

—The days are growing very noticeably longer.

—It may be recalled that former Secretary Fall was appointed to the Harding cabinet as one of the "great minds of the country."

—The death of Lenin, who was more dictatorial than any Czar Russia ever had, may have been a Providential removal of one of the greatest obstacles in the way of tranquility in that distressed land.

—As for the public esteem for a man who has been trying to do something worth while we would rather have what will be given to Edward W. Bok than what will fall to Senators Moses, Reed or Greene.

—Fred Beauvais, the Indian guide, who was named as correspondent by James Stillman, the New York banker, in his suit for divorce, has sued Mrs. Stillman for pay for the time he spent with her in the Grand Anse country. Thus, Fred goes on record to prove that there are such things as Indian gifts.

—Councilman Hall and Mayor Kendrick, of Philadelphia, have joined Mrs. Sinnamon in her claim that Mrs. Barclay Warburton isn't "the only one" when it comes down to Republican women in Pennsylvania. Hall and Kendrick are very practical men. They can use the woman who actually delivers the votes to far greater advantage than the one who merely makes speeches as to how they should be delivered.

—Having been assured that he will not have to fight his way to Cleveland the Governor has announced the opening of his fight to have only men who will pledge themselves to support his policies nominated for the Legislature in the spring. Having heard that Mayor Holmes, of State College, is out on a no pledge, no promise to any one platform we are interested in developments. What will the Governor's friends in Centre county do to Mr. Holmes?

—President Murphree, of the University of Florida, will be presented to the coming Democratic National convention by William Jennings Bryan, as his own pick for the presidential nomination. We observe, from Dr. Murphree's latest photograph, that he wears a very conspicuous scarf pin, so we are for him. Though fashion for men relegated the scarf pin to the pin cushion years ago we've stuck to ours and comradery in obsolescence, if nothing else, demands that we support Murphree—until the next edition at least.

—Al Munro Elias, writing for the Williamsport Sun, says John Montgomery Ward, our "Monte," is one of the six pitchers in professional baseball who have pitched perfect no-hit games—that means that no player on the opposing team reached first base. Of course, to some of us, the story is old, old stuff, but Mr. Elias has given us some new with it. He says that "Monte" was a regular Beau Brummel or Shirlie of the diamond and that he wore "a big black mustache." Which makes us rise to say he didn't. Unless he dyed it and we don't believe Johnny ever did that.

—"Beat me if you can" was the deft that Pinchot hurled at Mellon, Pepper, Reed, Baker, et al, last week, after they had finally decided to leave him off their slate for National delegates. The Governor's public announcement that he intended to fight his own way to Cleveland, without paying the organization tribute for the favor of going without a contest, seems to have had its effect. On Monday the organization announced that it's for Giff, committed or non-committed. Really, it's amusing, the way the gang quakes when Mrs. Warburton or the Governor start talking turkey.

—Mayor, realtor, notary public and general legal factotum John Laird Holmes, of State College, is willing to immolate himself on an altar of greater public service than that of making greetings and handing the keys of the "three mile limit" metropolis of College township to visiting hordes. He is willing to succeed the Hon. Tom Beaver in the Legislature. We understand that his platform is: "Trust Me." No pledges to any person or for any cause. Only to represent the people of Centre county—Republicans, Democrats, Prohibitionists, Socialists and political enuncuchs, alike, without regard to race, creed, color or previous condition of servitude. Personally, we have a very high regard for Mayor Holmes. Also, personally, we have a very high regard for our meal ticket. And between the two—the Mayor loses.

—The offer of the Republican members of the House Ways and Means committee to compromise with the Democrats on the Mellon tax program and frame a non-partisan measure, if accepted, might have a far reaching effect on the political fortunes of President Coolidge. The Mellon bill has been the hope of the Coolidge boom. Under his administration Congress has been a riot of discord and disorganization, but it was hoped that the stupendous Mellon propaganda that has been carried on would be the public mind so that it would not see the failure of everything else. Now if that lack of leadership is shown as so woeful that it must seek compromise with the Democrats in order to get any kind of a tax bill through the House we are of the opinion that the Republicans will gradually waken to realize that the President isn't strong enough to lead their battle hopefully next fall.

