

—It is a comforting thought that the inheritance tax will make little difference to a man after he is dead.

—If you forgot to enroll in the Red Cross buy a hundred Christmas seals. That will ease your conscience for it is just as worthy a movement.

—We're against publicity of income tax reports. Having nothing to reveal ourselves we have no desire to see what might make us jealous of those more fortunate.

—Present releases are to the effect that the next session of the Legislature will be a short one. So far as the welfare of Pennsylvania is concerned it can't be too short.

—While the college presidents are telling the world that commercialization is ruining college sports the engineers of their faculties are busy drawing plans for larger stadiums.

—Our late standard bearer has sailed for Europe to take a long rest. We mention the fact merely to show that Mr. Davis had enough left out of the wreck to save him from the Chautauqua circuit.

—We can conceive of no one who was so utterly forlorn yesterday as not to have had something for which to be thankful. The trouble with most of us is that we accept too many things as a matter of course.

—We don't expect Warren Worth Bailey to win his contest for Cambria's seat in Congress, but we do expect to see him make a helluva fight for it. Warren Worth is at his best when there is something to scrap about.

—When Governor Pinchot comes up here, carrying his problems back to the people—if nobody else does it—we're going to ask why it is safer to set fire to a farmer's barn in Berks or Chester counties than it is to carry a pint of over-worked cider on one's hip.

—Dr. Carlson, of the Chicago University is out with a declaration that life can be lengthened greatly and youth partially restored by fasting. The Doctor evidently knows what he is talking about, but if you decide to try his restoration be careful not to fast too long.

—Charley Chaplin, idol of the kid movie fans, has been married at last, and not to Pola Negri. Charley has made many folks happy with his slapstick comedy, he has made others ridiculous with his mouse-ear moustache. Let us hope he will make Lita Grey a good husband.

—Mr. Tchitcherin, the low high-brow of Russia, thinks "American cellars are stocked with gold." Mr. Tchitcherin unwittingly has revealed his unfitness to pose as a prophet for Sovietism. The American cellar doesn't boast of gold, these days. It doesn't boast of anything. It's afraid some one might think there's gold in it and find something else.

—The Holiday season is approaching fast and we're distressed when we realize that we haven't a thing ready for you. If you're in the same boat let us help you out of the slough. Look at the label, right over and at the top of this page. If it ends with anything less than "25, slip a check or a few green boys into an envelope and mail to us. That will help you a bit and make us so happy that we'll forget that we are worried about the approach of Christmas.

—The allied dental exhibition in New York is apparently designed to take a lot of joy out of the life of the lounge lizard, but so far as that purpose is concerned it will be a flop. Showing the alarming dental conditions of the average girl it announces that only one in five is safe to kiss. Judged from the days when the caveman was unknown, the tea-hound was called by his right name—Sis—and osculation really meant something, we should say that one in five is an average that is certainly anything but a joy killer.

—Last week we got all het up about the aeroplanes that might be disturbing our slumbers after April one, next. The futility of going off half cocked was never better exemplified for, since then, it has been discovered that our landing field is too small for "setting down" after dark and, maybe, Centre Hall will get the aviation field. If we can't hold it we know of no place that we'd sooner see it go than Centre Hall. There's hundreds of Democrats over there and, inasmuch as the Democrats haven't been gettin' much lately, no one would have the heart to gum their chance to get acquainted with night noises.

—Carrying the "Buy-at-Home" campaign, which we are advocating, a bit further, let us suggest that you puzzle at home. Instead of sitting up half the night thumbing the dictionary to find words that you never knew of before and probably won't remember twenty-four hours later, set yourself to something worth while. Figure out from this conglomeration who will be the next judge in Centre county. Here is the conglomeration: qakgiutijyhp. Add to them a word of five letters that describes what you do to give your wife cause to leave your bed but not your board, and then spell out who will be the next judge of Centre county. You can use one letter as many times as you need it. The first person who sends the correct answer to this office will receive a kick in the tail with a frozen boot or two year's subscription to the paper that stands for this kind of damphoolishness.

