

—Anthracite coal is one dollar higher per ton now than it was this time last year and those who profess to know say that it has only begun its rise.

—Lots of us who thought we were passing through a season of short weed crops have found out that all the weeds were waiting for were the recent rains.

—From his sick bed the President threw down the gauntlet to H. Johnson. All of which looks like he already knew that California could not be counted on for him in the next nominating convention.

—The net profits of the Leviathan's first trip amounted to nearly \$400,000, according to the statement of the Shipping board, and that fact invites wonder as to why operating ships is a losing proposition.

—Mr. Ford says that he is not a candidate for President today, but he can't tell what he'll be tomorrow. How characteristic of a Ford. Today it's all dolled up in shiny black paint looking like a regular tin Lizzie. Tomorrow, after some kid has tinkered with it a bit, it has the body of a racer but the runnin' gears reveal that it is only a road louse.

—Senator Oscar Underwood for Alabama has announced himself as a receptive candidate for the Presidency. Of course many things might happen in two years but if Underwood should survive them and become the nominee of our party any Democrat could vote for him and many Republicans should, because his were the brains that gave to President Harding's disarmament conference the little it achieved.

—We are wondering what the Governor was thinking, way back in his head, when he was reviewing the war department of the State at Mt. Gretna on Tuesday. We presume the six thousand men who marched past him looked every inch the soldiers they are, but we'll bet Gif was thinking that he'd sooner face that whole division in the open than have Charley Snyder and Sam Lewis sniping at him from their dug outs.

—The gentleman from Rebersburg who confessed to us recently that he had never voted anything but the Republican ticket, but would vote for Henry Ford, if the Democrats should nominate him, will have to come in by another door. The gentleman in question would be an ornament to any party, but we won't permit ours to nominate Henry Ford even to add the name of Mr. H. to the Democratic poll book in Miles township.

—The President's threatened serious illness called forth the real concern and genuine sympathy of the Nation. A strange people are we. No sooner was he on the sick bed than everything else than Harding, the man who had been called to the highest honor in the land, was forgotten. And, why is it? Simply because no one is Mr. Harding's enemy. Some of us are political opponents but there is a world of difference between enmity and opposition.

—And now the Metropolitan press is trying to lead us to believe that the job of being President is too big for one man. They point to the illness of President Harding and the wreck of former President Wilson as examples of the terrific strain on the man who guides our ship of state. What would they have us do? elect "two Uncle Toms and two little Evans" and make it "a great, double, mammoth" governmental exhibition. Nothing doing. Mr. Harding might have been threatened with pneumonia had he still been grinding out copy for the Marion Star and Mr. Wilson's break was precipitated by his supreme effort for humanity during a tenure of office, the stress of which was never known by a President before him or likely to be by any of his successors. The question is not the size of the job so much as how the man chosen for it sizes it up.

—Dr. Leo S. Rowe, director of the Pan-American Union, stated at Williamstown, Mass., the other night, that the South American impression of us is that the only things we are really interested in is violating the Volstead act and going to prize fights. While admitting that the soft impeachment might be only half true it would be no wonder were it wholly so. Our neighbors in the South gain their knowledge of us from the newspapers. The newspapers report the news and when one hundred thousand people go to see two pigs pummel one another it certainly makes a better story than when a dozen or more spend an evening listening to a worth while lecture on how to promote better trade and social relations with South America. And we know that far more people would read and acclaim the "Watchman" were it to tell how three bootlegging cars, coming in from the Snow Shoe district a week or so ago, escaped the State police dragnet at the Intersection that have even given a second thought to its story of the capture and fining of a dozen or more innocents who were driving with their tail lights out at the same point. While the South American impression is purely a newspaper impression, it's the people who make the newspapers what they are. The public taste must be catered to, else circulation and then advertising falls. Until the public demands more from its newspapers than a paragraph of news of worth while occurrences and scare headed columns of prize fights and rum running we can expect no foreign country to think we are interested in much else.

