

—Anyway the Republican machine is well oiled up for the campaign.

—It took them a long time to do it in New York, but they made a good job of it.

—If all W. J's friends vote for "brother Charley" Davis and Bryan start off with a very potential asset of votes.

—Of one thing we are reasonably certain: John W. Davis will get more Republican votes than La Follette will get from the Democratic ranks.

—With oil going down in price and wheat going up the prospect is pleasant for the farmer, at least so far as operating his tractor in the fields and his Lim. on the highways is concerned.

—If the western country where the most destructive forest fires ever known are raging, only had a little of our rains it would save millions of feet of lumber out there and thousands of tons of hay here.

—In all the attributes that to our mind are necessary in the man who is to be made President of our great country John W. Davis is so far more splendidly endowed than Calvin Coolidge that it seems to us comparison would be ridiculous.

—If the right people with the right spirit are in it there will be just as much happiness rattling about in a Ford as there could possibly be in a Rolls-Royce and there will be just as much happiness in the bungalow that the one is parked in front of as there can be in the palace to which the other turns.

—The United States aviators are on the last leg of their around the world flight. Let us hope that it won't be a broken leg. After success in the frigid storms of the Alaskan coast and the hot blasts of Indian sands it would be too bad if an accident were to befall on the easy part of the record making journey.

—At last we have heard from our private bootlegger. The stork has forced him back into the bottle game. Now he is toting a real bottle, not the fanciful kind we have pictured his having delivered to us on the eve of a fishing expedition. And, ere long, he will come to understand that there are others than tanks who can find meaning of praise as well as supplication in that old song: "How dry I am."

—Mr. George A. Stuart, of the State Department of Agriculture, has just issued some advice to farmers of the State, that looks good on paper, but not so in practice. He says they could get from three to six dollars more a ton for their hay if they were to harvest it at the proper stage of maturity and give more attention to curing it in the field. If all sections of Pennsylvania have experienced the kind of season Centre county has farmers had to mow their hay between showers and get it into the barn when they could, irrespective of what it will be worth on the market later.

—Just now the International Association of Chiefs of Police, in session in Montreal, are concerned most about the pistol menace. Some want the manufacture and sale of small arms prohibited. Others want the laws against totin' guns enforced. Some time ago, in briefly discussing this question, the "Watchman" expressed the opinion that if officers of the law were to occasionally stop and search all pedestrians for concealed firearms and knives there would be an end of the menace that threatens every one on the streets today. The quick tempered man or the temperamental woman carrying a gun needs only a word, sometimes, to convert them into murderers when they have the weapon handy.

—What has become of the laugh that our friends, the Republicans, were giving us while our convention was fighting in the sweltering heat of Madison Square Garden to find a party standard bearer? Sober, second thought has revealed the true meaning of that remarkable gathering to every mind. It was a triumph of Democracy. A victory of the people. Unbossed, unguided, those delegates sat there until they determined for themselves who gave most hope for their country's redemption from the slough of corruption and business stagnation into which it has fallen. It was a question of your delegate representing you and not being told by some over-political lord what to do. It was the exemplification of Democracy.

—Arthur Pound's book, "The Iron Man in Industry," asks the question, hypothetically: Do we want more goods or more leisure? It's a simple little inquiry, yet trenchant with meaning for those who have serious thought of economics. The tendency of today is to work less and play more. This means only one thing: Less production and greater consumption, for the less we work the less we produce and the more we consume. It isn't that the man who works eight hours today produces so much less than he did a decade ago. It is the disproportion in which he spends that in securing the play desired. Amusement parks, movies, automobiles, tea rooms and what-not are within the reach of every one today and few there are who can resist the lure to spend out of all proportion to what they have produced. Truly does Mr. Pound say: "Theoretically, the capacity of the human race to consume goods is infinite; but actually it is at all times in competition with the universal human demand for leisure."

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Our Candidate for President.