Democratic Watchman

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Electoral Reform Legislation.

The Philadelphia committee of seventy is preparing a number of electoral reform bills for consideration during the next session of the Legislature. Preparing bills of that sort has become a habit with that organization. It means well, no doubt, but is responsible for some of the electoral abuses that have made the State of Pennsylvania notorious for corrupt elections. Of course the fault is not with the members of the committee of seventy. They are all, or nearly all, fair minded men who care more for clear government than for political success. But the political crooks take advantage of them and so alter and amend their reform measures as to make them work evil rather than good.

Among the bills this committee will recommend to the 1925 session will be one requiring personal registration in cities only once in four years instead of every year as at present. This would simply work out an enticement to fraud. Under the existing system thousands of bogus names are registered in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, but under the proposed system the number would be multiplied, for there would be little, if any, chance to check on the voting lists. Enterprising ballot box stuffers would lay a claim to vote in every precinct in the city and it would be difficult to prevent them from carrying out their purpose. It is a safe guess that the machine will favor that scheme.

Another amendment which the committee will recommend has greater merit though it will not cure a much used evil. It would require an affidavit of disability to procure assistance in marking ballots at general elections. Such a provision in the primary election laws has helped some. But the political managers in the cities have already devised a method of circumventing it. They procure a blank ballot in advance, mark it for the purchaser and require him to return the blank given him by the judge of election before they pay the price of his perjury. The political reformer who will invent a method of preventing this new form of fraud will deserve public thanks.

—Everybody worth minding favors good roads and good roads are a splendid asset in any community. But even good roads may become an evil if the cost of them is excessive or the burden too great to bear.

Confusing Condition in Pittsburgh.

The Republican managers in Pittsburgh are having a hard time arranging among themselves the distribution of future party favors. For many years there has been a shifting of bosses and a change of allegiance in which Mayor Magee, Max Leslie and millionaire Oliver have been the active participants. Recently some new figures have been introduced into the picture but instead of clarifying this has become the situation. Just now the factions are involved in a row in which the new figures, one a cousin of Secretary of the Treasury Andy Mellon, and the other the present Secretary of Labor in the Washington administration. It is all over the apportionment of the city and county offices next year.

For some time back an alliance has been maintained between Mayor Magee and millionaire Oliver who cherished an intense hatred of Max Leslie. Because of an equally intense hatred of Leslie Governor Pinchot placed the force of his influence at the service of the Magee-Oliver combine. Lately, however, Pinchot has been showing favor to outside influences and Oliver "broke" with him. This led to a quarrel between Oliver and Magee and Oliver joined forces with Leslie. Thereupon the cousin of Secretary Mellon enlisted under the same banner and a war of extermination has been declared on both sides. But the trouble is that neither of the chieftains is certain of the fidelity of his troops.

The annexation of Mellon and Oliver to the Leslie force and the "detouring" of Pinchot to an independent element left Magee looking like a plugged nickel for a time. But something else turned up. Mellon wants the worth of his money and demanded that Secretary of Labor Davis be proclaimed the favorite of the combine for Governor. Mr. Davis would prefer to be United States Senator but the place is not available and Leslie wants to utilize his popularity among wage earners as a candidate for Mayor against Magee. It is said that "nobody knows where a hobo goes" and the solution of this Pittsburgh problem is equally difficult. But however it is determined in the end the public will suffer.

—Washington will enjoy an interesting spectacle next week. Mr. George Wharton Pepper will again undertake to occupy the official place of the late Boies Penrose.

Governor Pinchot Will Fight.

Governor Pinchot is not greatly alarmed by the attitude of the machine managers with respect to the coming session of the Legislature. He expects a full measure of opposition to all his pet propositions but will not be diverted from his purposes. The Governor has sublime faith in the credibility of the people and believes that his professions of reform will work out to his plans. In the beginning he will not openly express a preference among the several aspirants for the speakership of the House. He has a preference, and if there were a reasonable hope for the success of his candidate, he would probably assert it. But there is no such hope and he will remain silent.

