

—The new moon is so far around to the south that, methinks, we will not have any snow of consequence before Christmas.

—If the producers, the miners or the railroads would only absorb that increase in the cost of anthracite all of the Pinchot troubles would be over. They would have at least one plank to stand on a Presidential platform.

—Along with the Presidential boom of Mr. McAdoo has been born "The California Democrat" published once a week at Los Angeles, Cal., and promising to keep going at least until after Mr. McAdoo gets the Democratic nomination for President.

—We want you all, no matter where you live, to turn to page four of this issue and read the little story of what the Christmas seals are being sold for. It is under the head "An Object Lesson." If it isn't the most appealing prayer to you to do a little for some one else then you haven't the right conscience to tug at your heart strings.

—Evidence is accumulating to show that the Sixty-eighth Congress is to be one notorious for attempted tinkering with the constitution. Already eight amendments have been introduced in the House. Nobody will worry much about them, however. The country is through with ratifying constitutional amendments for many years to come.

—Pity the poor hunters who shot spike bucks only to find the spike a quarter of an inch short. That quarter of an inch cost them \$100 fine. Surely this provision of the game law ought to be changed in some way that would not practically make it necessary for the hunter who wants to be safe to catch the buck first, measure his spike, then slay him.

—We still have faith in Mayor-elect Kendrick's revolutionary desire to take the Philadelphia police out of politics by the appointment of Brig. Gen. Smed. Butler as Director of Public Safety of that city. But, oh! What a shock it would be if it is later found out that Kendrick knew, when he announced his preference, that the War Department would not release Gen. Butler for so long a time without sacrifice of his rank.

—Talking to the Lion's club at Pottsville, an evening or so ago, Dr. Thomas, president of The Pennsylvania State College, said "there are too many young men trying to get white-collar jobs by studying non-technical subjects in college." The Doctor evidently knows that the old white-collar ain't what she used to be, but we'd like him to tell us how many of those engineering students who have "from three to seven positions open to them" immediately upon graduation have ambitions to be jigglin' their Adam's apple on a white collar as soon as they arrive.

—Of course there are a lot of thoroughly straightforward men holding public office today, but we want somebody to show us one of them entitled to rank with the Centre county assessor who gave the occupation of one of the citizens whom he was called upon to register as "Moonshiner." We are accustomed to seeing "Gentleman" or "Lady" after the names of some whose occupation is more or less problematical. In fact it is somewhat distinctive but when it comes to being classed as a "Moonshiner," well—that's an occupation that it takes a brave man to assign to any one.

—The Italian Premier, Mussolini, who from many angles is viewed as nothing more nor less than a dictator, is certainly the most courageous figure that has come into world affairs in many, many years. In the height of his power he has asked and received the King's decree to dissolve the present session of the Chamber—which is unreservedly supporting him—in order that the country may vote for a new one. That seems to us to be putting the Fascist government which he inaugurated to the acid test. Also, it seems to us to be the slickest political move of which we have knowledge.

—Up to Wednesday we had, for a period of thirty years or more, gloated in the conceit that when necessity compelled it, we could cook as palatable a "rough stuff" meal as anybody who ever handled kitchen utensils. It's all off now. The last claim we have nurtured as being good at anything is gone. Through illness of the one by nature endowed to perfectly function in the preparation of the family meal it fell to us to provide something for the invalid, the boys and "we." We looked the refrigerator over and discovered the makings of a chicken pie that had been in contemplation before influenza flew into the family. We knew that there were some left-over mashed potatoes in cold storage also. Happy thought! Why not have stewed chicken and mashed potatoes? It was a mere matter of warming up both and making the boys think their dad about the best cook ever. We did it. But when the mashed potatoes came out of the oven they were worse than the gummiest rabbit you ever ate and when we carried them off far enough to make an unobserved inspection we discovered that we had warmed up the crust for the planned chicken pie instead of the mashed potatoes that were standing in a bowl just behind it. It's all off! We're not a cook, et al. We're through with everything but a claim to being just as good a little fried egg and ham artist as ever lived.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 68. BELLEFONTE, PA., DECEMBER 14, 1923. NO. 49.