Upon receipt of the information that he had been nominated for President by the Democratic party in National convention John W. Davis said: "There can be no compromise with reaction. Liberal principles must and will prevail. This is the mandate of the hour and I shall obey it." Out of the tardy and tiresome deliberations of the convention and the distressing monotony of roll calls there has come the hope, if not the certainty, of the fulfillment of the pledge given by the candidate. It was an extraordinary convention. Not only in the time given to deliberation but in the number of ballots taken previous records were broken. But the result justifies the effort.

John W. Davis has ability, experience, character and courage to meet the obligations of the office of President of the United States. He has served in the Legislature of his native State, in the Congress, as Solicitor General of the United States and as Ambassador to Great Britain. In each of these important stations he acquired distinction and won popular approbation. He is a lawyer of high standing, a citizen of the best type, a gentleman of unsurpassed reputation. He "has been weighed in the balance and not found wanting." Upon his departure from London at the expiration of his tenure as Ambassador, the London Times said, "his head is right, his heart is right and in a world overfull of folly and uncharity he stands out as a consistent, witty, charming pleader for sanity and good will among men. It is of such stuff Presidents should be made."

Mr. Davis was nominated on the 103rd ballot and his first expression upon the result was that quoted. That indicates the manner and the measure of the man. His mind was fixed on the interests of the people of the country. He had no thought of selfish victory or personal triumph. His nomination opened the way by and in which he may contribute to the promotion of those principles upon which the future prosperity of the people and the perpetuity of our government must depend. He is a superb candidate, the wisest choice of an admirable group and in his nomination the convention fulfilled its obligations to the party and the people of the country. It couldn't have done better.

The world gridlers are doing fine but the most difficult work is still before them. The span across the Atlantic holds the greatest menace for the daring flyers.

Question of a New Constitution.

The decision of the Supreme court forbidding a popular vote on the soldiers' bonus amendment to the constitution, increases the need of a new organic law. Our obliging Attorney General expresses the opinion that other pending amendments may be voted upon and approved, notwithstanding the declaration of the court, but it may be assumed that he knows more about the rules of our door sports than those of law. If the bonus amendment is outlawed because less than five years have elapsed since another amendment was considered it would seem that all amendments should be held to the same conditions. In that case the amendment providing for a bond issue to purchase forest lands must fall.

The constitution of 1873 was the work of a group of distinguished lawyers and laymen and has served its purpose well during the half century that has elapsed since. But it has been amended so frequently and patched so amazingly that parts of it have become confusing. Because of this several attempts have been made within the last few years to call a convention which have been defeated for one reason or another. The last attempt was properly defeated for the reason that it contained an absurd provision vesting in the then Governor of the State power to appoint one-third of the members of the proposed body. No sane community would bestow such authority on any man.

Now conditions are propitious for drafting a fundamental law in touch with the developments of recent years. The public mind is in proper frame for such a purpose. There is neither the spirit of radicalism nor inclination toward reaction among the voters and the women voters, for reasons satisfactory to themselves, are urging it. The social and industrial life of the Commonwealth are favorable to some changes in the instrument and in view of the court decision there is no other way to accomplish that result. It is not desirable to load it down with provisions which may better be disposed of by the Legislature. But no harm and much good might come from a new constitution.

William Jennings Bryan is probably entirely willing to serve as a target so long as Republicans waste ammunition firing at him.

Our Candidate for Vice President.

If the delegates in the Democratic National convention were physically weary as the result of fourteen days of balloting for a candidate for President, their subsequent deliberations revealed no mental fatigue. In the selection of a candidate for Vice President the best possible result was accomplished. Naturally the eyes of the convention turned toward the distinguished Senator for Montana who had so ably presided over the body during the long drawn out balloting. But he having dedicated his time and service to an uncompleted work of exposing the venality of the present administration he was obliged to decline the honor, and it was necessary to seek elsewhere for a candidate.

