

—Here's hoping that Senor Firpo knocks the block off the Hon. Jack Dempsey tonight.

—The temporary settlement of the coal strike is no reason why inventors should stop searching for a substitute for anthracite.

—What we'd like to know is why is the world so full of people whose meat and drink seems to be the dispenser of morbid news.

—Coolidge seems to be a wise bird. He lets Pinchot have the present glory and will expect him to take the blame after the increased coal bills are computed.

—While at Gettysburg on Tuesday Henry Ford registered at the hotel as "A. Henry." Of course the secret of his identity was out just as quickly as if he had signed the register as A. Lizzie.

—As we said last week we know exactly who is going to be picked for the various places on the Republican county ticket next Tuesday. We'll tell you all about it after the primaries. To do so now might upset the slate and name a harder ticket for us to lick.

—The net results of the four points on which Pinchot settled the coal strike seem to us to be: First, the miners got about all they ever hoped to get. Second, the operators got about all they ever hoped to get. Third, Pinchot thinks he'll get a lot of glory. Fourth, the public got it in the neck.

—The munificence and the rapidity with which our country has given aid to stricken Japan may go a long way toward mollifying the inherent animosity of the Japanese for us, but whether it does or doesn't the heart of America is going out to those in distress. It is bread we are casting on the waters without a thought of its ever coming back.

—And now it appears that Cal, if we may be permitted to speak of our President as familiarly as some others are, and Gif—meaning the gentleman who murdered the hospitals of Pennsylvania, are approaching the parting of the ways over who shall have the glory of having settled the coal strike. At the moment we don't remember whether old man Stearns has gone back to his ribbons and laces in Boston or not, but if he is still in Washington he'd better tip his protegee off to let Gif. have it.

—The Frenchtown, New Jersey postmaster, who complains about having to be a mother to nearly four million baby chickens that were dumped on him by a nearby hatchery for transportation through the mail, ought to have thought of the responsibilities when he was running around getting everybody to sign his petition for the job. We don't know the Frenchtown postmaster, but we do know a lot of others who preside over the final point of distribution of Uncle Sam's mail and because we do are playing "old cluck" would come so natural that we can't understand the complaint.

—The farmers of Centre county are sowing wheat, at least those of them who are not afraid of "the fly." With their teams or tractors they have spent days of hard labor in preparing the soil for seeding. They have paid from eighteen to thirty-five dollars a ton for fertilizer to stimulate it. Next July they'll harvest the crop, pay threshermen for threshing it and haul the net result to the mill and get, probably, a dollar a bushel. Then they'll take the check the miller gives them and go down to the coal yard to buy a ton or so of anthracite for "the room stove" and it will take just one more bushel of wheat to pay for a ton than it did last week. Why? Let them ask the man so many of them voted for last fall.

—And now we know why Henry W. Shoemaker bought the Altoona Tribune. He had an oration on his chest and had to get it off to make lung action easier for mountain climbing. The Tribune gave it to the world on Wednesday under the caption "At Roosevelt's Grave." It's really a wonderful oration. In among "the waters of Long Island sound, that sparkled like diamonds" and gulls that sang "with cracked voices a pean of autumnal rejoicing" there was a chorus of "ohs" and "ahs" as a stout woman in the party was saying "something about railroad ties as a substitute for marble steps. It's the first oration we ever read or heard that featured "a stout woman in the party." But that's what makes it an oration. To have been real McElhatnesque Henry would have called her a fat lady, but in the atmosphere of sparkling waters, cracked voiced gulls and "drooping branches of old white pines" "stout woman" was far more oratory. We couldn't get exactly all it was about but it reads like a vandalistic effort to frisk something out between the iron railing which surrounded "Strongheart's" grave and weave it into the "black diamond" mantel in which Pinchot struts. And then—immediately following the grand effort of the "angel" of the Tribune comes one of its minions with a paragraph admitting that the "peepul" got the worst of it when Pinchot settled the coal strike. What the Tribune's editorial department seems to need most is team work and an introduction to the methods of Susanne Cocroft which would probably take "the stout woman" out of its pictures.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Public Sentiment Reacting.