But after the machine completes its organization the Governor will frankly and firmly declare his plans and demand support of them under penalty of a direct appeal to the people. He will reiterate his claim that his administration has saved the tax payers forty or fifty thousand dollars a day during the two years of his administration. Both the Auditor General and the State Treasurer, the fiscal officers of the State, have openly denied this statement and cited the public records as authority. But the Governor goes on asserting and imagines the people believe him. There is an old adage that "a lie well stuck is as good as the truth," and he may be putting it to a test.

In any event it is practically certain that there will be some smashing of records and ambitions during the approaching session of the Legislature. Governor Pinchot realizes that if the machine gets the better of him in the impending contest he "is done for." For that reason he will enter the conflict in full armor and fully determined to "rule or ruin." In 1922 he smashed the machine and during the session of the Legislature that followed he forced obedience to his mandates. But he had patronage to dispense at that time and that form of currency, exceedingly acceptable and immensely potential, is exhausted and he must find some other lure to serve his purpose.

—Even the surviving turkey should not strut too much. Christmas is coming and a good gobbler is an attractive centerpiece on a Christmas dinner table.

Result of Red Cross Enrollment.

During the Red Cross roll call carried on last week, \$204.00 were collected from 127 memberships. All but fifty cents of each membership is for support of the service of the local Red Cross, fifty cents is for national and international Red Cross service; hence \$141.00 remains in this community and \$63.00 goes to Red Cross headquarters in Washington. The outcome of the roll call is gratifying to the committee as it was a voluntary contribution from those desirous of being participants in the noble work of the American National Red Cross, full details of which will be found on an inside page of this paper. Last year, in the house-to-house canvass, workers met frequently with "We are not now interested in the general program of the Red Cross but would like to contribute to the community nursing service" and it is planned to offer later an opportunity of giving to the nurse apart from the Red Cross.

The Elks have generously donated to the nursing service \$519.32 from the Elks Hall-oen carnival and Mrs. Russell Blair has offered to give part of the proceeds from "The Green and White Revue" and it is hoped enough money may be thus realized to resume the nursing service.

—It is to be hoped that President Coolidge will be able to live up to the claims made for him as a "cool-headed, wise, far-seeing and courageous leader."

National Delphian Society.

The National Delphian society will hold its organization meeting in the community room of the Y. M. C. A. next Tuesday evening, December 2nd, at 8 o'clock. The Delphian society is a national movement devoting itself to furnishing women with a national program of study, embracing music, art, drama, modern nations and literature. For this purpose about one hundred thousand American women have banded together, meeting twice a month for the purpose of developing the cultural arts. These chapters are non-sectarian and non-partisan.

—Pennsylvania spent \$50,000,000 in building and repairing roads this year, which will be all right if the people got the worth of the money.

—The Norristown Herald is thankful because it isn't a turkey on Thanksgiving day. But on election day it was a goose.

Butler's Actions Provoke Criticism.

There is considerable dissatisfaction among Republican Senators in Washington over the commanding attitude Senator Butler, of Massachusetts, has assumed. Much public comment followed his appointment to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Lodge, because it strikingly recalled the conditions which brought the late Mark Hanna into public life. But the comments which have followed recent actions of Senator Butler are of a less friendly character, for they have taken on the form of protest. It may be observed that complaints are not made in the open. They are sort of cloak room whisperings but ominous of mutiny in the future. Mr. Butler may be disappointed in the results.

As titular head of the party organization in the Senate and chairman of the important committee on foreign relations, Senator Lodge occupied the finest suite of rooms in the Senate office building. It was reasonably expected that his successor in the office of floor leader of the party would inherit the quarters he had occupied. But without waiting until a floor leader was chosen Senator Butler moved his official belongings into the rooms. It was a bit of assurance which dazed the older members of the body. The custom has been for new Senators to await their turn and take what was left. But Mark Hanna didn't do that and probably Butler imagined he is succeeding Hanna instead of Lodge.