There was a wide field and abundant material from which to choose. The office is one of much distinction and vast possibilities in these times of stress, and while there are plenty of fit men the allotment appeals to those not quite so well qualified. It was up to the convention to pick the right man and it cannot be denied that it fulfilled its obligation. Charles W. Bryan, Governor of Nebraska, farmer, business man and statesman, was selected on the first ballot and acclaimed by unanimous vote, as the favorite of the convention. He measures up to the Jeffersonian standard. He is honest and capable and geographically properly located. What more could be required or desired?

Charles W. Bryan is the brother of William Jennings Bryan, but that relationship brought him no favor, though naturally it did him no harm. He was nominated on his own merits and they are ample to command the favor. For years he was the publisher of the Commoner, of which his distinguished brother was editor. Subsequently he was elected presiding commissioner of the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, and two years ago was made Governor of the State by 50-00 majority. In his city and State administrations he achieved such reforms and improvements for the people as to secure a renomination for Governor, which he will now relinquish to accept the higher honor bestowed upon him at New York.

Banker Morgan is not the only litigant who employs the best lawyer attainable. "Mother" Jones and Eugene Debbs also employed John W. Davis to take care of them in law suits.

The Democratic Platform.

The only fault that can be alleged against the Democratic platform adopted by the New York convention is that it is too long. If every voter would read it the time thus expended and the mental energy required would be well spent. But the average voter doesn't read long statements, and long platforms deprive many of the valuable information that might have been obtained if fewer subjects had been treated or less prolixity had been employed. Nevertheless we hope every voter in Centre county will read the platform in full. It expresses the principles of the Democratic party and the aims and purposes of the coming Democratic administration in fine if not exactly concise form.

The platform fitly pays tribute to the memory of Woodrow Wilson in appropriate periods, reaffirms the fundamental principle of "equal rights to all and special principles to none," and challenges a comparison of Democratic and Republican administration as shown in the Wilson and Harding-Coolidge administrations. It denounces corruption and pledges integrity in the event of Democratic success and favoring the League of Nations proposes a referendum on the subject at an election free from partisanship. It denounces the Fordney-McCumber tariff "written in great part to aid monopolies" and promises a revenue tariff and decrease in the cost of living and pronounces the Esch-Cummins railroad law a failure. It favors conservation in all directions.

Every other topic of governmental activity is touched skillfully and the attitude of the party defined. Deep and inland waterways are favored, fraudulent stock sales condemned, private monopolies denounced and aviation and child welfare pledged. An American-owned merchant marine, betterment of educational facilities, civil service and adequate wages for postal employees are recommended and activity of women in politics welcomed. War veterans are assured of proper care, law enforcement is guaranteed and the freedom of religion assured. In fact every conceivable subject is covered in splendid form and we sincerely hope that every line of the platform will be carefully studied.

The Pennsylvania delegates in the New York convention distributed their favors as widely as possible but only a few of them were on the band wagon at the start.

Davis Sets a Good Example.

It is said that John W. Davis has never failed in anything he has undertaken. There are reasons for this splendid record in achievement. The principal one is revealed in his activities since his nomination. During the balloting he was not seen in or around the convention hall. His friends maintained headquarters at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel but he was not seen there. Yet within a few moments of the announcement of the result he was on the platform thanking the delegates for the honor they had bestowed upon him. He had no prepared speech but his language was as well chosen and appropriate to the occasion as if hours had been spent in preparation.

Before the reassembling of the convention on the morning following the nomination Mr. Davis was in conference with the party leaders for the purpose of selecting a running mate. As soon as the ticket was completed the active party managers were gathered at his temporary home in the city for the purpose of laying plans for the campaign. A number of gentlemen were considered for chairman of the National committee and arrangements made for opening headquarters. Within a week a date was fixed for the formal notification and before two weeks had elapsed the campaign machinery was in motion. That is the way to command success. It is literally "taking time by the forelock."