In writing to the President a suggestion that the Interstate Commerce Commission be invoked to reduce freight rates on coal Governor Pinchot appears to have "put his foot in it." The friends of President Coolidge resent it as a rather bungling effort to shove him off the political map and put the Governor in his place. The Washington Post, which is the mouthpiece of the new administration as it was of the last, says "Governor Pinchot's letter to President Coolidge will stand hereafter as an example of the manner in which the public is misused by politicians for their own advantage," and adds, "this is a piece of cheap politics which deceives no one and is unworthy of the Governor of Pennsylvania." It may have fooled Pinchot.

It seems that the President, previous to the receipt of Mr. Pinchot's letter, had taken the steps suggested, and that in fact the scheme had originated with the President, who had conveyed it to the Governor, confidentially. Instead of co-operating with the President Governor Pinchot adopted it as his own and made it public. Naturally this aroused indignation in the minds of the President's friends, which is expressed in the language of the Washington newspaper. "How popular will Governor Pinchot be with the public?" continues the Post. "Higher wages than ever before in the history of mining for the operators, middlemen, wholesalers and retailers. Higher prices per ton than ever before in the history of the coal industry for the individual consumer to pay for his coal. There's the net result. And Governor Pinchot is welcome to all the personal popularity he will get from it."

This statement exactly expresses the concrete public opinion on the subject. Any citizen, public or private, might have accomplished the result achieved by Pinchot. He simply proposed that the miners be given an increase in wages, the operators and distributors a greater increase in profits and put the burden of paying the added expense on the consumers. The miners were naturally pleased and the operators and distributors were equally well pleased. They were involved in a bitter contention and both won. The miners were represented by their capable organization officials. The others by shrewd representatives. The consumers, vastly the most numerous element, were represented by Pinchot "who betrayed them to their enemies."

—Don't fail to attend the primary next Tuesday. It is your duty to the community, as well as to yourself.

Cause of Confusion in Harrisburg.

The coal strike having been settled by an increase of wages to the miners, an increase of profits to the operators and an increased coal bill for the public to pay, press reports from Harrisburg indicate that the controversy over the validity of the administrative code will soon be resumed. State Treasurer Snyder has filed his answer to the mandamus proceedings of the Attorney General to compel him to pay warrants of certain employees of the State held up since the middle of June. The treasurer again assails the code as unconstitutional and asks for judgment of the court on that basis. The Attorney General professes to be willing to meet the demand under conditions suitable to him.

This is simply quibbling over a grave question and is exceedingly tiresome. The contention of the State Treasurer is supported by high legal authority and good public policy requires a final settlement of the question. If the code is unconstitutional all actions under it that conflict with the fundamental law are invalid. That being manifest to all minds the matter ought to be brought to a judicial test. Whether the initiative is within or without the capitol park is of no consequence. It is said that the Attorney General insists that the proceedings must come from the outside. But nobody outside is deeply concerned. Only those liable to surcharge need care.

The truth is that Governor Pinchot and his advisers have mused up things at Harrisburg for selfish reasons. The Attorney General may be familiar with the rule of out and indoor sports but has scant understanding of law. The Secretary of the Commonwealth may be an expert in mathematics but is impractical as well as ignorant in problems of government. The Governor is an efficient forester but a booby in statecraft. But this trio of amateur administrators have set out to push Pinchot into the White House at Washington and laws favorable or forbidding that confront them are unimportant. Because of these facts confusion exists in every department of the State government.

Settlement of the Coal Strike.

The public, the mine owners and the coal diggers alike rejoice over the certainty of an early resumption of work in the anthracite coal region. The public rejoices because a coal famine with its attendant evils, including suffering and death, may be averted. The mine owners rejoice for the reason that resumption of work guarantees continuity of and increased profits, and the miners rejoice because it insures them uninterrupted employment and increased wages. The public must have coal at any price. The coal owners and coal miners might have prolonged their quarrel until prices had reached the prohibitive stage or the authorities had intervened in the interest of human life and public safety.

