislature has openly acknowledged its imbecility and impotence. Heaven help Pennsylvania.

Fortified with handsomely engrossed diplomas, over five hundred young men and women left State College this week to go out into the world and enter the never ending struggle for success. With some it may mean a battle for supremacy in some chosen calling, while with others, and probably the largest percentage, it will be a fight for existence. The lines of competition are now so tightly drawn in all of life's activities that only those who are willing to put up a stubborn fight become masters of their calling or profession. The midnight oil counts as many points now in the pathway upward as it did before Edison invented the push button illumination. Ten years from now every one of the five hundred who graduated at State this week will have stamped their record on the sands of time and none can tell at this time what that record will be. In the meantime the permanent residents of State College will now have a fortnight's breathing spell before the influx of teachers for the opening of the summer school on June 28th, when from 2500 to 3000 are expected to report for the six and ten weeks courses.

While in town on Monday "Squire A. A. Fletcher informed us that the wheat fields down Bald Eagle valley have improved considerably in appearance in the past ten days or two weeks, and that the farmers of that section are now anticipating a crop that will not be much below normal. Similar reports have been received from the western end of the county, also. Of course, there are some fields that are quite spotted but the crop will not be as short as appearances in the spring indicated.

A. D. Houck last week resigned as business manager of the Altoona Tribune, following a continuous service with that paper of more than fifty years. He started in as a carrier and rose from one position to another until he was made vice president and business manager.

The tariff commission is helpless against the Sugar trust but it tackles the tariff on paint brush handles with a courage that is amazing.

The Legislature leaves Harrisburg and Mrs. Pinchot returns to that centre of politics this week, so that it must be a cheerful time for Giff.

Even if Germany paid the reparations bill in full she would stand to lose less than any other country concerned in the world war.

The billion dollar offer for the fleet of ships appears more like a practical joke than an "iridescent dream."

In Terms of Barter.

From the New York Herald. A man who runs a farm in Virginia sent to the New York Herald the other day a letter in which he translated the cost of construction, at present wages, into food at the price the farmer gets. The examples are most illuminating:

It takes 63 1/2 dozen, or 762 eggs to pay a plasterer for one day of eight hours' work.

It takes 17 1/2 bushels of corn, or a year's receipts from half an acre, to pay a bricklayer one day.

It takes 23 chickens, weighing three pounds each to pay a painter for one day's work in New York.

It takes 42 pounds of butter, or the output from 14 cows, fed and milked for 24 hours, to pay a plumber \$14 a day.

It takes a hog weighing 175 pounds, representing eight months' feeding and care, to pay a carpenter for one day's work.

Thus reduced to terms of barter, the charges made by skilled labor in the building trades are startling. Yet these are facts beyond argument. Men in lines of endeavor other than farming can figure how much of their produced wealth they are compelled to give in exchange for construction work. How much coal must a miner dig in order to have his house painted? How many volumes must a book-binder bind that he may have a new front porch?

Barter is never so well expressed, however, as in terms of food. For that is the coin of the earth. All else in trade depends in one way or another, upon it.

Law-Making—a Moral Fireworks.

From the Nation. Laws, laws, laws! More laws! Still more laws! Bad laws, needless laws, conflicting laws, unintelligible laws, unenforceable laws, unconstitutional laws, laws that nobody ever heard of!—doubtless a sprinkling of necessary and constructive laws. More than 200,000 measures—federal, state, city, town and county—are passed annually in the United States, according to an estimate of the national budget committee while some 2,000,000 are in effect as a result of past performances. Congress and the State Legislatures alone pass an average of 10,000 laws a year. The last Congress received more than 15,000 bills and enacted some 500 of them into law. A policeman in one of our large cities needs a working knowledge of at least 15,000 statutes, it is said, if he is to do his work intelligently. Our national passion seems to be to pass a law and then forget it, violate it, or upset it in the courts. Law-making is a kind of moral fireworks, mistaken by many for morality itself. Then, too, the separation in this country between the legislative and the executive branches leaves many hundred men with nothing to do except pass laws. How damn this appalling flood? The spread of the commission form of government among our cities and the tendency of the States to regulate more through administrative bodies than through specific laws may help. For the rest we shall have to wait, apparently, until the burden bends our back to a point where, willy-nilly, it slides off.

Likely to Help State Machine.

From the Philadelphia Record. The so-called code for the reorganization of State Departments, now on the statute books by action of the Legislature and the approval of Governor Pinchot, is the product of the Governor and his backers. The announced intention of the law is to create a condition under which savings can be made in the cost of government. The Governor urged that this could be done only through this law giving him greater power than he held before the passage of the code bill.

The constitutionality of the act is questioned, and it is intimated will be tested in the courts. The wisdom of many of its provisions is doubted by students of government.

We were about to say, having in mind the Governor's Decoration day speech at Gettysburg, that it might be all right to place unlimited power in the hands of a Governor with such love and respect for the Constitution, but when we read anew the charge made by Mr. Finegan that the same Governor tried to get him to enter into a conspiracy to violate the State Constitution, what is the use?

The chances are that the code, like most of the modern helps to better government, will not do what its reforming friends claim for it, but, like so many more of their dreams, will serve machinists who make government control a means to private profit far better than any device they might have attempted to make grafting easier.

Might be Improved.

From the Easton Free Press. The bill signed by Governor Pinchot which compels all automobile owners to register will help some. But a law to adjudge the fitness of drivers would help more by going nearer to the prevention of accidents.

Too many owners and drivers of cars are permitted to operate them who are ignorant of traffic regulations and the highway etiquette which common courtesy demands they should observe.