Farmers Betrayed by Pinchot.

The esteemed Harrisburg Patriot gives us this interesting but rather unpleasant information: "Because the State appropriation to fight the Japanese beetle was exhausted by the quarantine during the past summer, the State Department of Agriculture will ask federal funds from Congress and county appropriations from county commissioners to continue the fight next summer, Secretary Frank P. Willits said yesterday." The Legislature appropriated \$50,000 at its last session to fight this formidable enemy of agriculture but Governor Pinchot cut the amount to \$30,000. That amount was expended in enforcing the quarantine and fighting the beetle which "was ravishing all vegetation in southeastern counties."

In order to bolster up Governor Pinchot's reputation as an economical administrator the farmers of Pennsylvania were left open to an enemy of a most destructive nature. The menace was present when the Legislature made the appropriation. Experienced farmers urged a liberal campaign of defence. But Pinchot, who urged extravagance in other directions, adopted the "cheese-paring" policy in this matter with the result that it will be necessary to go begging to Congress to protect the farms of the State or make a forced levy upon the farmers themselves through the county commissioners. Economy of that sort is neither becoming nor desired by the people of Pennsylvania, farmers or others.

Mr. Willits proposes to visit Washington to urge Congress to save our farmers. But even if he should succeed in his begging enterprises the help would come too late to serve the purpose. A congressional appropriation could not be made available before July, according to the statements of those informed on the subject, and the work of the extermination must be done in June. The \$50,000 appropriated at the last session of the Assembly would have achieved the result, for considerable progress was made last summer. But the enemy will have undisputed control of the situation during May and June next year and the farmers will pay a high price for the cannazionization of Pinchot as an agricultural Saint.

—We will soon find out the result of Governor Pinchot's second conference with the Governors of other anthracite using States. It was in session in Harrisburg yesterday, (Thursday), and the failure will be known within a few days.

Cordelia Not a Deadhead.

In Governor Pinchot's laudable ambition to become President the amiable and versatile Cordelia "is no deadhead in the enterprise." She may be over zealous in her activities or mistaken in the line of her endeavors but she is certainly "on the job" in season and out, and has a tolerably wise idea of the trend of popular opinion. Mrs. Cordelia seems to believe that the prohibition path is the shortest and surest route to the White House, and upon every opportunity she leads the way in that direction. Possibly she goes too strong or strikes too high a note in her efforts to set the procession in motion. But that is a matter of detail which can hardly be measured accurately at this time.

Last Sunday Mrs. Cordelia addressed a meeting composed of nine churches in the Eighteenth ward of Philadelphia. She was a trifle tardy in the beginning, for she didn't arrive at the place of meeting until five o'clock, when she had been scheduled to speak at 3:45. But she made up for any delinquency in time by the vehemence of language. She accused the federal authorities, meaning of course Mr. Coolidge, who has "his eyes set" on a renewal of his lease of the White House. She also took a fall out of the judges of the courts and the prosecuting attorneys who she imagines are not in complete sympathy with the strenuous efforts of Gifford to enforce the Volstead law in Pennsylvania or elsewhere.

Incidentally Cordelia thrusts a keen blade between the ribs of Senator Pepper, punctures the hide of Secretary Mellon and levels a smashing blow on the features of chairman W. Harry Baker. "As long," she declares, "as a United States Senator, a cabinet officer, a committee chairman, a county boss or an ordinary ward heeler can dictate the appointment of prohibition agents on political grounds, as is being done every day throughout the country, just so long will prohibition fail to prohibit." This is probably the truth, so far as it implies that the Senator, the cabinet officer and the committee chairman's influences have been against enforcement. But there is no certainty that prohibition will ever prohibit.

—Mr. Bascom Slemper is an expert at gathering in colored delegates but if Hi Johnson's manager lives up to his reputation Bascom may slump.

Right but a Trifle Late.