# Democratic Watchman

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## Senator Hi. Johnson's Mild Speech.

Senator Hi. Johnson's New York speech greatly disappointed public expectations. It was freely believed that he would present at least a tentative plan for the solution of most, if not all, the vexed European problems. He had spent a couple of months in the capitals of Europe and talked with men of influence and action in all walks of life in the various seats of trouble. His object was to find out exactly what is the matter over there so that he might point the way to amicable adjustment. He returned on Monday, arriving in New York on the Leviathan, and was welcomed at the banquet on Wednesday evening by his admiring friends. It was commonly understood that in his speech he would "tear things up."

But as a matter of fact he didn't do anything of the kind. On the contrary he said nothing at all about the troubles in Europe and roared "as gently as any sucking dove" on all other subjects. He declared continued opposition to the League of Nations and unabated hostility to entrance into the International Court of Justice. These things were expected, for Hi's opinions on the league and court having been founded upon the prejudices of another man are likely to be adhered to for all time. He said something in favor of legislation on the subject of child labor and commended the equalization of labor for women. But there is no visible opposition to this, and any one might affirm it safely.

The disappointment rests in the mildness of Senator Hi's manner and language. He failed to utter a sound of rebuke to Harding for his obvious covert attempt to get into the League of Nations through the side door. On the contrary he declared that "he spoke with neither personal nor political hostility to any man," but added, "what we condemned under a Democratic administration we will not accept under a Republican administration." As the late Captain Cuttle would say, the President may "take an observation of this point and make a note on't." But he can hardly say that it implies opposition to another term for Harding and that is what was looked for, both by the friends and enemies of Harding.

—The two-third rule in Democratic National conventions has served good purposes on many occasions and now it is a practical guarantee against the "tin Lizzie."

—The controversy between State Treasurer Snyder and Governor Pinchot concerning the unpaid salaries of employees may result in an extra session of the Legislature. The State Treasurer's refusal to pay is based on defects in the "reorganization" code. The appropriation bill provides for salaries in certain bureaus which were abolished by the code and the fiscal officers contend that it is unlawful to pay them. For example, the act providing for the licensing of dogs declares that salaries of members of the licensing bureau shall be paid out of the fund acquired by license fees. The code abolished the bureau and vested its functions in another department, while the appropriation is to the bureau.

The Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State conferred at length on this subject at Milford last week but so far as public information goes, arrived at no definite conclusion, though upon the return of the Attorney General to Harrisburg a week ago the rumor of an extra session began to circulate in official quarters. Thus far it has not assumed definite shape and the gesture of an appeal to court for a mandamus is generally regarded as a bluff. A judicial investigation is precisely what Mr. Snyder wants for the reason that he feels confident the Supreme court will sustain him in his refusal to pay on constitutional grounds.

In any event the question in dispute is likely to expand beyond the salary matter. It seems that appropriations made by the last Legislature to various State institutions are irregular and will be held up if court proceedings are resorted to. A number of such appropriations which should have been passed by a two-thirds majority of the Legislature in separate bills were incorporated in the general appropriation bill and passed by a bare majority. If the Governor continues a contentious policy in relation to the salary claims it is the intention of the fiscal officers to refuse to pay all such appropriations. This would make an extra session absolutely essential to the charity policy of the State.

—It is a safe bet that Secretary of the Treasury Andy Mellon didn't wear knee breeches at the Lord Mayor's dinner the other day.

—Some of the scientists appear to think that Mr. Bryan is making a monkey of himself.

## Underwood is a Candidate.

Senator Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, has formally announced himself as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President in 1924. Former Secretary of the Treasury William G. McAdoo has been acting like a candidate might for some time and former Governor James M. Cox, standard bearer in 1920, is understood to be in a receptive mood on the subject. Several other names have been mentioned more or less frequently as available, but Underwood is the first to make public declaration of his ambition. It occurred at a joint session of the Alabama Legislature on Tuesday. The announcement was received with great enthusiasm both before and after the event. Alabama has marked him "favorite son."