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Prediction Likely to be Verified.

The Washington correspondent of a Philadelphia contemporary makes the prediction that a searching investigation of the Teapot Dome oil leases will "place the country upon the threshold of the greatest official scandal that it has known since the whiskey ring disclosures in the Grant administration." Ever since the resignation of A. B. Fall, as Secretary of the Interior, there has been gossip concerning the leasing of the Teapot Dome oil reserves in Wyoming to a group of oil speculators headed by one Harry Sinclair. But it has been studiously and somewhat mysteriously kept down. It has been revealed, however, that both the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Denby, and Assistant Secretary, Theodore Roosevelt, joined in a recommendation that the lease be made.

It has transpired that soon after the lease of this valuable property Secretary Fall became suddenly opulent and gossip took the sinister form of charging that he had been bribed. He promptly denied the charge and alleged that he was influenced to the transaction by the recommendation of Secretary Denby, and assistant secretary Theodore Roosevelt. He explained his sudden opulence by stating that he had borrowed \$100,000 from Edward B. McLean, a millionaire Washington publisher. This didn't seem plausible to Senator Walsh, who was one of the investigators. He went to Florida where both McLean and Fall were sojourning and obtained from both a statement that McLean had furnished no money and that Fall had misrepresented the matter.

Something like a climax was reached, the other day, when Archie Roosevelt voluntarily appeared before the investigating committee of the Senate and declared that another employee of Mr. Sinclair had confessed to him that Sinclair had paid large amounts of money to an employee of Fall about the time that the lease was made, that Sinclair himself had clandestinely left the country and that he, Archie, was so outraged by these evidences of fraud that he had resigned his office in the Sinclair organization and severed his connection with the group. His testimony was corroborated by his brother, Theodore, assistant secretary of the Navy, who advised the other to make his statement and resign. It looks as if the prediction of the correspondent will be verified.

—Mr. Bryan is in hard luck. His newly discovered candidate for President says he doesn't agree with the Commoner in some things. But if he is orthodox in prohibition nothing else matters.

Messrs. Mellon and Couzens.

Secretary Mellon is an able letter writer as well as a capable financier but he stirred up a nest of hornets when he took his pen in hand to open up a correspondence with Senator Couzens, of Michigan. These gentlemen entertain widely opposed views on questions of taxation and in replying to some amiable objections to the Mellon tax bill the Secretary revealed some asperity and indulged in what the late Josh Billings would have called "sarkasm." This provoked the Senator to invoke the same epistolary style with the result that most observers will get the opinion that the Secretary got the worst of it.

For example, the Senator advanced the proposition in reply to the Secretary's assertion of the opposite, that capital is not forced to investment of tax-free securities by the exactions of the income tax, and the Secretary retorted that when the Senator sold his extensive holdings in the Ford automobile plant he did invest the proceeds in the tax-free securities. The Senator denies this emphatically and states that while some of his money is so invested a large amount is also invested in buildings and building operations in Detroit. Such investments are certainly not tax-free and as the Senator adds, "are quite as useful to the public as the Secretary's vast investments in breweries and distilleries."

Senator Couzens has paid income tax to the amount of upward of eight million dollars since the income tax law has been in operation and if the Mellon rates had been in force from the start he would have saved four million dollars of that amount. Mr. Mellon has paid a much larger amount, no doubt, but neither of them was ever obliged to miss a meal on account of the draft upon his resources, and both are quite able to meet their obligations now. Mr. Mellon is anxious to reduce his assessment, as most other men are, but it is hardly fair for him to misrepresent the reasons which influence him to that natural desire.

—If General Butler had been operating in Philadelphia about election time the Republican majority would have been considerably less.

Mellon Bill Propaganda.