In his action, moreover, Mr. Davis is setting a wholesome example to all Democrats throughout the country. If we all adopt his method of taking hold of the job with promptness, energy and intelligence the most surprising results may be achieved. In this county, for example, a substantial majority for the Democratic ticket may be obtained if each Democratic man and woman voter will begin now and consistently keep up the work until the polls close on November 4. Now is the time to make an impression upon open and unprejudiced minds by presenting the facts. In the heat of a campaign little can be accomplished, but now while reason guides the mind, good work may be done.

Several weeks ago the "Watchman," in commenting upon the "get-out-the-vote" caravan which the League of Women Voters will put on in October stated that it had "all the earmarks of being arranged in the interest of the Republican candidates." Officials of the League assert that this is not the case. That the League "cannot be used for the special benefit of any party, but for the benefit of all parties." In other words, that its primary object is to get out the vote, especially the women voters, and thus increase the political power of the people at large that they may be better prepared to choose between the rival candidates.

Beavers Rebuild a Dam.

A colony of beavers have rebuilt the old Blackwell dam on Mosquito creek, in the Philipsburg region, a job that fishermen have long contemplated but hesitated in tackling on account of the estimated cost of the work, which was placed in excess of one thousand dollars.

Last winter hunters in that region came across a spot on the side of the mountain where beavers were cutting trees, but they were unable to determine what they did with the logs as there was not enough of snow to make a trail. Quite recently a party of fishermen on Mosquito creek visited the old Blackwell dam and were amazed to find the breast rebuilt and the dam full of water. An examination disclosed the fact that the dam had been rebuilt by the beavers. Good sized timbers had been planted end down in the ground and these had been braced with other timber and then interlaced with small timbers. Against these timbers was a compact mass of stone and mud. Inasmuch as the dam is 200 feet long and six feet high one can hardly imagine the amount of work the beavers did in rebuilding it.

Filling in along the steep embankment for the opening of north Water street is proving a bigger job than was at first anticipated. The closing of the pike quarries of the American Lime & Stone company left the work of completing the fill entirely in the hands of the Street department and with the limited means at their command it is proving a slow job.

Bald Eagle creek has been closed to fish baskets and eel racks because of the experiments the State fisheries department will conduct there in connection with yellow perch and other game fish.

The New York convention cost a lot of money, probably two million dollars and possibly more. But it was worth the price.

Old Guard in New Uniform.

From the Philadelphia Record. Make way for the new candidates for membership in the Order of Snake doctors. See them falling over each other in their eagerness to qualify! Try to count them as they line up for proper disguises.

Of course, you recognize them, gentle reader, even though they may look somewhat startling in their new demagogic hoods, their whited sheets of faked alarm, as they light their oil-soaked crosses in an effort to arouse the countryside against the "House of Morgan."

Yes, gentle reader, these new apostles of economic hate and bucolic prejudice are the gentlemen of the Old Guard press. They are the same impeccable standpatters who clapped their lily white hands in dignified glee when Robert M. LaFollette, alleged radical, was kicked out of the Republican party. They are the self-appointed guardian angels of this Republic who have been so inexpressibly shocked because the poor, simple farmers of the west, benighted by unscrupulous agitators, have refused to forget their own poverty and bankruptcy in contemplation of the glories of a high protective tariff.

See them rush for their hoods and masks and oily crosses and enlist under the banner of Unadulterated Honkum to "save the country from Wall street"—a direction in which they would have their simple readers believe the Democratic party is leading it.

Despite assurance to the contrary, the Republican party was not freed of Snake Doctors when Mr. LaFollette and his crew walked the plank at Cleveland. In fact, those who remain within the fold promise to teach "Bat-tling Bob" new legends in their allied onslaught against the Money Devil as personified by John W. Davis.