When Governor Pinchot announced that he would adjust the differences between the mine owners and mine workers in the interest of the public great hopes were aroused. It is widely believed that the State government, supported by public sentiment, might exercise a compelling power in the contending forces that would result in mutual yielding, and the action of the Governor was the beginning of entering wedge to that commendable achievement. But the conditions of the settlement of the dispute disappoint such expectations. The Governor has consented to the plucking of the public and an uneven division of the spoils of the operation between the coal owners and coal miners.

Governor Pinchot proclaimed the result of his negotiations with the mine owners and mine workers with considerable elation. "It is with the keenest satisfaction," he declared, "that I tell you that I am authorized to announce that both miners and operators have now agreed upon the four points of the basis of settlement tendered them." These points provided for an increase of the miners' wages and the operators' profits. The money to meet the conditions is to be drawn out of the pockets of the public, which has been literally sacrificed in order to promote the altogether selfish and more or less absurd ambition of the Governor. It is a "peace without a victory" for the helpless people of the country.

—There must be some sort of venomous serpent concealed in the congratulatory letter which President Coolidge sent to Governor Pinchot. The Governor refuses to give it to the public "as she is wrote."

Trying to Beguile Coolidge.

An esteemed contemporary professes to be greatly perplexed because certain leading Republicans in Washington, who had been strenuously opposing the renomination of Mr. Harding, are now quite as earnestly supporting President Coolidge for the party favor. There is some reason for the perplexity. Mr. Coolidge has announced his intention to pursue the policies of the Harding administration and to "prove his faith by works" has retained in the service of his administration all the important officials appointed by Harding. In the circumstances it is not easy to imagine what reasons influence their action. Harding was certainly personally and socially the more pleasing figure.

It must be said that as President, Warren G. Harding was a failure. There are various reasons for this fact. In the first place, if recently developed evidence is dependable Mr. Harding was never sincerely in sympathy with his own policies. Even before his election, and while the campaign of 1920 was in progress, he was in favor of the League of Nations. Privately he revealed this fact to a number of his intimate friends and upon this assurance William Howard Taft, former Attorney General Wickliffe and others urged his election as the "surest way of getting this country into the League." After his induction into the office he tried to assume the opposite role, but made a miserable failure of it.

The radical and rampant "isolationists," such as Senators Moses and Lodge, were opposed to his renomination on this account and probably believe that they can influence Coolidge to adopt their view of the subject. He is new in the arts of politics and inexperienced in the business of statecraft, and they imagine that he will follow the Harding policies only so far as they coincided with the wishes of the party managers. Mr. Harding was moving to break away from this mental slavery. His announcement of a desire to join the world court was the last and persuasive expression of his purpose, and the support of Coolidge is to draw him away from that Harding policy.

Germany has no right to complain because outsiders are trying to solve the financial problems. She refuses to try to solve them herself and they must be solved in the interest of world stability.

Conspiracy to "Shelve" Pinchot.

We take this early opportunity to protest against the attempt, now apparently in process at Washington, to shunt Governor Pinchot into second place on the Republican Presidential ticket next year. It may be that those responsible for the movement are influenced by kindly feelings toward our Governor. It will be remembered that Roosevelt passed from the office of Governor of New York through the vice Presidential chair to the "bully" time he had in the White House, and nothing could be more flattering to Mr. Pinchot than an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of his adored leader. Of course there is no assurance, and probably no desire, that the parallel should continue to the end.