Senator Underwood is of presidential calibre. He has served with much distinction and for many years in Congress, first as Representative and subsequently as Senator. In both chambers he held high rank as a legislator and conspicuous place in the Democratic force. In the House of Representatives he was floor leader during several sessions and soon after his elevation to the Senate he was similarly honored there. He was born in Kentucky in 1862 and educated in the University of Virginia. He is a lawyer by profession and a business man by occupation, if his long service in Congress has left him an occupation. His service in the House of Representatives began in 1895, and has been continuous.

In his speech announcing his candidacy Mr. Underwood is characteristically frank. He wants to be a candidate, he said inferentially, but he wants Alabama and the South behind him. He believes the South ought to have the candidate and hopes the prejudices of the Civil war have subsided sufficiently to make a southern candidate available. He is opposed to excessive tariff taxation and in favor of the enforcement of prohibition legislation, though he believes there are better ways of promoting temperance. He is conservative in his thoughts, actions and policies and a master of the science of government. It may be safely said that if elected he would take rank among the great Presidents.

—Let us hope that the Governor and the State Treasurer don't get into such a squabble over their respective prerogatives that the State will have to pay more in legal fees than the Governor saved it by putting most of the hospitals of the State in the poor house.

## President Harding's Illness.

Public sentiment will go freely to the President in his sudden and serious illness. It is not alone that it deprives him of the pleasure and benefit of a complete vacation but it involves physical suffering and mental disappointments which no good citizen would "wish" on him. In his desire to give the people of the communities visited enjoyment he overtaxed his strength and it appears has put his life in jeopardy. It is comforting to know, however, that he is in good hands. Mrs. Harding and a capable staff of physicians, who share with her in ardent hopes of his speedy recovery, are with him and every environment is favorable for a successful fight for the restoration of his health.

The event naturally recalls the similar misfortune which overtook former President Wilson during his tour of the west in 1919. The circumstances were not alike exactly. Mr. Wilson had gone out for an unselfish effort to support a great principle in the interest of humanity. On the other hand Mr. Harding imposed upon himself the task for personal reasons and probably under the mistaken belief that it would afford rest and recreation. In their zeal for achievement of the purposes in mind both impaired their physical strength and fell by the wayside in sickness. It is gratifying to see that sympathy for Harding is universal, while a group of malignants chuckled at the misfortune of Wilson.

There are lessons in every incident of life and the lamentable impairment of President Harding's health will admonish future Presidents that the danger in these trips, whether for personal purposes or patriotic impulses, is greater than the recompense. Benjamin Harrison was defeated for reelection and William Howard Taft got only the pleasure that he always found in long journeys. Roosevelt was as "hard as iron," yet many think his health was impaired by his hard trips at home and abroad. In any event it may be predicted that in the future suggestions of campaign tours covering the continent will excite more doubt than enthusiasm in the minds of Presidents of the United States.

—Besides it's unfair to ask any man to make the sacrifice which Mr. Ford would have to make if he relinquished the profits of his business for the salary of President.

## LaFollette Creates a Panic.

Senator LaFollette's recent declaration that in the event the Republican convention nominates a reactionary for President there will be a third party has caused something like a panic among the Harding managers. The Wisconsin Senator has frequently classified Harding as a reactionary and his statement concerning a third party is interpreted to mean that another candidate must be chosen. The alarm had taken such hold that the President had been urged to cut out the rest of his contemplated tour and return to Washington immediately. His unexpected illness, however, has resulted in the cancelling of the remainder of his trip.

It is conceded that a gentleman's agreement between LaFollette and Senator Hi. Johnson might easily result in a third party organization, almost if not altogether as formidable as that launched by Roosevelt in 1912. There would be lacking that commanding force inherent in every action of Roosevelt but that makes it the more menacing. Roosevelt's revolt reduced the party to so complete a wreck that it was without influence in the reckoning. A third party next year might develop just strength enough to prevent an election by the usual process and send the decision into the House of Representatives where the third party would have the balance of power and the deciding vote.

