

The great men of Germany are dying off but there are no signs of impairment of the health of the late Kaiser.

Unless Jack Frost hurries up a bit the peach growers will not have the usual excuse for asking high prices for peaches.

We are wondering how Cornelia is taking Gifford's set back. Especially are we wondering how much of it she takes to herself.

Governor Pinchot states that he spent less than \$50 in his campaign for delegate, but what he got was worth a great deal less than fifty.

If the Cleveland convention doesn't last a week those who put up the expense fund will be cheated, and if it lasts a week the delegates will be bored to death.

We're for Representative Celler's bill to increase the pay of Congressmen. The government ought to make it possible for others than the rich to aspire to important offices.

Somebody beat George Bush to it last year, but we're offering odds of three to one sucker that his will be the first straw hat seen on the streets of Bellefonte this spring.

It was ever thus. All the politicians went out to vote at the primaries and all the church people stayed at home to put the finishing touches on the next set of resolutions they expect to offer.

Besides being required to make his home in America the Hon. John Francis Amherst Cecil will probably have to be bored with clipping coupons for Cornelia Vanderbilt all the rest of his life.

What has become of our friend Gen. Smed Butler? Is he getting ready to fade out of the close-ups in Philadelphia or are Simmonds, Strand and Bishop better news stuff these days than the fighting marine?

Don't forget that Kiwanis is still driving to put the hospital over the top. If you are one of those who have been driving from the back seat why don't you send in your pledge for a hundred or more and get a regular license.

Governor Warren T. McCray, of Indiana, resigned on Tuesday. He wasn't tired being Governor of that great Commonwealth. That wasn't the reason, at all. He had been convicted of using the United States mails to defraud and his Uncle Samuel sent him an invitation to visit at Atlanta for several years.

Out of the musty past at last has emerged one, Martin G. Brumbaugh. We haven't heard of Martin since he was having his pants pressed at the expense of the people of Pennsylvania because they had elected him Governor. It appears that Bill Vare has had him up his sleeve all these years, for now he wants to make him prothonotary of the courts of Philadelphia and there's likely to be a helluva fight because the Campbell-Cunningham crowd want anybody else but Martin.

We have a terrible obsession. We'd like to see what a grand Fourth of July celebration would look like in this year of Mr. Volstead, 1924. Why doesn't the Business Men's Association invite the firemen from contiguous counties to gather here on the Fourth and have a pee-rade with free grape juice at every corner? We haven't had anything but the "safe and sane" stuff in Bellefonte "since George Washington crossed the Alps" and it's time that the kids be shown how their dads used to reveal their patriotism.

Here we want to thank the person who sent us a marked copy of Monday's Harrisburg Patriot. The Patriot, as you probably know, is the property of Vance McCormick and Vance, as all Democrats of Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, know is the gentleman who essayed the role of reorganizing the Democratic party in the State some years ago. Up to the moment of reading the Patriot's plaintive wall over "Democracy in the Cities" we had been under the impression that he was perfectly satisfied with his work. It appears that Joe Guffey is a bi-partisan Democrat in Allegheny county—a mere "annex of a Republican machine"—and that Judge Eugene Bonniwell is ditto Philadelphia county. Guffey and Bonniwell are the two who made possible Vance's superlative job of reorganization. Bonniwell is the fellow who forced the withdrawal of the late Larue Munson at Allentown with the threat of old Bill Berry as a third candidate for Governor. Guffey is the fellow who turned turtle on his Uncle Jim—who made him—and went over to Vance—with Mitch Palmer—the ingrate—and formed the triumvirate of "unselfish, high minded men" who promised to make "a pure and militant Democracy" out of what they called "the bi-partisan organization" that the elder Guffey and the late Senator Hall had been running in Pennsylvania. They did clean things up—so far as the offices were concerned—but in the glory of being the one specially appointed to strut and posture about the White House and the other who was made Attorney General of a Great Republic, the sanctification of the party in Pennsylvania was forgotten and the Patriot laments that its friends have back-slidden. We hate to turn the board with the grain up, but we haven't any sympathy with the gentleman who is sliding now and howling because the splinters are puncturing his aesthetic seat.