We are not reliably informed as to the source of this movement to place Pinchot in second place on the Presidential ticket next year. The newspaper correspondent who has given it currency says the political forecasters believe "he can have it by merely indicating that it is acceptable" and adds: "It is believed that the Republican party managers would incline toward some one for second place on the ticket who has been in the limelight" and Mr. Pinchot certainly measures up to that condition. After all he has accomplished for the Anti-Saloon League, his settlement of the coal strike to the satisfaction of the mine owners and miners, though at the expense of the public, is proof positive of that.

The "fly in the ointment," however, is in the suspicion that the leaders of the Penrose machine are behind this movement to shift Gifford into "low gear" at a time when he is confident of making the grade in "high." It is said that W. Harry Baker, chairman of the Republican State committee, and Senators Pepper and Reed have "started to stack the cards" against the Governor's Presidential aspirations and are "industriously combing the State lining up friendly chairmen and other influential organization men" against him. It is said that Secretary Mellon is in sympathy with this conspiracy but that needn't worry Pinchot. It was for the same purpose that Senator Platt "shelved" Roosevelt.

—It is quite evident that the fight now on in Pittsburgh between the regular Republican organization and the Leslie adherents for control of the offices in that city is the real thing. The Pittsburgh Pictorial, in its issue of September 1st, devotes almost its entire space to booming the organization candidates, page ten being taken up with the exploitation of John Francies, late warden of the western penitentiary, and now candidate for clerk of the courts of Allegheny county. In addition to the reading matter setting forth Mr. Francies' many good qualities and extreme fitness for the office the article is embellished with pictures of himself and the new cell house now in course of construction at the Rockview penitentiary. Of course anything that "Watchman" might say probably have no weight with the voters of Pittsburgh but the organization candidates are confident of winning out and naturally Mr. Francies has our best wishes for his success.

—Mr. Theodore Wright, retired editor in chief of the Philadelphia Record, celebrated the ninety-third anniversary of his birth, in the enjoyment of excellent health, on Thursday, August 30th. The Record commemorated the event in an editorial expressing appreciation of his splendid service to that newspaper, the people of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, which brought to the memory of the older readers many past incidents of the political life of the country. Mr. Wright was "guide, philosopher and friend" to many of the great leaders of the Democracy of Pennsylvania and though reserved in speech he was potent in influence. We cordially concur in the hope expressed by our esteemed contemporary that God may "bless him to round out his notable career to a full century."

—A drunken motorist is more dangerous than a venomous snake but he has nothing on the sober fool at the wheel who tries to pass everybody.

—Though the "Pony Express" experiment succeeded admirably it is not likely that that system of carrying mail from coast to coast will be resumed.

—Public response to the "signal of distress" from Japan was prompt and liberal, which indicates that the fear of the "yellow peril" is subsiding.

—The principal reason why the prize fighting game is profitable is because the sport loving public is easy.

Coal and the Consumer.

From the Philadelphia Record. It was early announced on behalf of the President that if a coal strike should occur he would break it by an ample supply of substitute fuel. But while an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, the President seems to have had no confidence that he could accomplish the prevention, so he passed that on to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

The Governor cheerfully assumed the task, with the explanation that he did it of his own motion, not as the agent of the President, but as the Governor of the State from which the anthracite comes. He seems to have accomplished the task—at the expense of the consumers. His own computation is that it will add half a dollar a ton, and he hopes "ultimately" to relieve the consumer of this. But before "ultimately" shall arrive the consumer will have paid the enhanced price and burned the coal, and be beyond redress. The Governor's idea of getting the railways and the coal trade to assume the increased cost is, of course, chimerical; they are going to get "all the traffic will bear." The operators estimate the increased cost of 75 cents a ton, and the consumers will be in great luck if the retail increase is less than a dollar.

As a great many people are without coal, and everybody can't be supplied before cold weather, the dealers are in a position to exact two or three or four dollars a ton extra, as the Coal Commission's report shows that they did last year. Mining was resumed last year in September, but only 65 per cent. of a normal supply was distributed, and some of the dealers did not prorate their supplies. Some consumers had plenty of coal, and others did not get even 25 per cent. of a normal supply, and had to piece out on buckwheat and coke and bituminous, and suffer from cold houses. It looks as if this year were going to be exceedingly favorable for the profits of the distributors.