It is possible, of course, that LaFollette is simply "sparring for position," as they say in sporting circles. It will be remembered that when he was threatened with expulsion from the Senate during the war he made terms with the machine to save his face and incidentally his seat and he may now be laying lines to compel the Republican machine to give him such committee assignments in the next Senate as will keep him in the lime light. Hi. Johnson appears to be of the same type. He took orders from the machine during the last session quite as meekly as Pepper and the other "trailers." The Minnesota Johnson may be made of different mould and the other so-called radicals have not yet been measured.

—We understand that editor Thomas H. Harter, of the Gazette, has been offered and declined an appointment at the hands of the Governor, to membership on the board of trustees of the western penitentiary. We congratulate the gentleman on the honor of having had such a tender. We congratulate him, also, on his declination of a "thank you" job, when others, not half so much for Pinchot as he was, are getting the ones with real money in them.

## The Railroads are Doing Their Best.

Positive evidence that the railroads of the country are recovering from the strain and disorganization of war times is found in the splendid functioning of this year.

In the first six months of 1923 they hauled the largest traffic ever hauled in any six months in their history.

In June, 1923, they hauled the largest traffic ever carried in any one month.

For the week ending June 30th they loaded 1,021,770 cars with revenue freight, exceeding the largest previous week's loading in history by 3,231 cars.

In the first six months of this year 79,240 new freight cars were put in service and 1,998 new locomotives, leaving 96,855 freight cars and 1,902 locomotives still on order July 1.

The nations carriers are doing their part and pleading with the public to do theirs in bringing about prompter and more satisfactory freight and passenger service.

Is it not time that we respond to the call of the carriers?

—Republican Senator Cameron, for Arizona, may be as flippant as he pleases about the farmers and other workers devoting too "much time to pleasure, especially "flivvering," for we tax payers know that those farmers and other workers pay for their own gas and tires; whereas the Camerons in the Senate and House of Congress, do their "flivvering" in special trains and great government steamships and the public foots the bills.

—The Republicans of Philadelphia have erected "keep off the grass" signs against chairman W. Harry Baker, of the State committee, who had indicated a purpose to "butt in" on the primary campaign.

—The blue sky law became effective on Wednesday and the peddlers of oil and copper stocks of doubtful value would better "watch their steps."

—We know exactly how much the Leviathan earned on her first trip but not a word has been said concerning the aridity of the voyage.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

## A Test of the Governor's Courage.

From the Philadelphia Record. The anthracite coal miners and operators lately in session at Atlantic City to discuss a new contract have split over the question of whether or not the operators of coal mines shall deduct from the wages of their employees the dues the latter owe to the union.

The obligation of the operators to establish a "closed shop" by the process of "complete recognition of the union" demanded by the miners has been denied by two arbitration bodies called in to settle previous disputes. The reasons for the denial are just as pertinent today as they were when President Roosevelt and Wilson intervened.

Why are the miners able to insist upon this arbitrary and unreasonable demand? Because under the laws of this State, ostensibly enacted for the protection of life, no one is permitted to mine coal who has not been granted a certificate obtainable only by protracted experience in the mines. This law gives the union members an absolute monopoly of mining.

The law is doubtless in normal times a good one, but it is being put to an evil use. It is the weapon which the miners use against the public.

If Governor Pinchot has the moral courage to do the right thing at the right time, he will immediately call a special session of the Legislature and ask it to pass a bill authorizing the Governor to suspend the operation of this law when and if public necessity may require the operation of the mines by persons not holding certificates.

Such a measure would break the strangle-hold the miners have on the throats of the public and afford the people some measure of protection against the bringing on of a coal famine to force the mine owners to collect from their employees the union dues which they are unable to collect for themselves.