The propaganda in support of the Mellon tax bill takes on various and curious forms. The President has practically declared that no Senator or Congressman who opposes the measure need expect favors from the administration. This is a form of lobbying which is beyond the censure of Congressional committees but of doubtful efficiency. Senators and Representatives in Congress who are amenable to such influences are not likely to exert a large influence in legislation. But there are other agencies at work more dangerous. The banks and corporations are appealing through their officials and by intimidating employees and dependents, and that method of approach is dangerous.

Another method of achieving the purpose is by lauding Secretary Mellon to the skies. One of the under secretaries of the department, in a speech delivered at a dinner in honor of his chief at the Manufacturer's Club in Philadelphia, the other evening, gave Mr. Mellon generous credit with all the decreases in expenses of government which have occurred since the close of the world war. "In 1921," he declared, "the nation's expenses totaled fifty-five hundred million dollars, while in 1923 it had been reduced to thirty-seven hundred million." Possibly a group of stupidly who believe that European exporters pay the tariff taxes might swallow that bunk, but the average American citizen cannot be so deceived.

In 1921 the government of the United States was demobilizing an army of upward of four million men and was still maintaining an army and navy on a war footing. In 1923 the army had been reduced to a trifle more than one hundred thousand men and more than half the naval force and equipment had been demobilized. The vast decrease in the cost of government is ascribable to the changed conditions rather than to any budget system introduced by Mr. Mellon, though justice requires an admission that he is a capable financier and an efficient business man. Neither is he entitled to credit for the increased value of the Liberty bonds. In the beginning many of them were held by working people who were forced to sacrifice them by an industrial flunk.

—Senator Pepper has positively refused to introduce Governor Pinchot's coal bill in the Senate, which is additional proof of complete harmony in the Republican party of Pennsylvania.

Charles Snyder Squelched.

It is a great pity that the Supreme court did not finally and forever settle the question of the constitutionality of the Pinchot code in its decision upon the Snyder appeal the other day. It did, as might have been expected, declare the questions raised by Mr. Snyder valid. But it added: "It may be there are some sections which will be found to transgress the constitutional provisions hereinbefore referred to. We shall determine these questions, however, if, any, when they come to us in due form—not before." That is a sort of invitation to continue the absurd litigation with which Charlie Snyder has been cluttering the courts for nearly a year.

Upon the pretext that Mr. Snyder held the code to be unconstitutional he refused payment of the salaries of certain employees of the State. The basis of his opinion was that the purposes of the code were not explicitly declared in the title. The constitution provides that "no bill except general appropriation bills, shall be passed containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title." The code treats of a good many subjects, all grouped under the head of "executive," and the court rules that is sufficient. "The executive department," the court declares, "is a single subject of legislation, in the sense that it may be structurally reorganized." * * * in one Act of Assembly.

As a matter of fact it doesn't now and never did make much difference to the public whether the office held by Dr. King is called the Secretary of State. The duties of the secretary and the prerogatives of the official are the same, and quibbling over the matter is a waste of time and energy. But when, under the authority of the code, the Governor or his subordinate agents usurp power vested by the constitution in another department independent of the Governor, the fundamental law is violated and a dangerous precedent is established. But that question was not raised in the proceeding in question and the public will be gratified to know that Snyder is squelched.

—It has been proved that a tack may be removed from the lung of a baby, but there are doubts remaining as to whether a kink may be taken out of a Governor's brain.

Governor Pinchot Has been Adopted.

At a meeting of the Republican State leaders held in Philadelphia, on Sunday night, it was agreed that the organization will support Governor Pinchot for Delegate-at-Large to the national convention at Cleveland. But no information has been given as to the terms of the agreement. Originally the organization laid down conditions which seemed impossible of fulfillment. The Governor was not only required to relinquish his choice of candidates but to surrender his right of utterance. So far as the public is informed Mr. Pinchot has not done either. All that he has done is openly declare that he is a candidate for the office. Unless there is a secret agreement the organization has backed out.