Following the semi-official announcement that President Coolidge is a candidate for a full term of the Presidency his message to Congress urging economy in expenditures of the government was timely if not altogether wise. Every rational minded citizen favors economy in government and an appeal to Congress to cut appropriations to the bone will command approval if not tainted with insincerity. The average voter is likely to reason, however, that Mr. Coolidge has been identified with the government at Washington for some time and until he became a candidate for election never opened his mouth or wrote a line in favor of rigid economy. As a "sitter in" at Cabinet meetings he had his chance.

Propaganda is a more popular than potent force in politics and it looks very much as if the President's appeal for reduced appropriations at this time takes on the form of propaganda. This impression will be increased when it is remembered that in his first annual message to Congress delivered only a few days before he intimated that ship subsidy, the most atrocious form of graft ever conceived, should receive the favorable consideration of Congressmen. The ship subsidy defeated by the last Congress proposed to present to the ship owners anywhere from fifty to one hundred millions of dollars a year for fifty years and the influences behind it are reorganizing for another drive in its favor.

We all want economy in government and the desire for reduced taxes is equally unanimous. But most of us have been urging those measures for many years and in so far as opportunity presented itself have been talking and writing for them. But Coolidge is a new convert to the doctrine or at least a new advocate and his appeal is tainted by strong symptoms of false pretense. Like his predecessor in office he would save at the spigot by denying adjusted compensation to the world war veterans and waste at the bung by opening a flood of expenditures entirely unearned and unworthy to the ship owners. An intelligent public is not likely to be impressed with such tactics.

—Probably Dr. Marx was made Chancellor of Germany in the hope that it would strengthen the market for German marks in this country.

Coolidge is a Candidate.

All doubts as to President Coolidge's intentions with respect to his candidacy for the Republican nomination have been removed. As a matter of fact there have never been any doubts on the subject. A good many people may have tried to conjure up doubts, and Gifford Pinchot and Hiram Johnson may have gone so far as to entertain hopes that he would be content with the half term acquired by death. But Frank W. Stearns, of Boston, the Coolidge political "angel," has directed another friend to definitely announce that he is a candidate, and that Mr. William M. Butler, Massachusetts member of the Republican National committee, is to be his manager.

There is really nothing about Calvin Coolidge to commend him to popular favor. His message to Congress contained no expression on any subject that could possibly command admiration. Representative Nelson, leader of the insurgent forces, correctly appraised the message when he said "that in whatever he was decisive he was wrong and in whatever he spoke negatively he was right." He pleased the corporations by declaring in favor of Harding's proposition to consolidate railroads and the millionaires by approving Mellon's plan to cut taxes on big incomes. But he set the war veterans against him in his emphatic declaration against bonus legislation of any sort.

It may be assumed, however, that he will be the nominee of his party next year, for the party organization is for him earnestly. There will be little enthusiasm in his support for he is not the type of man that inspires enthusiasm. But his nomination is necessary to the fulfillment of the bargain entered into between the Republican organization and big business in 1920, and the Republican leaders never willingly violate an agreement with big business. If Harding had lived no other candidate would have had a "look in," and Coolidge is his legatee as well as his successor in office. He is not a strong candidate and unless the voters of the country are false to themselves he will not be elected.

—On Monday the President sent 2000 nominations to the Senate for confirmation. The recruiting service is unusually active.

—Mr. Stearns, of Boston, seems to enjoy the ownership of a President. He wants to renew his lease on the title.

Senate Factions in Conflict.

The Republican factions in the United States Senate inaugurated a war during the session on Monday which may develop an "irrepressible conflict" or end in a farce similar to that put across in the House of Representatives a week ago. The question in dispute is the chairmanship of the committee on Interstate Commerce. Senator Cummins, of Iowa, is the present chairman and Senator LaFollette, of Wisconsin, the ranking Member. Mr. Cummins is also president pro. tem. of the Chamber and the contention has been set up that he has no right to both honors. Under long established custom if Cummins should relinquish the chairmanship LaFollette would automatically succeed to the office.