Has Governor Pinchot the nerve to come to the rescue of the coal consumer at the risk of making himself unpopular with the men who are getting ready to freeze us to death?

## For East is East.

From the Villager. How would you say it briefly if you were asked to describe the change which these ten years have wrought in the thoughts of men; what governing idea do you think would most adequately express your understanding of the alteration? Would you select the new idea of war? Of peace? The new point of view concerning property?

For our own part, we should not pitch upon any of these; we should instance as most eloquent of the Zeitgeist the changed attitude of the western mind toward eastern life; this seems to us to include all the other changes. Ten years ago the west resisted the east barbarian. Where the east resisted the western culture, the west said it was because of ignorance and superstition. This ignorance once conquered, the east once educated to western ways, once the eastern dark pierced by the sun of western trade, all would be easy sailing and resistance at an end. That was ten years ago. How much less sure of its message is the west today! No longer is it certain that only ignorance and stupidity account for the eastern hatred of western civilization, no longer does the west think of the east as outlandish, as inferior, as barbarian; it thinks of the east now as different, positively, obstinately, perhaps unalterably different. What is of greatest importance in the whole circumstance is that the new understanding does not derive as much from a re-appraisal of the east by the west as from the west's re-appraisal of itself.

## Electing the Wrong Man.

From the New York World. It is the ancient irony of politics that when the cheering subsides after an election the voters so often discover that they have picked the wrong man. It is so again in Minnesota. The real dirt farmer is not Magnus Johnson, but his wife, and Mrs. Johnson is not even going to Washington.

Mrs. Johnson managed the farm, while her husband, known to his neighborhood as "Generally Speaking" Johnson, traveled leather-lunging through the countryside. She does not talk much. It is her pride and that of her children that they have only had to hire outside help once during the summer. "The boys run the farm and the girls do the housework," she says, "while I take care of the garden and the livestock and sort of manage them. We've got along very well."

Washington could use a few Senators who knew more about conducting a farming venture than about talking. There is already too much speaking, general and otherwise, at both ends of the capitol, and never enough administrative ability. "Generally Speaking" Johnson will make himself heard in office, but his wife might have actually accomplished something comparable to the planting and harvesting of a crop on a 140 acre farm, or milking seven cows before breakfast. Unfortunately, it is too late. Once more the voters have chosen the orator of the family and passed over the tiller of the soil.

—It appears that Germany is able to make progress in every thing except paying what she owes.

## SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Caught by a reaper's sharp knives when clearing away weeds, ten year old William Geist, son of John Geist, of Henningsville, Berks county, is in a critical condition.

—Burglars entered the hotel of Patrick Walsh, in Glensville, on Saturday night, and removed the safe containing \$300, jewelry and valuable papers. The robbery was discovered by a clerk, who on reporting for work found the front door open.

—A six-inch army shell was supposedly unloaded and bought as scrap exploded in the furnace of the National Foundry plant at Erie last Thursday, doing \$50,000 damage and forcing a shutdown of more than ten days. Four hundred men at work escaped injury.

—Drilling for oil in Warren and Forest counties has practically come to a stop because of the five cuts in crude oil prices that have been made since April. The reduction in the price of Pennsylvania crude has been accompanied by no cut in the price of materials used in drilling wells.

—William P. Wilson, who has been district manager of the United Telephone company eleven years, with headquarters in Williamsport, on Wednesday of this week became district manager of the Huntingdon and Clearfield Telephone company, with headquarters at Clearfield.

—Planting eight bushels of onion sets during the early spring, John R. Althoff, of York county, has just harvested 184½ bushels, an average of 23½ bushels to each bushel of sets planted. Paying \$1.08 per bushel for the seed, he received \$177.54 for the entire crop, a net profit of \$168.94.