Now that the coal strike is probably averted by the concession of 10 per cent. increase of wages, it is reported from Washington that the Administration is determined to get its share of credit for averting the strike. The Administration's share is nil. We fail to see that any substantial share of credit inures even to the Governor of Pennsylvania. It is not likely that the miners ever expected to get more than 10 per cent. increase, and that has been conceded to them at the cost of the consumer.

In all probability the miners would have accepted this settlement at Atlantic City, or before the conference there was called. They demanded 20 per cent. increase; 10 per cent. is conceded to them, and they take it, and the enhanced price will be paid by the consumer. The President of the United States shirked the task of protecting the consumer, and the Governor of Pennsylvania put the cost of splitting the amount of the wage demand upon the consumer. The hero of the police strike in Boston proves helpless in the presence of a coal strike, and the people have no occasion for getting enthusiastic over the Republican President or the Republican Governor.

The Coal Truce.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. It would be foolish to hail the tentative agreement made at Harrisburg Friday afternoon as an enduring settlement or a sound compromise. Its terms are written, not on brass, but in water. It is, in fact, no more than a breathing space between rounds, a truce whose terms put off until some time that should be settled today.

There should be jubilation in the tents of the miners, for theirs is the unquestioned victory. They get an eight-hour day, a 10 per cent. wage increase, a continuing recognition of the union and of collective bargaining and will keep the very workable "check-off" arrangement they have now.

In the house of the operators there should be discreet but serene joy. They keep the phantom of a theoretical "open shop" and, having warned Governor Pinchot and the public what to expect, they will now proceed to advance mine costs eighty cents per ton and pass this increase on to their retailers and to the public. The operators should worry. The public will get coal. It has had a strike settled for it at a price that threatens to be a heavy price. By all the laws of probability and averages, coal will advance a dollar a ton; possibly more.

The \$22,500,000 or more in added expense must come from somewhere, and in the annals of strikes there is nothing justifying the hope that operators, railways and distributors will absorb it. We can tell how successful this armed truce in the coal war will be when we find what coal will cost this winter delivered in the home. That will be its acid test.

—An esteemed contemporary states that Governor Pinchot "is tickled down to his toes" over the coal settlement. But the public will have to dig down to the toes to pay the increased coal bill.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The jury in the case of Mrs. Mattie Myers, of Westmoreland county, who was charged with killing her husband, Harry Myers, a chauffeur, deliberated only five minutes and then returned a verdict of not guilty. Mrs. Myers testified in her own defense and stated that on several occasions her husband had attempted to take her life.

—The will of William M. Dreisbach, of Lewisburg, owner of a large hardware store in that town, was probated in the Northumberland county courts last week. It disposes of more than \$100,000 among the widow, Kate N. Dreisbach; Thorpe D. Nesbit and Mrs. Anna K. Henderson, the latter two being nephew and niece. Miss Laura E. Dreisbach is given the income of \$10,000 for life.

—Frank McCormick, county deputy tax collector at Sewickly, was paroled in criminal court at Pittsburgh last week, after he had entered a plea of guilty to the embezzlement of \$6,000. McCormick said that the money had been spent for doctors and hospital fees, his wife having been seriously burned and two of his children having been ill for long periods. Friends and the bonding company made up the shortage.

—George Erickson, 25 years old, Cleveland prize-fighter, who tried to escape from Sheriff Voorhies, of Venango county, by biting him on the hand recently, pleaded guilty to a charge of mayhem and was sentenced at Franklin, last Saturday, to not less than one year and six months and not more than three years in the western penitentiary. The attack was made as Erickson was being taken to Franklin by automobile for an offense in Oil City.