Passengers on foreign ships might swim to shore from the three mile line.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Contracts for road building in Blair county totaling \$100,870 have been let by the State Highway Department to the Paul Construction company, of Philadelphia.

For the loss of his left leg, Henry Fink, of Conemaugh, former brakeman, has been paid \$17,500 by the Pennsylvania railroad. He was thrown from a draft of cars at Conemaugh.

Four young men, masked and armed, held up a dozen men of a mutual aid society in Philadelphia on Saturday night, seized in cash and checks over \$1,800 and made off in a large touring car.

Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker has offered a reward for the return of an Algiers jackal, which dug its way out of the cage in which it had been placed in the Shoemaker park at McElihattan several days after it reached there.

When Miss Dorothy Hummel found \$1400 in diamonds under a pillow in a room at the Neff House, in Sunbury, last Thursday, she firmly refused a \$100 reward. She is a housekeeper, and declared it her duty to return the jewels, which belonged to a party of tourists from Florida.

Walking upon the track at the Pennsylvania Railroad station at Portage, on Saturday, and being confronted by a fence, Fannie and Gertrude Tursky, of Cardiff, aged 14 and 16 years, became bewildered, and ran up the tracks in front of a fast train. Both were run down and killed, the bodies being horribly mangled.

Mary M. Trinkle, of Patton, has filed action through Leech and Leech, her attorneys, in Ebensburg, alleging breach of promise and naming George O'Brien as defendant. The plaintiff alleges that upon promise of marriage she advanced to the defendant the sum of \$1,022.50, which has never been returned. She also asks \$10,000 damages.

The executive board of the Central Pennsylvania Volunteer Firemen's association at a meeting in Clearfield, at which nearly every company in the district was represented, decided upon August 16 and 17 as the dates for holding the annual convention. The convention will be held in Clearfield in accordance with the action taken by the 1922 convention at DuBois.

Elmer L. Lippert, seventeen years old, and his team of horses were struck and killed by lightning while harrowing in a field at Byberry, near Honesdale, on Thursday of last week. There was no mark on the man's body, but a large hole was found in the crown of his straw hat. Another brother, John Lippert, escaped injury when a barn was struck by lightning.

Seventeen year locusts so plentiful that they interfere with motor traffic and delay mail service are reported by Ernone Bailey, mail carrier on Tyrone R. F. D. 4. On Saturday, near Union Furnace, his car ran into a swarm of locusts which swamped the machine. It was necessary for him to stop and brush off the insects, picking them from mail sacks and even from inside the hood before he could proceed.

Returning to his burning home to recover \$800 he had left in a trunk, after he had once been trapped and only escaped with difficulty, was fatal for Elmer Brown, a New York Central trainman of Walton, Clearfield county, for he received burns that caused his death in a Clearfield hospital a few days later. Brown plunged back into the flames when he recalled the money in the trunk and was horribly burned before rescuers, attracted by his frantic cries, got him out.

Lightning last Friday struck the barn of John Houck in Salem township, two miles from Berwick, destroying it together with four horses, two automobiles, pigs and chickens, farm machinery and grain. The loss is about \$10,000. Firemen were called from Berwick and saved the house, although it was damaged considerably. Many trees were uprooted by the high wind in the Savage Hill area and an overflowing stream tore away practically the entire wheat field of Erwin Stiner.

Former postmaster Fred McClure, of Downingtown, who had been missing since November last, returned home last Friday night. McClure simply dropped from sight, leaving his family and for no apparent reason. His accounts as postmaster were found correct, and he was in no financial trouble. He was traced to Philadelphia, and there the trail was lost. He explained that he had remembered nothing until he found himself in a hospital in Richmond, where he remained for several weeks.

Walter Snyder and J. Y. Grotton, of Scranton, employees of a local garage, were held in bail for Union county court at Lewisburg, on Sunday, charged with having knowledge of the theft of \$14,000 worth of diamonds from the Cherry Run bungalow of Federal Judge Charles B. Witmer, of Sunbury. The diamonds were in a vest owned by Charles Hinckley, of Buffalo, N. Y. The young men were sent to the bungalow to repair an automobile and after they left the diamonds were missing, it is alleged.

Several dozen silk shirts, believed to be part of the \$13,000 worth of shirts stolen from the Pottsville factory some time ago, were located in Lock Haven by a Pottsville officer and a State police officer who searched homes in the eastern end of that city on Friday. They found twenty-one silk shirts in one home and a number in others. The shirts were confiscated, although no arrests were made. The officers said they will continue the search this week. Trail of the loot has led them into a dozen cities, they stated.

Lewis Brown, former brewer, connected with the Westmoreland Brewing plant at Sutersville, who is under sentence in the federal court at Pittsburgh for contempt, was granted permission last week by Judge F. P. C. Schoonmaker to go to Europe to attend the wedding of his niece. Brown was directed to return to Pittsburgh before October 15th. Brown was fined \$500 and sentenced to thirty days in jail in connection with the operation of the brewery at Sutersville after it had been closed by an injunction order.

Deputy sheriffs Edward Mannison and D. J. Riley, of Allegheny county, charged with the murder of Fannie Sellins, organizer for the United Mine Workers of America, were found not guilty by a Pittsburgh jury late last Friday. Mrs. Sellins was shot and killed at Ducktown during the 1919 steel strike. The verdict of acquittal was reached after fifty minutes of deliberation. In the case of Mannison the court had instructed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty. Witnesses for the defense testified the woman union leader was at the head of a charging mob of men armed with clubs and stones when she was killed at the Allegheny Steel company's coal mines, where Mannison and Riley were guards.