Some may comment on the unexpected garb of these new preachers of discontent, but no one who has followed the course of Republican editorial reasoning should be surprised. These devoted disciples of the God of Things as They Are can always be depended upon to be chamber-laine-like in their service to rank and bigoted partisanship. They are, it should be remembered, the same gentlemen who denounced Walsh and Wheeler, shrugged their editorial shoulders over Forbes and Fall, winked at Dougherty and actually wept over Denby.

An Unhappy Retrogression Begun.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer. The blackest day in all American history would be that one definitely inaugurating renewed active political conflict between citizens of different faiths. For that would mean the blind abandonment of the noblest fundamentals of civil government and a repudiation of the basic essentials of the faith whose cardinal theme is "Love one another."

It is with sad misgivings that the toleant, patriotic citizenry of America can look upon this evil recrudescence of passion and bigotry, designed to destroy the supereminent tolerance of the incomparable American constitution and hurl this people backward into the cruel and perverted spiritual atmosphere of the ages of ignorance and oppression.

This gravely harmful menace involves the Republican as well as the Democratic party. Men are losing sight of, forgetting the splendid inspiration and meaning involved in that matchless rallying cry of humanity: "Liberty, fraternity and equality."

Why should men so bitterly differ in matters of faith as to lead them to distrust, hate and harm one another? Such a spirit negatives all that right religion could mean. In its ultimate analysis it again inevitably must lead to unjust proscriptions, torture and human slaughter—to evils and horrors long thought dead and damned by a people which for more than a century and a half has enjoyed the manifold blessings of the world's greatest democracy.

Being mortal, we must be in disagreement about many things. This would be a colorless world, a nerveless life, if all men thought alike on all matters. But controversy should be kindly. No political group may monopolize all the virtues of government; no human group ever has monopolized of right, or ever will rightly monopolize, all spiritual authority and virtue. To inject religion into the politics of America would mean to retard the progress of civilization, to discredit the only philosophy which ever has given to mankind a sustaining hope.

Americanization.

From the Pittsburgh Post. The public schools are by far the best agency through which Americanization can be conducted and there is satisfaction in noting that they are alive to their responsibility in the matter. The announcement of Dr. J. George Becht, State superintendent of public instruction, that sixty cities and boroughs of Pennsylvania have arranged to organize Americanization classes in the schools during the coming scholastic year and the emphasis which he lays on the importance of appropriations in the school budgets to take care of this work show appreciation of the situation.

The German Crown Prince is now selling threshing machines and his experience in France as a victim ought to qualify him for that work.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Dominic Salvatore, of Clearfield, was drowned in the Clearfield creek Sunday night, when a boat in which he and a companion were riding upset. The body has not been recovered by searching parties.

—Sparks from a smoking pipe set fire to the clothes of Charles Corbey, of Williamsport, as he was taking a nap upon a couch and damaged a roll of paper money to the value of \$50. He took the damaged notes to a bank and after the pieces were carefully assorted it was found that they had a redemption value of only three dollars.

—The snake eater and the wheel of fortune have been placed under a ban by a committee of Pennsylvania fair secretaries, acting with the Secretary of Agriculture and Attorney General. The committee placed the prohibition on the snake eater by classing it as an "immoral show," while the wheel of fortune was among a list termed "gambling devices."

—The Rev. Harry F. Rector, pastor of the Church of Christ, of Lock Haven, offers a bargain wedding to the first couple appearing at the parsonage on the evening of August 29. On that date the pastor will have a birthday anniversary and by way of celebration he will perform a marriage free of charge and in addition will pay for the license and a taxicab for the lucky couple.

—Police officers throughout central Pennsylvania have been asked to assist in finding Rosa Hangar, 14 years old, of Berwick, who left her home because her parents whipped her when she refused to marry John Jerk, 50 years old, a well-to-do resident of the foreign section in that place. The girl lived with neighbors for several days after leaving home and told her story to them, but on Saturday left town.

