

—Just five years ago the old Central R. R. of Pa., was singing its swan song.

—Today is the shortest one of 1923. And as the days lengthen the cold is supposed to strengthen.

—Don't be an eleventh hour shopper. Do it now and get something more than the left-overs.

—The outlook is good for a green Christmas. Let us hope that it will not mean a fat grave yard.

—Don't accuse your mail man of falling down on his job if you don't receive a copy of the "Watchman" next week. We're going to take the week off and give you a rest as well as ourselves.

—In defense of the man who killed an officer in the Ku Klux Klan in Atlanta, Georgia, the claim of insanity has been set up. He must have been crazy. The proper punishment of Ku Klux officials is a swift kick.

—Mr. Coolidge having carried South Dakota at the primary election, Senator Johnson declares he will file in the independent column. As has been frequently remarked, "straws show how the wind is blowing."

—We note that turkeys have dropped somewhat in price, but not enough to come within our grasp. We have become so accustomed to turkeyless Christmases that a matter of a few cents decline in the price per pound interests us not at all.

—May the spirit of peace on earth and good will to men so fill your hearts and minds as to make this the happiest Christmas you have ever known. Forget that there is selfishness. Remember, only that there is sorrow and want in the world and do your part, however small, to alleviate them both.

—The Secretary of State, Charles Evans Hughes, has told Soviet Russia that the only way to recognition by the United States is for it to restore American prosperity and abandon its propaganda to overthrow our government. As long as the Secretary will stick to those sane and very vital conditions we'll use our influence to keep him right where he is, no matter who becomes the next President.

—Of course we have no desire to be drawn into the controversy that is likely to become rather sensational between the modernists and fundamentalist factions of the Protestant Episcopal church, but we waive consequences far enough to state that when eminent men of the cloth encourage the lay mind to marvel at these things they are shattering faith and boring from within at the foundation of christian citizenship. These Ingersols of the pulpit are more dangerous than the Lenines of Russia and the sooner they are all unfrocked the better it will be for the world.

—This is the time of year when the fool killer ought to be working overtime on the joy killers who try to make the little folks believe that there isn't a Santa Claus. Take the fairies, Santa, and the various imaginary beings out of the child life and there is nothing left but the drab realities of the years that come all too soon to all of us. Ever has the moment that we found out been harbored in our mind as one of the most distressing we have experienced and always there has welled up in us gratitude for the two who encouraged us to dream of the "miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer."

—The fellow who told us to "cheer up, the worst is yet to come," said a mouthful. After devoting nearly half a column last week to falling down in here worship before Samuel McWilliams Hess because we thought it was he who sent us the fine roast of venison and the rasher of bear meat we find that it wasn't Sam at all. We're not going to recall any of the grand things we said about Sam, except that stuff about being a mighty hunter. He didn't get a deer. It was his uncle John Hess, who comes down from Altoona every season to join the Mo does and put his mark on a buck for them to hang up. He shot a dandy last year and repeated this, so its John, not Sam, that we've got up on the pedestal we spent so much time in building last week.

—To the lady who wrote to know what a real cook put her pie dough in the refrigerator for we might say something nasty, but we're not going to. She isn't a cook herself or she'd know that pie dough is always much more flaky if left standing in a very cool place at least twenty-four hours before using. Even we know that much, if we don't know the difference between pie dough and cold mashed potatoes. Experts in every line make bulls occasionally. It was not so long ago that the mind of man runneth not to the contrary that Dr. Waters, then the last word in dairy products at The Pennsylvania State College, and later dean of the school of Agriculture at the University of Missouri, at Columbia, gave the blue ribbon to a print of oleomargarine, that our old friend A. J. Palm, of Erie, stuck in among the exhibits of dairy butter at the Pennsylvania dairy show.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Gifford's Funny Stunts.