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Small Interest in Politics Shown.

The vote of both parties at the primary election in Centre county this year was surprisingly small. On the Republican side the highest vote was cast for Senator George Wharton Pepper for delegate-at-large and the lowest for William S. Vare, the Philadelphia boss, of the slated candidates. Governor Pinchot received 288 votes more than Strassburger and 311 more than Vare, and Pepper led Secretary Mellon by 125 votes. On the Democratic side John A. McSparran, who was the special object of attack by the Bonniwell contingent, polled the highest vote and Mrs. Renshaw the lowest. But the highest on either side was only a fraction of the voting strength of the parties.

These totals indicate an unusual lack of interest in politics by the electorate. It is true that the primary date comes at a time when men and women engaged in agricultural pursuits are busy with their own affairs. But the meager vote can hardly be ascribed to that cause. The population of towns is sufficiently large in the county to have brought out a larger vote if there had been even a casual interest in the results. It is therefore a subject of regret that a larger vote was not polled. It is an additional source of regret that the greatest measure of delinquency is on the Democratic side. The Republican vote is more than twice as large as the Democratic vote.

What is the cause of this indifference to the obligations of citizenship? With the scandals in Washington and the bickerings among the Republicans in Pennsylvania it would seem that the Democratic men and women of Centre county ought to be aroused to their duty at this time. On the eve of a Presidential campaign every Democratic voter ought to be alert to the opportunity of rescuing both the State and Nation from the plunderers who are betraying the people in every direction. Fortunately we have nominated an excellent ticket and there is yet time to organize, spread the gospel of truth and patriotism and do a full share in the work of redeeming Pennsylvania and the country.

Of course the Republican managers have selected a banker to sound the key note at the Cleveland convention. Only a banker knows what the Republicans expect to accomplish.

"Hoist on His Own Petard."

Governor Pinchot is organizing a campaign of reprisals, according to current political gossip. He has summoned into a conference to be held at Harrisburg on May 7th the mayors of all the cities of the Commonwealth for the ostensible purpose of "saving the State's soul." Because of his defeat for the honorary office of delegate-at-large to the Cleveland convention the Governor is persuaded that Pennsylvania is under the control of the "forces of evil." He is the victim of "a conspiracy of liquor and gang politics," and the object of his proposed conference is to rescue the people from the great danger by which they are thus menaced. He will enforce righteousness in public life.

As a matter of fact Governor Pinchot was "hoist on his own petard." He acquired the office of Governor on the false pretense that if elected he would "clean up the mess" which corrupt and profligate preceding administrations had created. Instead of fulfilling that pledge he opened negotiations with "the gang" as soon as the opportunity offered to co-operate with the bosses in the hope of thus promoting his own selfish ambitions. This action alienated the decent element of the party which he had deceived, and when the bosses threw him overboard he was left a helpless victim of his own covetousness. An attempt now to punish the liquor interests for his own perfidy will fail, as it ought to fail. He "has been weighed in the balance and found wanting."

Governor Pinchot was elected by fraudulent voting and corrupt returns in Philadelphia and Allegheny county. During the recent session of the Legislature he was urged to ask for legislation that would prevent a recurrence of such crime. But he refused to even suggest such legislation. Fraudulent voting had helped him once and he probably hoped it would again. When the "gang" placed his name on the slate as one of its candidates for delegate-at-large he fondly believed this expectation would be fulfilled. But his hope has been disappointed. The forces that elected him in 1922 became the instrument which defeated him in 1924 and "left him naked to his enemies."

Coolidge will never convince a discerning public that he favors honest government so long as he keeps Slemp on his staff.

An independent ticket made up of Johnson and Pinchot would be amusing but not very formidable.

Democrats Will Win in Senate.