All legislation pertaining to railroads and interstate commerce is referred to that committee. The administration and the Republican organization are committed to policies expressed in the Cummins-Esch law and the Progressives, of whom LaFollette is the titular leader, are opposed to them. The railroad managers, Wall Street and the special interests generally are averse to placing LaFollette at the head of the committee and the insurgents, with the exception of Capper, of Kansas, a political "porch climber," favor his elevation. The lines are clearly drawn. Senator Cummins declares "he will not bargain with the supporters of Senator LaFollette." If the other side is equally determined a prolonged war is inevitable.

But we don't look for such a conflict of interests. Party exigencies forbid a long drawn out battle between the factions of the dominant party and selfish ambitions and lust for patronage will soon intervene and effect a compromise. The presidency of the Senate is a desirable job but Cummins is a crafty politician and wise enough to give up a shadow in order to secure a substance. Wall Street will guarantee reimbursement for all losses incurred by giving up one office in order to keep an undesirable aspirant out of another. The pretense of contention may be kept up for a week or two because railroad legislation may be deferred that long but in the end Cummins will be the chairman.

—In the parlance of the street several of the most important and meritorious suggestions to Congress, made in the President's message, are "old stuff" and of Democratic origin at that. His advice to put a lighter tax on earned income than upon unearned is exactly what Senator Harris, of Georgia, Democrat, offered in his amendment to the revenue bill in 1921. Mr. Coolidge then presided over the Senate and the Harris amendment was voted down by thirty-six to twenty-one because Senator Penrose, then chairman of the finance committee, said it couldn't be done.

—Thus far, it is stated in Harrisburg, one-sixth of the commissions issued to Notaries Public this year have been to women. We're right here to bet that the percentage will be far greater next year. The women can and will answer the Governor's twelfth question as to their qualifications without as much sacrifice as the men applicants. You know what the twelfth interrogatory is, of course. It is: Will you agree to abide by the constitution, especially the Eighteenth amendment.

—Up to this writing the Ink Sling man of the "Watchman" has not been buried under saddles of venison or deluged with sherry dressing, but "nevertheless, notwithstanding," as the Hon. James Schofield would say, a savory roast reached this office last week from the first venison killed in the vicinity of Pine Grove Mills on the opening day of the season. The buck was brought to earth by George Burwell and we are indebted to Capt. W. H. Fry for our share of it.

—Mr. Coolidge is exceedingly generous in his praise of his predecessor in office. He is also doing his best to make the war veterans agree with him that the death of Mr. Harding was a national calamity.

—If Senator Pepper, Secretary Mellon and chairman Baker are delegates at Large the fourth seat would hardly be comfortable for Mrs. Pinchot.

—Premier Stanley Baldwin may adhere to his policy of tariff taxation but the voters of England haven't given him much encouragement.

—Governor Pinchot's opinion of the morals of Philadelphia is not flattering but in view of the majority that city gave him is justified.

—It was unusually long between revolutions in Mexico but the one now in progress may last long enough to make the average.

Our Pet Mania of "Be It Enacted."

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Congress was not twenty-four hours old, the Senate and House had not organized, before the usual flood of proposed laws, resolutions and "be it enacted's" overwhelmed both Houses. Days before the annual message of the President was delivered to the Congressional joint session the stampede to rush the legislative gates was on. Upward of 600 bills poured into the legislative hoppers before the House had a Speaker or the Senate was organized.

Congress passes laws by the hundreds and they are offered by the multiple thousands at every session. A vast majority of these bills are worse than worthless. They represent the halfbaked ideas of some halfbaked Legislature or some of his halfbaked constituency who feel the American urge to pass a law about something.

Many of them are introduced "by request." Some of them are the work of cranks and crack-brained folk. Others are merely piffing and harmless arrangements of words. Many of them are dangerous proposals.

When the Constitution is found to be the way of some of these legislative monstrosities and panaceas their advocates demand that the Constitution be amended and remodeled nearer their hearts' desire. In 136 years there have been 3063 proposals that the Constitution be amended. That many have been actually introduced in one branch or other of Congress. Every generation has its own breed of tinkers.