Gifford Pinchot is certainly an amusing Governor. Under the constitution of the State "the supreme executive power" is invested in the Governor and he is required "to take care that the laws are faithfully executed." Yet it may be doubted if he has ever read that instrument. At any rate it is certain that he has never understood any of its provisions. Two months before he was inaugurated he began functioning, and in nearly everything he did he violated one or more of the provisions of the constitution. In the administrative code half a dozen fundamentals were trampled under foot. But that was his pet measure, and as Tim Campbell said to President Cleveland, "what's the constitution between friends?"

Recent developments show, moreover, that he has as little respect for the Acts of Assembly as for the organic law. One of the provisions of the administrative code vests in the Superintendent of Public Instruction the authority to appoint or remove the State Librarian. The other day the Governor, in one of his aberrations, discharged the State Librarian and appointed his successor. Afterward it was discovered that he had no authority to take such action. The result is that there are now two State Librarians, one of each sex. Probably he wants to introduce the "co-ed" system in the bureau. In any event he has gotten things seriously mixed up and if Dr. Becht declines to help him out he is in a muddle.

The trouble with Pinchot is that ambition has driven him mad. Ever since his wife inherited an immense fortune he has been obsessed with a lust for office. His first attempt in the field of politics was for the Senate, when he ran against Penrose and was badly beaten. He had previously held a subordinate position in the federal Department of Forestry and was content with that. But he only enjoyed his own inheritance of two or three millions then. When five or ten millions came to his wife, however, he began to see visions of power and bought the nomination for Governor by an unheard-of expenditure of money. Now he imagines he may be President and has gone "daffy" over it.

—The value of the country's principal farm crops are officially estimated at \$8,322,695,000 for this year. Maybe things have been "breaking bad" for the farmers lately but it must be admitted they have some assets.

Scandalous Methods Restored.

The southern representation in Republican National conventions has been a subject of scandal for many years. As long ago as 1896 the late General Alger, of Michigan, opened a booth at the Chicago convention to buy the votes of the colored brothers from the southern States. But Mark Hanna was too strong an antagonist and the enterprise failed. At each recurring convention, however, the attempt was made and usually the longest purse brought home the bacon. In the convention of 1912 it was universally admitted that the nomination of Taft was brought about in that way and Roosevelt's revolt was largely based on that ground. A movement was then inaugurated to correct the evil.

In the convention of 1920 the traffic in negro votes became so bold and flagrant that the better element of the party determined to stop it. Canor requires the statement that the friends of the late President Harding were not the offenders. The supporters of General Wood had brought to the convention an immense corruption fund and Governor Lowden, of Illinois, an aspirant for the nomination, with the vast fortune of the Pullman family behind him, was the principal competitor. At any rate the condition became so bad that it was determined to end it with that object in mind a rule to cut down the representation of the southern States was adopted.

Naturally the southern negro politicians objected to thus curtailing their sources of graft. The price of votes in a Republican national convention is variously estimated, but never below a thousand dollars, so that reducing the representation of Georgia, for example, from about twenty-eight to say five or six seemed like "taking bread out of the mouths" of a number of "worthy Republicans." The other southern constituencies were similarly penalized and the sufferers reasoned out that the machine supporting Coolidge for the nomination was responsible. For that reason even the office holders in the South were not responsive to demands for support and the old order is restored.

—Mr. McAdoo's hat is in the ring keeping company with that of Mr. Underwood. Thus far Mr. Bryan has been able to keep his on his head.

Senator Bruce a Judas.

Senator Bruce, of Maryland, has a greatly exaggerated idea of the danger of the progressive bloc in the United States Senate. On a vote for chairman of the committee on Commerce, the other day, he bolted his party nominee in order to avert the "calamity" of a victory for the progressives. What he really prevented was a most humiliating and disastrous defeat of the Republican machine. The defeat of the Republican nominee for an office in the face of a Republican majority of at least seven, could have had no other effect than the complete demoralization of the organization, and in preventing it by perfidy Senator Bruce simply wrote himself down as a Judas.