The Republican majority in the Senate has practically agreed to abandon the fight for the Mellon tax bill. Senator Smoot admits that it is impossible to get a majority for it even with the influence of President Coolidge behind it. At present he is bending his energies to prevent the substitution of the Democratic measure and to that end has indicated a willingness to accept the Longworth substitute. But the progressives are not inclined to help him out of his troubles. They favor the Garrett bill. The Mellon bill makes a decrease in the tax rates on \$200,000 incomes over from fifty to twenty-five per cent. The Garrett bill cuts it to forty-four per cent. and the Longworth compromise fixes it at thirty-seven and a half.

The Garrett bill was offered in the House of Representatives as a substitute for the Mellon bill and in committee of the whole the Progressives voted for the substitute. But Longworth, Republican House floor leader, by processes of trading and other sinister methods, induced them to accept the compromise. He couldn't bear the idea of letting the Democrats carry off so great a victory as to enact their bill in preference to that of their own finance minister cordially endorsed by their President. By a margin of one or two votes the substitute was adopted on the final vote and the floor leader imagined he had "saved his face." But the Senate Finance committee restored the Mellon bill and for a time confidently expected to enact it into law.

A few days of discussion has revealed to Senator Smoot the hopelessness of this expectation, however. The Progressives of the Senate are less inclined to accept promises of personal advantage to themselves as a consideration for the betrayal of the people. The difference of seven per cent. in the levy of a tax on big incomes appeals to them and they have turned a deaf ear to the Smoot blandishments. The Smoot plan is to begin with the Mellon proposition of twenty-five per cent. and progress upward to the Longworth level of thirty-seven and a half per cent. But the Democrats and Progressives are adamant. They will stick to the end for the Garrett rate and are fully confident that the majority will be compelled to yield.

There have been no pay roll robberies in Philadelphia within seven weeks. Probably Vare has had the bandits on his pay roll during the greater part of that time.

Coolidge on the Defensive.

Some weeks ago Henry Ford somewhat ostentatiously announced that he favors President Coolidge for election to the Presidency next fall, and the whole country was surprised. Coolidge is farther away from the ideal which Mr. Ford has professed than any man in public life. Speculation as to the cause of his conversion took wide range. It was generally known that Mr. Ford was seeking favors from the government that could be given by no one other than the President, and the most venturesome suggested that possibly this might have had something to do with the matter. Recent developments justify this conjecture.

Mr. Ford publishes a weekly newspaper called the Dearborn Independent. The main purpose of its existence has been to "bait" the Jews and puff the automobile magnate. The Washington correspondent of this newspaper recently had an interview with the President and published in his subsequent Washington letter that Mr. Coolidge is "trying" to put over the lease of Muscle Shoals to Mr. Ford. The President has entered an emphatic denial of this statement but the correspondent reiterates it and gives circumstantial details which are very persuasive. In other words, he declares that while it is not his purpose to get into controversy with the President, what he said in the beginning is absolutely true.

There is a good deal of feeling in the public mind against the lease of this property of the government to Mr. Ford or anybody else. Some men who have given thought to the subject believe that turning it over to Ford would be very much like turning the Teapot oil reserve over to Harry Sinclair. It is in the shape of an utility that ought to be conserved for the future, they say, and the story of Mr. Ford's newspaper correspondent gives a sinister cast to the present relations between Ford and the President. In any event it puts Coolidge on the defensive, but as he has no opposition it will not impair his chances of nomination.

If the Russian "reds" had got Harry Daugherty a couple of years ago this country would be better off now.

Get your job work done here.

Charles F. Murphy.

There must have been a great deal more good than bad in the make-up of the late Charles F. Murphy, whose funeral in New York on Monday, brought together in the common purpose of mourning distinguished men of all walks of life, all creeds in religion and all faiths in politics. He had been for many years the head of a political organization which was anathema with or without reason to millions of people. He was in politics for profit and made an immense fortune by the manipulation of the government of the city in which he lived. But incidentally he gave the city good government and was as zealous in the achievement of that result as he was selfish in gathering the spoils.