—Leo Lang, aged 30 years, of Pottsville, killed himself in a dramatic manner. Climbing a steel tower on Lawtons Hill, he threw himself on three wires carrying 23,000 volts of electricity. He stood on the high steel tower apparently a live man, but in reality dead. The body was revealed by searchlights. When he touched the current, Lang temporarily short-circuited the wires, and for a brief period the lights went out in thousands of homes.

—Lightning during a thunder storm which passed over White Deer valley, Lycoming county, last week, performed queerly at the home of Harris Fegley, of Altoona. A bolt struck the barn and apparently ran under the foundation, coming up again in the horse stable, two feet distant from where the farmer was standing. Then jumping from the barn, the same bolt entered the hog pen, killed two pigs, maimed a third, but missed a fourth in the same pen.

—After eating breakfast, prepared by himself in the kitchen of the home of John Henry, at Perryville, Allegheny county, a burglar who climbed in through a window early Sunday morning, ransacked rooms in which members of the family were sleeping and escaped when his movements aroused Mrs. Henry. He took articles valued at \$200, including a diamond ring, money and the trousers belonging to Mr. Henry's father, which contained a gold watch and some money.

—Three persons were injured and damage estimated at \$15,000 was caused by an explosion of gas in an oven of the Heller Baking company, at Pittsburgh, on Sunday. Carl Senk, a baker, suffered burns and lacerations, while Miss Virginia Everett and Mrs. Evaline Thomas, who were sitting on the porch of their home nearby, were thrown from their chairs by the force of the explosion. Their injuries were not serious. The explosion occurred when Senk struck a match to the oven.

—While endeavoring to save Mason Shaffer, 53 years of age, of Tunkhannock, from drowning in the Susquehanna river on Sunday afternoon, John Holcomb, 45 years old, also of Tunkhannock, was drowned with the man he attempted to rescue. Mr. Shaffer was seized with cramps and cried for help. Holcomb, who was swimming nearby went to his assistance. In the struggle that followed both men went under. The bodies were recovered after two hours' diving by volunteer rescuers.

—A pair of sweethearts have eluded a decree of court which would have placed one in a State institution on a charge of incorrigibility. When a special session of the juvenile court at Lock Haven committed Jennie Driver, 16 years old, to Sleigh-ton Farms, she escaped the probation officer and eloped to Cumberland, Md., with James Styers. They took up their residence with the parents of Mr. Styers near Lock Haven. Police officials arrested the bride as a fugitive from justice and after a night in jail she was released on parole in custody of her husband.

—Is a widow a widow after she remarries or how long does a widow remain a widow? Controller William Irvin, of Norristown, had this question to solve when a "widow" of a soldier made application for approval of a bill for \$70 towards funeral expenses of a soldier. The widow, after the soldier-husband died, married again, and Irvin ruled the woman had changed her status from widow to wife and refused to approve the application for funeral expenses. The woman, however, contends she is the widow of her first husband and the wife of her second.

—Prisoners are escaping from the Schuylkill county prison through secret passageways constructed forty-five years ago, when numerous Molly Maguire prisoners were there confined. It is alleged. These passageways are used by prisoners to present officials. In no other way can the disappearance of such prisoners as Walter Krevis and his companions be accounted for. Escapes from the jail have been numerous. Krevis and others disappeared from the interior of the jail, with all doors tightly locked, leaving no indication whatever regarding their means of departure.

—Fred Briggs, aged 30 years, president of the West End fire company, of Berwick, was taken to the county jail at Bloomsburg last Thursday on a charge of misappropriating \$613 the company had raised toward new apparatus. Briggs made a denial and said his books would balance with the money he had received. Members of the company testified at the hearing that whereas the bank book of the company should show a balance of \$408, there was an overdraft of about \$78, while \$127 received at a recent festival had not been deposited. Checks drawn by Briggs, which other members of the company said had been unauthorized and which he did not explain, were shown. Briggs is chairman of the committee which has been soliciting funds for the purchase of the new truck. He was held under \$1000 bail in default of which he was committed.