Probably Senator Smith, of South Carolina, the Democratic nominee for the chairmanship of the committee on Commerce, didn't want the office, and it may be equally certain that his party associates were indifferent on the subject. But it is absolutely certain that the Republican machine didn't want him to get it, and that the railroads which have a legislative program to put through were very much opposed to his election. In betraying his party obligation, therefore, Senator Bruce averted the defeat of the Republican machine and the success of the railroad program, and that achievement of a man professing to be a Democrat and representative of the people was more perfidious than heroic.

Senator Bruce is said to be a corporation lawyer and probably imagines that he was sent to the Senate to represent the corporations instead of the people. Other Senators and Representatives in Congress and other legislative bodies have made the same mistake. But they don't get far with it. Their public life rarely survives a single term. Unfortunately Senator Bruce is in the beginning of a six year term, but even at that his first important betrayal will cut down his opportunities to do harm in the future. But he has no right to set up a claim of superior virtue. He served the Republican machine and the railroad corporations at the expense of political honor and integrity and that is all.

—The former Kaiser, having won a libel suit against a newspaper, it may now be said that the impossible has been achieved. If anybody can say anything that libels the ex-Kaiser he must have written in an unknown language.

Both Sides are Wrong.

Any attempt to make prohibition enforcement an issue in the campaign for delegates to the coming Democratic National convention for Pennsylvania, will fail as it ought to. It is intimated in various ways that such a project is contemplated. Those opposed to enforcement are said to be organizing to promote the selection of "wet" delegates. On the other hand it is charged that the activities of those who favor enforcement, with the purpose of securing a "dry" delegation, are reprehensible. Which of these statements expresses the facts we are not able to determine. What is entirely plain is that both are wrong.

The Eighteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States is a permanent fixture. Under the provisions of that amendment to the constitution Congress is empowered to enact such legislation as the Volstead law. We have never sympathized with or approved of the methods by which the Eighteenth amendment was adopted. We have never believed that it was wise to authorize Congress to enact such legislation as the Volstead law. But the Eighteenth amendment is there and will stay there until the end of time if the government continues so long and the Volstead act will remain until it is repealed in an orderly way.

Any candidate for President nominated by "wet" delegates on a "wet" platform by either party would be overwhelmingly defeated. A candidate nominated by "dry" delegates on a "dry" platform might be defeated. But it is not the part of wisdom to take chances on such an issue at this time or at any time in the near future. In the first place it is not a proper issue because it is not a political problem. Lessons in morality should be taught in the homes and in the churches and not in political conclaves or conventions. To those who are embarking on a campaign on either side of the question we recommend caution.

—The new head of the Workmen's compensation board serves notice that the law will be enforced. It may be possible that that is what it was created for.

—The Jay Gould estate is about to be settled up finally, but the scandals of the Gould family will probably go on forever.

Political Gossip Plenty but Invaluable

There is a good deal of gossip in the newspapers and in the political centres concerning the future movements of the Republican leaders in Pennsylvania but little of it is of value. In Pittsburgh there is a major row on between the Leslie and Magee factions, and the reports indicate that Senator Max Leslie has "come back" and is likely to control the selection of delegates to the Republican national convention. But the Magees have frequently shown vast recuperative power, and as Mr. Leslie is bitterly opposed to Governor Pinchot the Mayor of the "Smoky city" will probably take the Pinchot side of the issue. A local candidate for Auditor General may prevent such an issue, however.

In Philadelphia the new Mayor has disappointed the expectations of those who supported him by going outside the city limits for the most important member of the cabinet. Brigadier General Smedley Darlington Butler, of West Chester, has been borrowed from the Marine Corps, in which he has acquired considerable distinction, to become Director of Public Safety. Congressman Vane had hoped to place his servile henchman, Harry Mackey, into that place, thus creating an invulnerable trench for his machine. But Mayor Kendrick has won the applause of the better element of the citizens by naming the marine. He has not announced his other appointments but if they are of the type of Butler the people will profit.