Mr. Murphy inherited the enmities of his predecessors in the control of the Tammany society as well as the power and opportunities the control afforded. Kelley and Croker were hard as well as selfish bosses, and their exactions gave Tammany a bad name. Murphy had less advantage in education than either of them but he brought to the service acquired as their successor a measure of finesse beyond either. He was conciliatory rather than domineering and compelled adherence to and respect for Tammany that could not have been hoped for while Kelley and Croker were in control. In fact there was less opposition to Tammany in recent years than during the half century before he became chief.

A fair appraisal of Charles F. Murphy's influence in public affairs leaves a balance of credit in his favor. In local politics he was a friend as well as a tribune of the people. He gave them the best that was possible under the circumstances. It was only when he ventured outside of the area of municipal affairs that he became mischievous. In national affairs he affiliated with the worst element of the party. In 1912 he bitterly opposed the nomination of Wilson and in subsequent contests his influence has been unwholesome. But he was never perfidious and the efforts of the Tammany society have invariably been for the nominee. It is to be hoped that his successor will be worthy.

The State Highway Department began oiling operations in Centre county this week, the first road to be covered being the highway from Bellefonte to the Huntingdon county line by way of State College.

Getting Close to the Starkeys.

Several weeks ago we published a compilation of "old stuff" taken from the "Democratic Whig" which was published in Bellefonte in 1856. The article seems to have awakened memories all over the United States. From coast to coast and Canada to the Gulf have come letters expressing interest in the days of long ago in Centre county. While all of them have been pleasing to us none have intrigued us quite so much as the coincidental Starkey letters, one from Florida, the other from New Mexico, that we referred to last week. Up to Saturday morning the Starkeys remained a mystery. None of the older folks to whom we talked seemed to have heard anything about their early status in Bellefonte. Then came the venerable John P. Harris. Venerable only in years, for his mind and spirit are just as active as they were half a century ago. He knew the Starkeys. In 1844 pater Starkey kept a grog shop on "Strichnine" corner, where the Cadillac garage now stands. The two other centres of libation in the town then were the William Ward place in the Pennsylvania house, replaced later by the Brockerhoff hotel; and Samuel Morrison's shop on west Bishop street. We know that there were the makings of an anti-saloon league even then, for didn't one of the excerpts from the "Democratic Whig" tell of the Temperance meetings at Pine Grove Mills, Harrisonville and other places. Mr. Harris recalls that the wets and dries fought so well away back in the forties that they even had marching songs and it is the chorus of one of them that he repeated that has caused all this paragraph. It ties the Starkeys definitely to Bellefonte and adds another interesting little sidelight on the doings here long before most of us were born. The song ran something like this:

"There are three grog shops in this town Ward, Morrison and Starkey, Where many a white man goes to drink Also many a darkey."

Philipsburg people effected an organization last week for the purpose of having a big celebration on the Fourth of July. While they have not yet determined the extent to which they will go they are giving notice that it will be one of the biggest celebrations ever held in that town.

We've had the April showers. Now let us have the May flowers.

Subscribe for the "Watchman."

"Unwarranted Intrusion."

From the Philadelphia Record. There is no doubt about the animus of Senator Couzens, and the committee created to investigate the Internal Revenue Bureau ought to have engaged an attorney at the public expense, or not to have engaged any. That Mr. Couzens is enormously rich is no reason for putting the authority of the Senate at his command for the investigation of a high official against whom he hopes a lawyer with some fame as an investigator can find something.

But the President does not make it clear, and he never can make it clear, what information a Senate committee may seek in an executive department, and what it may not. If the Secretary of the Treasury were using his position to favor corporations in which he is a stockholder the fact ought to be known. The Senate ought to have created a committee without reasonable ground, but the Senate has a right to investigate such a subject if it thinks there is reason for the opinion.

Mr. Coolidge singles out as improper the request for a list of the companies in which the Secretary of the Treasury was alleged to be interested, and he says "it is recognized, both by law and by custom, that there is certain confidential information which it would be detrimental to the public service to reveal." That is the position Mr. Daugherty took when a Senate committee called for certain files from the Department of Justice, but it didn't save him. Mr. Coolidge at once called for his resignation because he would not give the committee the documents it called for, though Mr. Daugherty cited law and custom to justify his refusal.