Naturally the incident has opened up a much wider field of comment than pertains to the rooms in the office building. There are various other indications that Mr. Butler sits in the Senate chamber on a different plane than that occupied by his associates. It is noted and freely discussed that he goes to and from the capitol in a White House automobile while other Senators have to provide their own vehicles or walk, and that he comes and goes to and from the White House with an air of proprietorship fairly exuding from his body. These things are irritating to some of the Senators, but if the Senator has force enough to put it over he will do so. Hanna got away with it easily.

—The coming session of the Legislature will be interesting unless somebody weakens.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Rockview Penitentiary.

Some people feasted on turkey yesterday, some on goose and some on duck, but more probably on chicken, while at the Rockview penitentiary the inmates had neither of the above but the dinner they ate was good enough to satisfy most any man. Fresh roast pork was furnished in abundance, and in addition, all the trimmings. In fact the chef prepared for the dinner 500 pounds of fresh roast pork, six barrels of browned sweet potatoes, 50 gallons of natural gravy, 8 gallons of ketchup, 16 gallons of apple sauce, 55 pounds of creamery butter, white bread, raisin bread, ice cream in bricks and chocolate layer cake, coffee and four stogies to each man. The only work done at the penitentiary was looking after the stock and kitchen duty and the inmates took turns at doing those.

The fourteen prisoners at the Centre county jail were furnished with a chicken dinner and all the accompaniments, equal to that served on the table of sheriff Taylor and family.

—The high price is most assuredly causing the turkey to lose prestige as the Thanksgiving dinner bird. At the time this item was written not a turkey had been seen in Bellefonte while fifteen or twenty years ago it was nothing unusual to see half a dozen farmers on the streets of Bellefonte with a load of turkeys for the Thanksgiving trade. Of course at that time the birds sold for anywhere from ten to eighteen cents a pound and the purchaser had an ample supply to pick from. Of course Centre county farmers are not raising turkeys now like they did in those days. At that time it was a rare farmer who did not have his flock, while nowadays it's the rare farmer who does. Raising turkeys successfully requires more care and attention than growing chickens, and the automobile, the telephone, the radio and the cross-word puzzle are more alluring.

Jacking Up Egypt.

The British are finding that making a subject people independent, even in so shadowy a manner as Egypt is independent, is a ticklish business. They had their reasons, of course, for putting the Egyptians to a certain extent on their own, and these reasons were certainly not altruistic. So long as British interests could be protected by retaining control of Egypt's foreign affairs and military establishment, it seemed better all around that the Egyptians take over the domestic administration. The Egyptian government knows exactly where it stands. It is responsible for the assassination of the British official who was commander-in-chief of King Faud's army and governor-general of the Sudan. It must demonstrate that it is worthy of responsibility by clearing up the matter and giving assurance that it will do better in the future.

—Happily Congress comes in just in time to provide thrills after the football season goes out.

—The Bellefonte banks next week will pay out their Christmas saving funds deposits, and while the aggregate sum will not seem large compared to the big towns in the State yet it will total up in the thousands and come in very nice to those who saved a little each week during the year.

—Governor Pinchot was in Ohio the other evening denouncing those he helped to keep in office.

An Important Election Case.

The question whether Pennsylvania shall be represented in Congress by 36 Republicans or by 35 Republicans and one Democrat is of very small moment by comparison with the issue about to be presented before the Supreme court of this State as a result of the November election in the Twentieth district. On the face of the returns, in a very close contest, the Republican candidate, Anderson H. Walters, was elected. But in the official computation of the vote several ballot boxes were opened by direction of the Court, on representation that their contents were incorrectly tabulated, and on the basis of the actual vote cast, as distinguished from the vote erroneously reported by the election officers, Warren Worth Bailey, the Democratic candidate, was found to have a majority of 14 votes.