Everybody is persuaded that Mr. Pinchot is a candidate for the Republican nomination for President and some apparently well-informed persons believe that he has entered into an alliance with Senator Johnson, of California. Such a combination might make a formidable force in this State and give the Old Guard under its new management considerable trouble. But it will not effect the result of the convention. The office-holders will nominate Coolidge in spite of the eloquence of Johnson and the money of Pinchot. The decision of the National committee, the other day, to give the South its full representation settled the matter for this year at least. This is not official but it is true.

—Bills have been introduced in Congress by Congressman W. I. Swoope providing for appropriations for \$135,000 for a public building at DuBois; \$125,000 each for public buildings at Clearfield, Philipsburg and Bellefonte, and an increase from \$75,000 to \$85,000 for the public building at State College. Verily the Honorable William believes in getting an early start at the pork barrel and his efforts will undoubtedly lead some of his constituents to believe that he is going to cut a wide swath in Congress, but they don't want to overlook the fact that there is always a lapse of many years between the passing of such appropriation bills and the erection of the public buildings.

—Sixty-seven men in Pennsylvania found in their stocking, last Friday morning, a Christmas remembrance from Auditor General Samuel D. Lewis in the shape of their appointment as mercantile appraiser in their respective counties. The lucky man in Centre county is Mr. W. H. Stuart, of Boalsburg. Mr. Stuart is a well known farmer of Harris township and we know of no one more deserving of the appointment, or better equipped to do the work than he is.

—Mail cars on all the main line railroads have been overwhelmed with the holiday trade, which is the greatest in the history of the country. To assist in relieving the congestion a mail car was placed on the Pennsylvania-Lehigh express on Monday, running direct from New York through to Altoona. It will be in service, however, only until Christmas.

—When he retires as district attorney on the first Monday in January James C. Furst will go out with practically a clean sheet. Virtually all the Commonwealth cases in his hands were cleaned up at last week's session of court, with the exception of a very few in which arrests have not yet been made.

—Several carloads of hard coal reached Bellefonte during the week and lake shipments having been completed there is promise of a more general supply throughout Pennsylvania. Bellefonte people, however, are as much interested in an improvement in the quality of the coal and a reduction in price as they are in an increase in quantity.

—Hearing in the contest of the seat of Senator Mayfield, of Texas, is about to begin but nobody seems to know exactly what it is about.

—An Iowa boy stole an airplane for a joy ride and broke his leg. It ought to have been his neck.

No Reforms Just Now.

From the Philadelphia Record. "Hi" Johnson may spout statistics to his heart's content and thunder in-terminably about the injustice done to Republican States by giving to the South its old basis of representation in G. O. P. National conventions, but everybody knows why the National committee took the action it did. It is absolutely essential to Republican success that the negro, who has shown many signs of increasing independence, shall not be alienated further and that everything shall be done to keep him within the fold. The result in Delaware in 1922, where the Republicans lost a Senator and a Congressman, was due to the defection of the colored vote, and Kentucky and Maryland emphasized this lesson last month, when great Democratic majorities were rolled up. Without negro support the Republicans would have little chance of carrying such States as West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri.

Practical political considerations, therefore, demanded that nothing should be done to affront the colored voter by cutting down the representation of Southern States in Republican National conventions and making it appear that he is not wanted. As a matter of fact he is wanted very badly, particularly in Presidential years. If he were to turn against the G. O. P. he would have no chance whatever in 1924. Appreciating this fact, the politicians of the Republican National committee preferred to run the risk of the scandals of delegate-buying, a common practice for the past 40 years, to standing up valiantly for the reforms ordered by the convention of 1920.