It would be very difficult to frame any definition of the inquisitorial rights of the Senate which would justify the President's demand for Mr. Daugherty's resignation and his protest against the investigation of Mr. Mellon's corporations.

Mr. Mellon tells the President: "I have aided in obtaining from them (corporations in which he has interests) the waiver of their right to privacy and in the delivery of their income tax returns in complete details to the committee." Then what is the use of saying anything about it? Mr. Mellon might have stood upon the law and custom governing the privacy of the tax returns. But after giving the expenditure of public money. It implied threat of resignation if the investigation shall go on, appear to be too late to have much force.

We are under no misapprehensions about Mr. Couzens' motives. He had an acrimonious controversy with the Secretary, in the course of which the latter emphasized the fact that the former has put all of his vast fortune into tax-exempt securities. Thereupon Mr. Couzens institutes this investigation of the Secretary, hoping to find in the Internal Revenue Bureau some evidence that Mr. Mellon was giving official help to companies in which he is interested; and he offers to pay the cost of hiring Mr. Heney to poke into the office records. The Senate ought not to undertake an investigation that would not justify the expenditure of public money. It makes itself a tool for Mr. Couzens' private revenge by authorizing the engagement of an investigator who is to be paid by Mr. Couzens.

This however, does not alter the fact that the President protests a Senate committee's examination of papers in the Internal Revenue Bureau, but dismisses an Attorney General because he will not give a Senate committee access to the files of the Department of Justice.

K. K. K. Activities Attracting Attention.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Ku Klux Klan activities since the Lilly murders are attracting closer attention from the police of this and adjoining States, and in several recent cases wholesome restraint has been imposed upon would-be demonstrators. At Pottstown a State trooper compelled the mob to take off their disguises, and at Atlantic City the fire hose was made ready to douse the participants in a contemplated assembly of klansmen. Once the members of this secret organization get it into their heads that mass gatherings of masked and hooded men, the burning of crosses and the like are in direct violation of law, they will be less disposed to seek to regulate society by their own secret and sinister methods. The disguises they affect afford a temptation to the lawless and offer immunity from detection that are inimical to public order. A few more Judges like those in Cambria county, more instances of resolute action by the police, and the country would hear less and less of cross-burnings and open-air "initiations" by the K. K. K.

They're Still Human in the Ozarks.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. A Democratic candidate has 5000 "campaign thimbles" for distribution among women voters in the Ozark region, and doubtless in that region there are still a considerable number who know what the things are used for.

General Pershing declines the second place on the ticket with Coolidge. He doesn't care to give a public exhibition of the tail wagging the dog.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Ten more arrests of striking miners and their wives at Vinondale were made Saturday night on charges of rioting in connection with an alleged assault on miners who are working, and all entered bail in \$50 each for their appearance at court.

John Boone, aged 78 years, a direct descendant of Daniel Boone, died on Sunday morning at Avoca, a suburb of Wilkes-Barre. He was born in Kentucky but had lived in Luzerne county since boyhood. In the Civil war he served in the 77th and 142nd Pennsylvania regiments.

William A. Singer, 2 months old son of Charles Singer, a coal miner, suffocated on Sunday while en route from Cambria county to Phillipsburg with his parents in an automobile, near Tyrone. Coroner Chester Rothrock, of Blair county, was of the opinion the child was too heavily bundled.

The State board of revenue and finance may no doubt about the \$500,000 Pennsylvania State College agricultural land grant funds in county, city, borough or school district bonds in Pennsylvania and the bonds of other States and cities. Attorney General Woodruff, held in an opinion made public last Saturday.

A 200-pound rock hurled into the air from a blast at the Cranberry stripping of the Pennsylvania Quarry and Construction company, at Hazleton last Thursday, crashed through the roof of the home of John Markosky, taking with it a bed from the second story and landing it in the kitchen a few feet from the stove. Mrs. Markosky and three children escaped into the yard. The house was badly damaged.