—Francis Mitchell, a member of headquarters company, 110th regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard, was drowned on Sunday afternoon while bathing in the Conemaugh river near Greensburg. Mitchell returned home from Mt. Gretna a week ago where he attended the annual encampment.

—Mrs. Charles Altland, wife of a York county farmer, has lived more than four weeks with a broken back. The case is puzzling local physicians. Mrs. Altland was assisting her husband during the harvest season and fell from a load of hay. An examination of her injuries revealed that the third vertebrae of the spine is broken.

—Sale of the controlling interest in the Pittsburgh Press to Roy W. Howard, of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, was announced last Friday by Colonel Oliver S. Hershman, for twenty-three years owner and publisher. The purchase price was not announced but the figure is said to be the largest ever paid for a single newspaper property in the United States. Colonel Hershman will continue as director and holder of a minority interest in the Press.

—The New York and Pennsylvania Paper company has been awarded \$50,000 by Judge Eugene H. Baird, of the Clinton county courts, in the equity case brought by the company against the New York Central Railroad company to recover excess freight charges and value of coal and \$63,000 in an award of reparations by the Public Service Commission, with interest. The cases have attracted much attention, both companies being represented by brilliant legal talent.

—The whereabouts of Jacob Auman, an aged Seltsgrove resident, who disappeared from home more than a month ago, still remains a mystery. Police far and near are searching, but to date no word or clue has been given. He had lived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Hendricks the past nine years, and there is no reason apparent for his disappearance. On the day he left the Hendricks home he said he was going over to the other part of the town from the Isle of Que.

—Through years that were wet and years that were exceedingly dry, Frank Coveley, of Pottsville, has kept a small flask of the kind of liquor that improves with age, and he thereby has kept a promise made twenty-three years ago. At a party in 1890 he received the flask from Mrs. C. O. Miller, wife of the proprietor of the Bechtelville hotel, and he promised her he would not open it until his forty-fifth birthday anniversary, when he would share the contents with her. Coveley faithfully kept his promise.

—Two murders occurred during the week-end in Fayette county, one near Connelville Saturday, and the other Sunday afternoon near Brownsville. Participants in each case were brothers-in-law. Sam Zello was shot three times and killed during a fight near Brownsville. Mike Marino, his brother-in-law, was arrested, charged with the crime as he appeared at the Brownsville general hospital for treatment of injuries. George Baker, a Negro, was shot and killed Saturday at Trotter, near Connelville. Richard Thompson, also a Negro, was arrested charged with the killing.

—Lightning last Wednesday struck the house of George Hackman, of Springettsbury township, York county, burning a hole in the roof. In a bed directly beneath where the bolt descended were two nieces who were on a visit. The bolster on which their heads rested was cut in two between them, burning the girls. A part of the bed was also burned off. The bolt continued into another room, burning off the four posts of a bed. Ruth, seven year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Minnich, of Emigsville, one niece, was seriously burned. The other niece, Evelyn Minnich, was also slightly burned.

—F. P. Culver, said to be from Arizona, escaped from the Millfin county jail at Lewistown early Sunday morning by digging a hole in the wall, according to a message sent out by the Middle division police. The man had taken an automobile from Mt. Union and later wrecked it but was held on a charge of operating an automobile while under the influence of liquor. Culver is described as about 28 years old, five feet, ten inches in height, and weighing 153 pounds. He has brown hair and was wearing a blue serge suit, tan shoes and a straw hat. He is an automobile mechanic. He had been in jail for two weeks.

—A beggar with hat in hand planted himself before a movie theatre in Sunbury, Saturday night. The theatre manager, J. M. Blanchard, saw people falling over themselves to throw in their dimes and quarters, and that they were being duped, and he ordered the man away. The beggar refused to go, so an officer put an end to his business. Much sympathy was expressed by the spectators for the beggar because of his apparent crippled condition. On Sunday morning the man appeared on Arch street, one of the best streets of the city, but in a different role. He sported a seven-passenger automobile with a New York State license. When identified he soon quit the city.