It is not surprising that our own Senator Pepper, hailing from the Seventh ward, was in the front ranks battling for his neighbors. He realizes that possibly even Pennsylvania might turn against the G. O. P. if the negro, offended by discrimination against him, should take to voting like an independent, rational human being. So reform goes by the board, and the Republican party is itself again, with all the possibilities of its nominations being dictated by delegates who cannot deliver the goods. And private secretary Slemp will see that in the South the many virtues of President Coolidge will not be hidden under a bushel, but will shine forth resplendently up to the very hour of the nominations to be made at Cleveland next June.

Russia's \$3,000,000 Propaganda Fund.

From the Kansas City Star. The information that the Russian soviet has sent \$3,000,000 to this country to finance the campaign for American recognition of that government furnishes a typical example of mischievous internationalism. This is a practice we may expect to see widely developed if internationalism supersedes nationalism in the world. The domestic policy of the United States would be a matter of concern to any government that chose to make an international issue of it.

It is scarcely necessary to point out that any kind of foreign influence in American political affairs would be a very great evil. Americans could not tolerate it. President Cleveland requested the recall of a British minister who had been indiscreet enough to write a letter bearing on an American political issue. President Washington sent a French agent out of the country when he became too active in promoting the interests of his own government.

But it is exactly this kind of interference that the new theory of internationalism contemplates. It proposes to plant its seed in every domestic soil and to choke out by this process every native and patriotic growth. Sovietism is not alone in the propagation of this doctrine. It has industrious supporters among the so-called intellectuals who tell us that nationalism, patriotism, allegiance to country are outworn and childish fetishes that a grown-up world ought to discard.

This doctrine, it ought to be noted, is European and is being propagated in America because America has the best and richest and most abundant fruits of nationalism the world can show. Internationalism wants those fruits. It wants to break down the walls that guard them—those ramparts of nationalism that are the greatest obstacle to the spread of the new forces loosed in Europe that they have encountered. America should make unmistakable its warning that those walls will be defended, that its domestic affairs are its own concern and that no foreign influence, under whatever name, will be tolerated in the shaping of its policies or the conduct of its government.

After Federal Tax.

Organized motorists of Pennsylvania have determined to wage an active, aggressive campaign to induce Congress to repeal the 5 per cent. federal excise tax on automobiles and automobile accessories. The fight will be waged in conjunction with a nation-wide effort by the American Automobile association. In Pennsylvania the fight will be carried by the Pennsylvania Motor Federation, which comprises over sixty large motor clubs. The tax has been classed as discriminatory, unfair and unjust in that it enabled the Federal government to collect from the motor vehicle owners and drivers an amount double that which the government is said to have spent on highways, including forest road construction.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Wage increases averaging 10 per cent. were voted by Williamsport council for all members of the police and fire departments.

—Miss Florence L. Merks, chief operator at the Lewisport telephone exchange, will retire January 1 after nearly 41 years of service.

—Just as he was starting work at the Pennsylvania Railroad repair yard in Altoona, Saturday morning, Harry McCurdy, aged 51 years, dropped dead from heart disease.

—The postoffice at Shickshinny, Pa., is declared by postal inspectors to have the most unusual record of any office in the entire country. The postoffice and all of the town's mail carriers are women.

—Mr. and Mrs. Arlington Rannaly, of Friesland, Carbon county are the proud parents of an eight-pound baby boy who has six grandfathers, four great-grandfathers, three grandmothers and one great-grandmother.

—Placing a single-barrel shotgun against his breast and using his great toe to pull the trigger, Newton J. Drake, 34 years old, of North Teal township, Huntingdon county, ended his life Friday on the ridge back of Blair's Mills. His body was not found until Saturday night.

—The new gas well brought in on Kettle Creek last week near Cross Fork makes a total of ten producing gas wells the Clinton Natural Gas & Oil company now have on their field twelve miles in length and about a mile wide. The new well is expected to produce half a million cubic feet of gas a day.

—Mrs. John C. Frederick, 70 years old, who lived with her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Moyer, at Lewisburg, was found hanging in the cellar on Sunday morning and had been dead several hours. A lighted lamp was on a stand with a note reading, "I am homesick and want to be in heaven with my husband."