The peoples of the earth are in a good way to freeze to death and that right soon, according to W. O. Altman, of Mead Run, McKean county, naturalist, weather prognosticator and woodsman. "Unless oil and gas is stopped being taken from the bowels of the earth. He predicts in fifty years there won't be folks enough left to tell the story because of the removal of the substances which keeps the home fires burning underneath the ground.

John Descazi, a pioneer Italian of the Pittsburgh district, amassed a fortune of \$90,000 through the sale of bananas, it was disclosed last week when his will was filed for probate. When Descazi went to that city in the early seventies, he opened Pittsburgh's first banana market. The first shipment of bananas to Pittsburgh was consigned to Descazi in 1880. The fortune was left to the widow during her life, and at her death it is to be distributed among Descazi's six children.

A negro who gave the name of Miles Walker, was arrested early Sunday morning in the Pennsylvania railroad train crossing at Altoona when he was discovered riding a freight train by patrolman Yost, of the Middle division police. When searched he was found to have four quarts of whiskey in his pockets. The case was turned over to the state police by the railroad officers and a charge of transporting liquor was made against him in lieu of the charge of illegal train riding.

One of the oddest compensation claims ever brought to the attention of adjusters was filed at Jamestown, Pa., on Saturday, by J. C. Baker, of that place, an employee of the A. McMullen company, contractors. According to the testimony, Baker was crossing the Erie tracks to start a gas engine when one of a flock of English sparrows, frightened by a passing automobile, flew, hitting him in the eye. Claim was allowed for five days' lay-off, with a continuation in case the vision of the eye becomes affected later.

Ku Klux Klan men from Kennett Square, Hanover and other places met in secret Saturday night, at the home of a member in West Chester. A supper followed the meeting. Nearly a hundred were present. Before the meeting was opened a large cross was burned on the colored quarter. Grapevines valued at \$200 were destroyed by the flames and an alarm called out the firemen. While posse and police searched for the guilty persons, the Klan members were in session.

Joseph Lascoskie, of Mount Carmel, met with a severe mishap while at work in the mines at Natalie, last Friday. He was dressing off a shot when a lump of coal fell from the top and struck him with considerable force on the right thigh, discharging thirteen dual caps in his overalls pocket. The force of the explosion shattered his right leg and inflicted serious abdominal injuries. He was given first aid at the colliery and removed to the State hospital at Fountain Springs, where it is said he has a chance for recovery.

A big tannery owned by the Elk Tanning Co., at Ridgway, has closed down and several hundred men thrown into idleness. It is stated that the tannery is closed for an indefinite period, possibly permanently. Some of the employees had been holding their positions as long as thirty-five years. For the first time in the history of the three tanneries at Sheffield, Pa., all three have shut down, throwing many men out of work. It is not known when they will resume operations. The poor condition of the leather market is excuse for the shut downs.

Following the discovery of a shortage of \$23,000 in the State bank at East Prospect, York county, E. L. Burg, cashier, and Roy K. Stittler, a depositor of the bank and keeper of a general store at East Prospect, were arrested on Saturday charged with conspiracy. They were held in \$15,000 bail each. The discovery was made by a bank examiner Saturday. Burg is alleged to have permitted Stittler to overdraw the Stittler account \$23,000. Burg was charged with misappropriation of the bank's funds, false entries and perjury in swearing to an incorrect bank statement. Peter G. Cameron, secretary of banking, announces there is no danger of the bank being closed. He says the shortage has been taken care of, a bonding company having paid \$10,000 and the bank directors having made good the other \$13,000.

Members of the Rothrock Memorial Commission appointed to select a boulder for the public square in McVeytown, in commemoration of Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, "father of forestry," in Pennsylvania, met at Lewistown last week and selected a boulder of rare quality found on a range of the Seven mountains, near Milroy. The boulder is 7 1/2 feet high, 3 feet from side to side and 30 inches thick and weighs five tons. Bids are now being asked to transport the boulder from the mountain to McVeytown where the tablet bearing a reproduction of the photograph of Dr. Rothrock showing him in one of his characteristic poses leaning against a rock with his gun and a dog by his side, will be placed upon the boulder, prior to its dedication within the next three months.