In the Sixty-seventh Congress 109 of these proposals were offered in the form of bills or resolutions. That record probably will be bettered in the Sixty-eighth, for their is little sign that we are convalescing from our recent spells of amendment fever. The undergrowth of the legislative woods in Washington is crawling with would-be amenders. They are not all cast down by the fact that only nineteen amendments have been approved since the adoption of the Constitution.

Americans have a passion for law-making and law-changing that is not matched by a passion for law-enforcement. In Congress and the forty-eight State Legislatures tens of thousands of enactments and resolutions are considered every legislative year. Our State statutes have swollen to the size of unabridged dictionaries, our municipal ordinances to the thickness of city directories and our federal statutes are as weighty as the Domesday book.

This goes on in the face of a growing feeling that we need vastly fewer laws and vastly better enforcement of those we have. A great flood of these enactments, proposed and passed, may be traced to a growing class-mindedness in American life that has shown itself in Legislative blocs. Many of them are due to a kind of national shiftlessness and political laziness due to the dying of our self-governing instincts. If a problem of enactments and resolutions are considered every legislative year. Our State statutes have swollen to the size of unabridged dictionaries, our municipal ordinances to the thickness of city directories and our federal statutes are as weighty as the Domesday book.

Naturally enough, it has come about that we are saddled with a cast of bureaucratic laws that look after everything from hog cholera to whooping cough and from brown bears to babies. As a matter of course, we have a legion of inspectors, auditors, commissioners, collectors, enforcers of this-and-that and third assistant sub-deputies, world without end.

The Nation is never quite easy in its mind while Congress is in session and the swelling stream of laws breeds that uneasiness. It is being crushed under a weight of statutes and confused by new and old legislative mazes. The mills of Congress may grind slowly. They do not grind steadily. We have just completed the longest vacation from law-making permitted us for years, but the annual and well-nigh unending manufacture of more laws has begun again. About all we can do is hope for the best and yearn for an early adjournment.

Not a Closed Incident.

From the Philadelphia Record.

President Coolidge is, of course, only expressing his own personal opinion when he says that "our country has definitely refused to adopt and ratify the covenant of the League of Nations," and that "the incident, so far as we are concerned, is closed." He is entitled to that view, but there are many millions of Americans who are just as firmly attached to the opinion that the incident is not closed, and that it never will be closed until the issue is settled definitely by the United States assuming its proper place among the nations of the world.

Calvin Coolidge may think that this country has "definitely refused to adopt and ratify the covenant but much more than half of his fellow-countrymen think differently. As an issue in American politics the League promises to be a bone of contention until right has triumphed over political partisanship and the United States decides to do what it should have done four years ago.

—For all the news you should read the "Watchman."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Dispatches from Elmira say Charles Shires, aged 55 years, residing in Williamsport, was robbed of \$500 by companions during a drinking party in that city.

—Herman Geska, of Uniontown, convicted of attacking Mrs. Myrtle Boyd, a Conneville nurse, is to serve from five to ten years in the western penitentiary.

—The Altoona school board has authorized a bond issue of \$250,000 for the completion of the Roosevelt Junior High school and for the purchase of sites for new Senior and Junior schools.

—George Trueman, aged 9 years, is a patient at the Lewistown hospital, with a broken leg and injured head, received when he was run down by an automobile near his home at Honey Creek, near Reedsville, Sunday night.

—The Eagle Fire company, of York, Pa., will treat 1,000 children with candy, fruit and toys on Christmas morning. A large Christmas tree is also being planned by the South End fire fighters. The tree is to be transported from the Bald Hills, by members of the Eagle deer club.

—Five workmen were injured by an explosion of molten metal in the cupola of the National Radiator works at New Castle last Friday afternoon. E. Stipe and Joe Tefe are in the hospital badly burned and injured while W. Branden, Tony Morales and Joe Devitto, were taken to their homes, not being seriously injured.

—Hearings on the claims of John L. Kuhn, the State printer, will be resumed December 20th by Auditor General Lewis, and the sum of over \$28,000 is hanging in the balance over the printing of the hunters' license tags. The State contention is that it is special work and not within the printing contract, but Mr. Kuhn claims he should have had it.