At this stage of the proceedings, before the result was certified in accordance with law, counsel for Mr. Walters raised the issue that an election for a Federal office must be decided upon the face of the returns; that the Judges exceeded their authority in ordering the ballot boxes opened; that, regardless of the contents of the boxes, the figures on the return sheets must be accepted as final as far as the State of Pennsylvania is concerned, and that the election of Mr. Walters must, therefore, be certified. Following a difference of opinion between the Judges who had ordered an inspection of the ballots, representatives of the rival candidates agreed to submit the matter to the Supreme court. That is the case now to be taken under advisement.

It is not for us to discuss the legal points involved in a controversy upon which the Court must pass; but we believe no breach of propriety is involved in considering the practical aspects of the question. The entire country must be interested in the outcome, since a precedent is about to be established that will apply to every State in the Union. Under our State election laws the right of a computing board to go behind the figures presented by election officers when there is reason to believe that those figures are fraudulent, or that they have been carelessly compiled, is unchallenged. If the law, upon interpretation, shall be found to hold that State election laws are inoperative when applied to the selection of Federal officials, it will become a pressing popular duty to consider the consequences and seek a remedy for a glaring injustice.

In the present case it is not denied that Bailey received more votes than Walters; but the contention, reduced to plain terms, seems to be that so far as the State is concerned it is not the number of ballots cast for a Congressional candidate that matters, but the number entered upon the return sheets. If this is the law, it may be pointed out that the recipient of the greatest number of actual votes, declared the loser by the certification of his opponent, still has his remedy. He may contest the election before a committee of the House of Representatives. Such a contest is very costly; it is likely to be prolonged throughout the session to which the contestant claims he was elected, while the sitting member draws the pay and registers his vote on national measures, and in the end it will be, or at least usually is, decided, by partisans, on a narrow partisan basis.

Every reasonable citizen's sense of fairness must revolt against the idea that the law contemplates the victory of a minority over a majority candidate, and that an office may in future be won with the approval of the statutes by the simple expedient of inducing dishonest election boards to declare the loser by the certification of their return sheets. That may be the law, nevertheless; for the exact extent of Federal authority over State election methods is yet to be determined in this particular case. An early hearing before the Supreme court is greatly to be desired in order that the limitations upon the rights of the States may be defined and considered with a view to preparation for legislative action if revision of the statutes is required.

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—We are not greatly worried over the publicity of income tax returns. We haven't been trying to fool anybody in that way.

—Get your job work done here.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Anthony Sinkus, 6 years old, fell into a tub of boiling water at Shenandoah and was scalded from head to feet.

—John Mahal, 47 years old, of Exchange, scratched his hand while at work in the coal mines and died of lockjaw.

—The congregation of the Ebenezer Mennonite in Christ church at Bethlehem last week greatly surprised their pastor, the Rev. F. M. Hottle, with a Thanksgiving gift of \$1014.75 as a mark of esteem and appreciation for his services.

—William Steele, a farmer residing near Everett, Bedford county, alleges hunters shot and badly wounded a cow belonging to him, and has prosecuted George Emigh and Lyman Refner, of Roaring Spring. The men gave bail for a hearing.

—As a result of the increased number of cases of scarlet fever in East Tyrone the borough health authorities, together with the State Department, have deemed it necessary to prohibit all children 12 years and under from attending public gatherings.

—Clement Kunes, of Blanchard, and Glen Williams, of Macekeyville, were injured when the car in which they were riding rolled over an embankment near State College on Saturday. Williams, who was driving, tried to avoid a collision with a car, it is claimed.

—The Masonic Home at Elizabethtown, Pa., and the Masonic Home in Philadelphia will divide a balance of \$96,600 from the estate of John Orr, of the Quaker city, who died in August, 1923. The amount was awarded to the accountants of the estate for distribution by Judge Thompson in Orphans court last Friday.

—Three years in jail and a fine of \$100 was the sentence imposed upon Mrs. Susan Suros, of Nanticoke, when she scorned his offer of freedom on condition that she restore \$1900 she was said to have taken from boarders, prior to an elopement. Although her four children were in tears, she walked to her cell, while the father took the children home with him.