Taking one consideration with another our friends, the enemy, have a vexed problem to solve. As late as last Saturday afternoon the leaders had determined to make a fight against the Governor and slate Secretary of Labor James J. Davis to the place which had been tentatively reserved for Pinchot. But immediately following this decision a conference was arranged for Sunday evening, in the Philadelphia office of Senator Pepper, which was held according to schedule. Those present were Governor Pinchot, Senators Pepper and Reed, chairman Baker, Secretary Mellon and Mrs. Warburton. At the conclusion of the meeting it was announced that the Governor has been adopted by the machine.

Of course there is a possibility that Governor Pinchot has agreed to the terms of the machine and equally possible that the machine has surrendered to the Governor rather than risk disastrous defeat in the drawn battle. There is even one more field for conjecture. The Governor may have been taken into the family as a sort of "step-child" subject to the traditional treatment of obdurate boys and cruel parents. In other words it may be the intention of the machine to lure the Governor along until election day and then give him "the hook." There are more names than there are places on the slate, and it would be comparatively easy to put such a trick over on a simple-minded man like Pinchot.

—"Zev" wasn't any faster when he beat Papyrus, English champion runner last fall, than was his owner when he heard of the explosion in the Teapot Dome affair. The way Mr. Sinclair beat it for the first foreign-bound steamer makes us believe that if he and his horse were racing together he could say to "Zev": "Git out o' de way and let somebody run what kin run."

Penn State Students Must Leave Cars at Home.

College studies and automobile parties do not make a good mixture, it is evidently the conclusion of the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania State College, and students at that institution will be requested to leave their cars at home, in accordance with a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the board held in Harrisburg on Tuesday.

The resolution declared "it is the opinion of the board of trustees that students of the college can not keep automobiles for use while at college without interference with their studies and without considerable risk to their personal safety and health. The council of administration is therefore directed to take such action as may be necessary to prevent this practice and to bring general notice of such action to the attention of the parents of students."

—According to reports many Bellefonte landlords are again boosting rents this year, and renters are naturally wondering where the end will be. A few years ago a certain house rented for \$12.50 a month. Successive yearly boosts brought the rental up to \$25.00 a month last year and now, it is said, notice has been given that the rent next year will be \$30.00. Owners of houses that have no modern conveniences are asking \$25.00 and \$30.00 a month rent, while rentals of a number of business places are also being boosted. And notwithstanding high rents desirable homes are hard to get. In fact, so hard that the only sure way nowadays of having a comfortable place to live is to own your own home.

—Twenty per cent. increase in taxes and twenty per cent. decrease in the value of the franc is the dangerous combination now striking at the popularity of President Poincare of France.

—The real difference between the Mellon tax bill and the substitute proposed by Mr. Garrett, of Texas, is that one benefits the millionaires and the other offers advantage to the millions.

"Profoundly Pacific."

From the Philadelphia Record.

There was probably pathos in the voice of M. Poincare when he said to the Chamber of Deputies that "some of our Allies have failed to grasp the profoundly pacific policy of France." It is painful to be misunderstood after a man has tried as hard as M. Poincare has to preserve the peace. But William II knows how it is. In the interests of peace he built up the most powerful army in the world, and a navy that he believed could at least make the British navy cautious, and yet the world accuses him of militarism. Did he not declare that he was for peace? Did he not keep Europe at peace for 25 years by making every country afraid of him?

And M. Poincare is also determined to have peace. France has been sitting on the chest of Germany for a year so that it should not disturb the peace. France cannot pay its debts of honor to the United States and Great Britain, but it can lend several billions of francs to Poland and the Little Entente for the avowed purpose of equipping their armies so that they would be in a position to prevent Germany from committing any belligerent act. France is negotiating treaties with the several members of the Little Entente, binding both parties to support each other in the event of war, or binding one party to preserve neutrality if the other gets into a war, and all this is designed to preserve peace; to make it impossible for Germany to struggle.

If France can get alliances with all the nations adjacent to Germany it will be as confident of peace—undisturbed by Germany—as William II was that no nation dared to make war unless Berlin gave permission. The treaty between France and Czechoslovakia obliges the latter to go to the help of the former in the event of war. There is a treaty between Italy and Yugoslavia which binds each side to remain neutral if the other should be involved in war.