—"My husband bought me for \$300. He paid the money to my aunt," Mrs. Abraham Barlet, of Pottsville, told the police on Saturday. Friday night Mrs. Barlet says her husband, a well-to-do merchant, pulled her out of bed by her hair when she disagreed with him. Barlet is 44 years old, and his wife is 18. The husband was held under bail for court.

—Charles Swogger, aged forty years, member of a prominent family of breeders of thoroughbred Holstein cattle, shot and probably mortally wounded his mother, Mrs. Oliver Swogger, sixty years of age, at their home in Lackawanna township, seven miles east of Slarton, on Friday night, when she refused to give him money. Then he committed suicide.

—G. L. Randall, arrested at Ridgway Friday night charged with forging checks, was given a hearing before Justice Zelt in St. Marys and in default of \$2,000 bail is a prisoner in jail at Ridgway. His case will come before the January term of Elk county court. Randall, who gave his residence at Williamsport, is wanted in that city and also in Milton and Sunbury on similar charges.

—Harry M. Benjamin, owner of the Benjamin Motor company, at Hazleton, a graduate of Lehigh University and member of the Hazleton Kiwanis club, died late Sunday night at the home hospital after being overcome with gas fumes in his garage. About seven years ago he had a narrow escape from death when his father, David Benjamin, was killed in an accident at the Eberleade anthracite coal stripings.

—The body of Andrew Mauza, 54 years old, was found on Saturday near the Ferris Heights school building in Columbia county. His head was crushed. Eight hundred dollars he had with him is missing. Mauza was with two men the evening previous and they are being sought. The murder is the first in Columbia county in six years. Mauza had been a resident of Berwick for about thirty years. The police believe a club or stone was used to commit the murder.

—An all-day search by Constable Graft, of Lancaster, for a man wanted for larceny ended last Friday evening, when he found his quarry in the county jail. Constable Graft was armed with a warrant for the arrest of John L. Smith, of No. 33 east Walnut street, charging him with robbing his room-mate, Raymond S. Wilson. While the constable was searching for him Mayor Musser, in police court, was sentencing Smith to ten days in jail for disorderly conduct.

—Close to a million dollars is said to have been invested by retail grocers in the American Grocers' society, against which bankrupt proceedings have been instituted in Newark, N. J. Vice Chancellor Backes having granted a rule asking the company returnable this week. According to the petition asking for the appointment of a receiver, the liabilities of the company are \$2,500,000 and its assets not more than \$150,000. The society claims assets in reality to the amount of \$443,000.

—Flames from a match she had struck to light a lamp in her room are believed to have caused the death of Mrs. Sarah Lydia, 64 years old, who was found buried to death last Thursday at the home of her brother, Samuel Hays, of Antrim township, Franklin county. The woman's body was found behind the door in her room at the Hays home. The lamp she is believed to have lighted was burning, but the chimney was lying on the floor. Mrs. Lydia was subject to heart attacks, and it is believed that she suffered such an attack while lighting the lamp. Hays was attracted to her room by the smell of smoke.

—By the use of X-rays, which showed the callous left where the bone had been knit in a broken leg, the ownership of an Alreade dog was established in Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland county. Two men claimed the dog was theirs, and the rightful owner studied for some means by which he might prove his claim. Then he remembered that his dog once suffered a broken leg and that Dr. McNish, of Mount Pleasant, reduced the fracture. Dr. McNish said that the dog was but six months old when he attended it and that he could not positively identify it. He suggested the X-rays and the picture showed the leg had been fractured.

—When citizens assembled at the First Reformed church at Pottsville, on Monday, to hear a prohibition lecture they were informed that it would be impossible to hold the meeting, as the Rettig brewery next door, which furnishes the steam for heating the church, had shut off the pipes on learning an anti-saloon meeting was to be held. William Shugars, president of the brewery, and Charles Ost, superintendent, said they did not wish to discommodate the church members, but they did not see how they could consistently heat a building where a meeting was to be held to attack their business. The meeting was cancelled, and the heating service was then resumed.