—Relatives have identified the woman who died suddenly in a hospital at Omaha, Neb., last Thursday, with \$500 in \$100 bills in a belt around her waist as Mrs. Mary Seaman, 64 years old widow of George H. Seaman, of Hamburg, Berks county. She was on her way to California for the winter when taken ill. John I. Smith, of Schuylkill Haven, is her brother.

While he was sitting in the Methodist church at Saxton, on Sunday evening listening to a sermon, somebody ransacked the automobile of Leonard Sweet, of East Saxton. The machine, a large touring car, was parked outside the church almost directly under the arc light. The thieves stole several robes, some tools and a flashlight. The subject under discussion in the church at the time was "Law Enforcement."

—The University of Pennsylvania on Monday received offers of two gifts aggregating half a million dollars—\$250,000 each from the Rockefeller Foundation and the General Education Board—on condition that it raise a like amount. The offer was accepted, and as soon as the university raises its share there will be available \$1,000,000 for the building and equipping of a laboratory of anatomy and chemistry.

—Mrs. Ella A. Parsons, of Williamsport, in her will provided that \$12,000 be left to Allegheny College, at Meadville, to establish three scholarship foundations in the college in memory of Professor Ross Crow, of the class of 1940, who later was an instructor in the school, and Seneca Freeman and John F. Parsons. The benefits of the foundation are to be accorded, at the discretion of the college authorities, to three students from Emporium.

—A verdict declaring five members of the election board of the Sixteenth ward of Johnstown guilty of fraud in connection with the recent election was returned at 5 o'clock last Friday afternoon. A similar verdict was returned in the case against the five members of the Twelfth ward board and two township officials have also been convicted. All have posted \$3,000 each as security and arrest of judgment obtained pending the disposition of a motion for a new trial.

—Last Wednesday night while preparing her husband's supper Mrs. Robert Rieder, of Chester, Pa., tripped and fell down stairs at her apartment. She went on with the supper, and apparently, with the exception of some bruises, was not injured. Returning home from his employment Thursday forenoon, Mr. Rieder found his wife in an apparently sleeping condition, but when he failed to arouse her found she was dead. The fall of Wednesday night killed her, according to a physician called in.

—Announcement was made on Sunday night that at the recent meeting of the trustees of Bucknell University Dr. John Howard Harris, for thirty years president of that institution—1889 to 1919— notified the board of his purpose to terminate at the end of the present school year his service as professor of philosophy, completing at that time thirty-five years in that department. After August 1 Dr. Harris will make his home in Scranton, where two of his sons are engaged in the practice of law.

—Miss M. Constance Erdman, of Altoona, has announced her declining of Governor Pinchot's appointment as Lehigh county member of the women's assistance fund. Her rejection of the honor, it is said, was based on her refusal to take the prohibition pledge, as demanded by the Governor from all appointees. Miss Erdman, when asked, did not deny that was her reason for declining the appointment. She is a daughter of the late C. J. Erdman, one-time representative, and is active in Democratic politics.

—John McMurray and Harry Kamm, both of Altoona, charged with false pretense and impersonating state police, pleaded guilty in criminal court at Ebensburg last Thursday after their case had been on trial several hours. McMurray was given the costs and from eighteen months to three years in the county jail. Sentence was deferred in Kamm's case upon petition from the district attorney of Blair county. Kamm posted \$5000 bail for his appearance on the third Monday of January, when he will be sentenced.

—In applying to the Public Service Commission for permission to discontinue train service on the Springfield branch between Canister and Ormenia, and on the branch between New Portage Junction and Duncansville, the Pennsylvania Railroad alleges the receipts on the Springfield branch were only \$10.36 a day for passenger and \$6.90 for freight service, and on the Duncansville branch the check showed an average of one passenger a day. It is set forth that it cost the company \$3890 a month to maintain the service, twice as much as received.