Thus the "profoundly pacific policy of France" aims to make it impossible for Germany to rise, but assures France of allies at the rear and on the flank of Germany if Germany should show any restlessness. It is a profoundly pacific policy, but it is not strange that some of the Allies have failed to grasp it because it looks so much like the profoundly pacific policy of William II, which in his honest opinion enabled him to preserve the peace of Europe for 25 years.

But when the Prime Minister declared it necessary to take energetic measures against the offensive being conducted against the franc a Communist shouted, "Leave the Ruhr!" Of course this aroused a storm of protest, but it hit the bull's eye.

A Grain Subsidy.

From the Journal of Commerce.

Senator McNary's bill providing for an export subsidy on wheat is in line with that type of legislation which was naturally to be expected following the numerous conventions and conferences held during the past year on the grain situation. Its avowed purpose is to increase the cost of wheat to the consumers, and therefore ranks even below the level of legislative efforts to tax coffee and tea. The frequently proposed taxes on coffee and tea at least had the merit of endeavoring to raise revenue for the general expenses of the government, whereas the proposed tax on wheat production would be paid out in the form of subsidy to those merchants who export that commodity. It would return no revenue to the government, but would add to the governmental expenses, inasmuch as some machinery would have to be perfected to carry out the suggested statute.

It would be easy to attack the new bill on the score of its impracticability and its failure to accomplish what is intended of it, namely, to increase the price the farmer would receive for his wheat, but its class intent is sufficient to demonstrate its objectionable quality. Class legislation is never acceptable in our body politic. Even paternalistic legislation which had a purely altruistic purpose has in the past been defeated because it was class legislation.

Pinchot and Pepper.

From the Scranton Times.

Governor Pinchot and United States Senator George Wharton Pepper have reached the parting of the ways not only in things political but policies. Senator Pepper refuses to sponsor Governor Pinchot's coal regulation bill. He gives as a reason that in his opinion the measure is unsound and declares he does not wish to father a bill which he can not conscientiously and wholeheartedly support. Be that as it may the opinion prevails that Senator Pepper utilized the request of Governor Pinchot as a way of informing the Governor that henceforth and hereafter their ways run in entirely different directions.

The Bok Probe.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Mr. Bok need not be alarmed nor opponents of his plan elated by the investigation which has been started by the Senate of the charge that the whole thing was engineered by League propagandists.

The subject of the contest and the award will be ancient history so far as public interest is concerned at least a year before any Congressional investigating committee could make a report.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Thousands of railroad cross-ties are being stored along the old Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way in the upper part of Duncannon, hauled from the lumber camp of Duncan and Wills, near Shermansdale.

—Eighty-two persons in Lewistown and vicinity lost \$41,000 by buying "participating operating certificates" of the Keystone Auto Gas and Oils company for which receivers were recently appointed, it was announced on Friday.

—Mrs. Frank Corey was badly burned on Saturday at her home at Ridgway, when her clothing caught fire from a gas heating stove. Her husband took the burning garments from her and she sustained painful burns on his hands.

—The body of John Radomsky, of Hawk Run, was found in the William Sloc mine near Hawk Run on Friday morning by mining engineers. It is believed the man was caught in a fall of rock and the life crushed out of him. He was 45 years old and was married.

—While counting money in his store at Butler, last Wednesday morning, William Vine was held up and robbed by two masked men. They drove away in an automobile with \$170. The police believe thieves who have been operating in Pittsburgh, are extending their activities to nearby towns.

—A jury at Lewisburg, last Thursday, acquitted Walter Keiser, a local barber, on a charge of shooting John Oberdorf, while hunting deer last season. Oberdorf hovered between life and death with a rifle bullet in his body. Keiser, with a party of friends, was accused of doing the shooting, but denied it.

—Oscar Altland, steward at the York county almshouse, welcomes tramps to the local institution. Before he will of them food or lodging, however, he introduces them to a saw-buck and a large wood-pile. Those who balk at this offer to give food and lodging in return for work are ordered to keep moving.