—Harry Bridge, a well known Clearfield tailor and trout fisherman, last Wednesday night dreamed that he was catching a lot of big trout from a pool of water which had formed on the parlor floor of his home on West Front street. Thursday afternoon a fire burned the roof off the house and the pool of water on the parlor floor was no dream. The fire loss is about \$2,000.

—M. A. Davis, Milford county detective, and fifteen state police raided four homes in Snyder county Friday night, seizing 500 gallons of mash, ten gallons of moonshine, wine, and several stills. They arrested John W. Gill, local preacher and his three sons, Charles, 30; Rush, 28, and Lester, 21 years old. The three live near McClure and the others near Beaverdown. All were lodged in jail in Middleburg.

—The October harvest season is declared in a statement from the Department of Agriculture to have been unusually good, which helped the corn crop, although it is said only 56 per cent. is merchantable, the lowest in thirty years. The weather conditions also helped the potato crop. The statement summarizes conditions from all counties and shows early estimates to have been well founded in the main.

—The expense of the Willow murder trials to Snyder county will cost \$5,000, it is estimated by commissioners' clerk, Charles S. Matten. There are several bills to be submitted. It is estimated that the cost to support Ralph Shadel and Mrs. Annie Willow in prison will be \$6,570 for ten years. The county must pay 90 cents a day for each. This means more than \$12,000 cost to the county from the crime.

—Despite an attack in which an ax, a club and a stove liver were used, constable Henry Rittenhouse Saturday collected taxes for 1925 from Mrs. Katherine Giger, of Shickshinny valley, Columbia county. At the mention of taxes the woman flew into a rage and attacked the constable, her son, LeRoy, assisting her. The officer finally disarmed her and locked her up for a time. Then she paid the taxes, the costs and extra costs in an assault and battery action that the officer brought.

—Pennsylvania potato growers shipped 1,441 car loads of this year's crop of potatoes up to November 15, compared with shipments of 1,403 car loads to November 17, 1923, officials in the Department of Agriculture announced last week. The estimated production this year in Pennsylvania was placed at 28,762,000 bushels, or more than 2,000,000 bushels in excess of the estimated 1923 crop. The quality of the Pennsylvania crop was estimated at 90 per cent. normal, compared with 80.4 per cent. the average for the United States.

—Although he was securely handcuffed and the train on which he was riding was traveling fifty-five miles an hour, John Killian, 19 years of age, Plymouth desperado, plunged headfirst through a window one afternoon last week in an attempt to avoid imprisonment in the Huntingdon Reformatory. When he was captured an hour after his spectacular leap, officers discovered that he was only slightly injured. Killian has escaped from the Luzerne county Industrial School at Kislryn on six occasions, where he was sentenced in connection with two Plymouth robberies.

—William Richards, aged 23 years, son of B. E. Richards, cashier of the First National bank, of Muncy, was arrested in Lock Haven early Saturday morning as he was attempting to break into the H. H. Wilson store. Officer E. C. Alkey heard the burglar alarm and saw the man running down the alley. He was taken before alderman T. M. Brungard, where he gave his name and said that he had been looking for work several places, and had gone there from Clearfield, getting rides in motor cars as far as Lamar, and walking the distance of eight miles from Lamar. He had no overcoat, he said, and was breaking into the Wilson clothing store to get one.

—A case of rhino scleroma, a disease said to be almost unknown in America, is challenging the specialists at the Howard hospital, in Philadelphia. The victim is a man who has been suffering with the disease which causes a hardening of the nose to almost rock-like texture, for five years. Many specialists have been called into consultation, but the patient was said to have obtained little relief. Physicians said there was no record of an American born citizen ever having the disease. They said it was somewhat prevalent in parts of Australia and Russia and often proves fatal. Explaining the malady, the doctors said it was caused by a germ, but that they had been unable to isolate the germ. In its early stages the nose assumes a tough texture and gradually hardens until the nostrils close entirely. It is not painful until it reaches the last stage when partial strangulation ensues.