—While cutting a strip of leather, Thomas Tarcin, of Larksville, Luzerne county, a striking miner, slashed an artery in his hand and bled to death in the basement of his home last Thursday night. Tarcin had turned cobbler during the strike and was repairing shoes for persons in the neighborhood. It is believed that he did not realize the seriousness of his injury and failed to call or seek help. He was found by members of his family in a weakened condition and said the knife had slipped. Before a doctor arrived he had died.

—Paul Babcock made ineffectual efforts to commit suicide at Johnstown last Friday. He jumped from the famous stone bridge into the Conemaugh river. The water came only to his waist, so he bent over to get his head under the surface. His breath lasted only so long, so he came up for air and then ducked under again. A policeman, after watching the performance half an hour, finally told him to come ashore and placed him under arrest on a charge of disorderly conduct. Babcock insisted that he was trying to commit suicide.

—With both legs nearly burned off and a large hole in his side, Edmund Caborette, aged 12 years, of Point Marion, Pa., displayed unusual nerve last Thursday and when a rope was thrown him he tied it to one hand and was drawn away from a wire which carried 6600 volts. He died an hour later. Edmund, with two playmates, went to the tippie of the Locust Hill Coal company and there he touched an innocent looking wire which held him powerless to break away. The other boys became frightened and ran. Edmund's friends tried to help bring a brickyard employee to his aid.

—Pennsylvania members of the I. O. O. F. will congregate at Lancaster during the week of October 14 for the ninety-fourth annual session of the grand encampment and the thirtieth annual session of the department council. One of the features during the sessions will be the dedication of the new hall of the Lancaster Odd Fellows, at 213 and 215 West Chestnut street, which was built at a cost of more than \$100,000. Officers of the grand lodge will have charge of the ceremonies. A parade will be held on October 16, and prizes are offered for the best uniformed ranks in line. Prizes are also offered for dress work.

—The erection of gasoline or oil pumps and filling stations within eight feet of state highways is prohibited under an order issued last week by the bureau of fire prevention of the state police department. The order is not retroactive. Paul D. Wright, secretary of highways, in a letter to borough councils, asked that they pass ordinances forbidding the erection of pumps and filling stations closer than eight feet to improved highways in the borough. Attention was called to the fact that where pumps are erected adjacent to the improved road they cause interference with the "orderly passage of two-way traffic" when a vehicle is drawn up for filling.

—Inadvertently stuffing a .22-calibre rifle shell into his corncob pipe when he filled it with tobacco from a pouch, Simon S. Folk, 80 years old, of Elk Lick, Somerset county, near the Maryland line, lost his sight when the shell exploded. A short time before the accident he had been shooting target near his home and dropped several unexploded shells into his pocket, one of them falling into the tobacco pouch. The old man believed it was a hard lump of tobacco he was stuffing into his pipe when he put the shell in along with cut tobacco. The explosion blew the pipe to bits, imbedding pieces of the cob in the man's face.

—Judge Audenried, of Philadelphia, has granted the petition of Harry H. and Myrtle Cabot, to change their name to Cabot, despite objections of descendants of the famous English navigators, John and Sebastian Cabot, residing in Massachusetts, and the Pennsylvania Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots. The court said he was constrained to grant the petitioners "the right to use the name of Cabot, as 'there apparently is nothing in the law to stop any one using that, or other famous names.' An application is now on file in Centre county court for the changing of the name of Nathan and Betsy Ickowitz, of Bellefonte, to Nathan and Betsy Kofman.

—Two men in an automobile, who said they were Ernest Romerz and Joseph Dalgado, both of Baltimore, were arrested on Sunday by the city police, after a gun fight on the streets of Northumberland. More than \$2000 worth of men's clothing, alleged to have been taken from a store of "Sam the hatter," at Williamsport, in a robbery Saturday night, was found on the car. They admitted the crime, according to Policeman Specht, and said they were hired by Joe Martini, of Baltimore, to drive to Williamsport. There the store was robbed and they were on their way to Baltimore with the load, when arrested. Martini made good his escape the night of the robbery by taking a train for Baltimore.