—A survey of the expenditures of pupils of the Lock Haven public schools for the week of January 7, made in order to encourage thrift in the public schools education shows that the sum of \$750.08 was expended during that week for "movies," candy, ice cream, tobacco and other luxuries and entertainments.

—When a truck containing sixty hogs fell through the flooring of the Herts island bridge, over the Allegheny river, at Pittsburgh on Friday, John Reimenschneider driver of the truck, caught hold of a hog's ears and reached shore in safety. John Richards, helper on the truck, was drowned. Thirty of the sixty hogs were lost.

—The Standard Steel works at Lewis-town closed its gates on Saturday night. Only sufficient men were retained to keep the plant from freezing in the event of cold weather. The watchmen were laid off and the gates about the plant were all locked, except at the main entrance. Standard officials say conditions look drab and make no predictions when the plant will resume in full.

—Lester Daubenmeyer, alias Smith and Obermeyer, pleaded guilty before Judge Thomas F. Bailey at Lewis-town, last Wednesday, and was sentenced to serve from five to ten years in the western penitentiary. He was charged with holding up thirty-eight men in the Harmon pool-room, when he was caught off his guard and hit with a billiard ball by Joseph Henry and landed in the hospital with a fractured jaw.

—The commercial department of the Dunmore High school at Scranton, was literally stripped of its equipment on Saturday afternoon when sheriff James Reap carried out an order of the Lackawanna court directing that thirty-seven typewriters, three desks and eight chairs be seized. Failure of the district to pay \$3415.43, the amount due on the articles mentioned, prompted the issuance of the writs of replevin.

—Agents of Henry Ford are believed to have taken option on a forty-eight-acre water power site along the Susquehanna river near Sunbury, last week. The permit to buy was taken out in the name of Wade H. Cruise, but the residence was not given, and came after weeks of negotiations. Theodore Hammell, owner of the property, does not know who the buyer is, he says. The agreed price is said to be \$50,000, a record for property there, farmers said.

—Giuseppe Gremaldo, found guilty in the Blair county court, on Saturday, of first-degree murder in connection with the death of Clarence Leonard, of Grafton Centre, N. H., last year, ended his life by hanging himself to the door of his cell in the Hollidaysburg jail Saturday noon, only a few hours after the jury had given its verdict. Gremaldo shot and killed Leonard in a boarding house in that place, after they had quarreled over who would wash the dishes.

—Summoned before Mayor Harvey, at Hazleton, on a charge of annoying an unnamed widow with persistent proposals for marriage, Michael Fetcenko, aged 72 years, a widower, of that place, turned the tables and declared that he was a victim of the woman's wiles. She is 68 years old, and Fetcenko claims that she has followed him wherever he has gone at nights with invitations that they be wed. The mayor discharged the case, saying that as this is leap year, it was the privilege of any widow to spring the question.

—After fifty-five years, the estate of the late Harry Cooper, a Nesquehanna man, was finally settled on Saturday at a conference of the heirs. Cooper died in 1869, and under terms of his will the estate could not be settled until after the death of his daughter. The daughter died a few years after her father, but extended litigation, in which the heirs figured, prevented settlement of the estate until an agreement was reached out of court on Saturday. The estate, originally worth about \$6000, has increased in value until it is estimated to be worth about \$30,000.

—Colonel David Gardner, aged 84 years, Civil war hero and pioneer in Pennsylvania oil fields, died at the Warren General hospital shortly before midnight Saturday night of heart failure following hardening of the arteries. Colonel Gardner participated in sixty-three engagements, was wounded three times, and four horses were shot from under him. He was lieutenant colonel and acting colonel of the First Pennsylvania cavalry at the battle of Gettysburg, and he was selected as the sculptor's model for the monument at Gettysburg in honor of that command. Colonel Gardner was born on a farm near Hollidaysburg, Pa., February 19, 1840. He was one of six brothers who enlisted in the Union army, two of them being killed in service.