

—And this is 1925. —If there wasn't, as Barnum said, "one born every minute" there would not be such general yelling about taxes.

—So far as we are concerned all that the New Year has in prospect that the old one didn't fulfill is hope, and, if the truth were told, that stands for all of you.

—When "clean-up week" comes in the spring we're going to thumb our nose at the powers that be in Bellefonte and tell them that when they remove the unsightly litter about the Phoenix pumping station we'll haul our ashes and tin cans to the dump.

—At their meeting here on Monday the road supervisors of Centre county went on record as being "unalterably opposed to centralization of power."

—Score one for the new Judge. He has secured a district attorney whom nobody thought he could get. Ivan Walker doesn't need to look on the appointment as an honor.

—Make 1925 a great year for the Centre County hospital. Pay up your subscriptions promptly. Don't listen to the talk that it can't be done.

—Advice from Washington is to the effect that Congressman William I. Swoope is going to press his bill to formally name "The Star Spangled Banner" as the national anthem.

—Nobody loves Christmas pleasures more than we. For a week our desk has been piled high with them.

—We've never seen Louise Closser Hale act. Maybe she's all that those who rave over "Expressing Willie" think she is.

—We know that Governor Pinchot called Judge Dale on the telephone Tuesday morning.

—The five years that have elapsed since the organization of the League of Nations no serious war has been waged and no general slaughter has occurred.

—The hearings in the postal rate bill may as well be abandoned.

—One reason for the Republican row is that Bill Vare wants to expand his jurisdiction as party boss.

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Confusion of Interests Perplexes.

Viewed from any angle the quarrel among the Republican bosses over the Speakership of the House of Representatives is perplexing. It is claimed by the sponsors for the Philadelphia wet candidate that all the votes of Allegheny county will be for him.

Judging by past experiences it is not easy to figure out how Mellon can be counted against Harer, who is the candidate of State chairman Baker. Small fry politicians like Vare and Grundy are against Secretary Mellon, Senators Reed and Pepper and Congressman McFadden have always shown the most friendly interest in his political achievements and confidence in his leadership.

Then the combination of Grundy and Vare is unbelievable. For many years an almost deadly feud has existed between Grundy and the Vares, and only two years ago an attempt by mutual friends to effect a reconciliation only increased the bitterness and widened the breach.

—The Speaker of the House is not the law enforcement officer of the State," as an esteemed wet contemporary remarks. But he has a large voice in framing legislation under which enforcement is conducted.

Lord Cecil on Woodrow Wilson.

In accepting the award of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, in New York on Sunday evening, Lord Cecil, famous English statesman, fitly and fully answered the declarations of President Coolidge and others that the League of Nations "is a closed incident."

Within the five years that have elapsed since the organization of the League of Nations no serious war has been waged and no general slaughter has occurred. Several more or less grave disagreements have arisen and various minor encounters have taken place.

After citing numerous of the great achievements of the League of Nations Lord Cecil continued: "The seed planted by Woodrow Wilson and his colleagues at Paris has already grown and flourished beyond the most sanguine expectation. Let it be ours to foster its growth, and not wasting our time in criticism and regret, let us press forward toward that glorious prize which even now seems almost within our grasp."

—The hearings in the postal rate bill may as well be abandoned. To increase the postage on magazines would be breaking faith with periodical publishers who contributed liberally to the campaign fund.

Republican Harmony Rudely Jolted.

Those Republican leaders who expected to run a road roller over the prostrate form of Governor Pinchot in the organization and during the approaching session of the Legislature have had their hopes rudely shocked. There is not only a fight on but one of uncertain proportions and results.

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—We are not in the confidence of either but feel perfectly safe in saying that Joe Grundy will get no more invitations to the Pinchot estate in Pike county.

Senator Reed Unduly Excited.

Senator Reed, of Pittsburgh, appears to be unduly excited over the war debt owed to this country by France. In a recent review of the financial affairs of France the Finance Minister made no reference to the money due to the United States.

Great Britain some time ago entered into an agreement with the authorities at Washington to pay her debt in comparatively small instalments and paid down a considerable sum of interest. Possibly France is fencing for a similar or more generous agreement.

—There must be something menacing in the condition of affairs between France and Germany. Marshal Poch is beginning to take notice.

—Probably those army world fliers would rather have had a few hundred dollars in hand than a chance of promotion after they are dead.

—One reason for the Republican row is that Bill Vare wants to expand his jurisdiction as party boss.

Real Issue in the Fight.

Governor Pinchot is unquestionably correct in his opinion that the election of Thomas Bluett, of Philadelphia, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, would commit the party to the wet side of the prohibition question. But that is neither new nor startling.

But the Governor is widely away from the facts in his inference that prohibition or enforcement is the dominant issue in the campaign for the Speakership of the House. The Republican machine of Pennsylvania doesn't need to employ flattering unctious to induce the liquor interests to cast the liquor vote for the party.

—A very dear friend of ours, a man 88 years young, without a gray hair in his head and boasting that he does not need glasses to thread a needle, went over to the railroad station one day last week to meet his son and daughter-in-law.

—This thing of taking your Christmas dinner out, when you have no help, is grand; so far as escape from spending three hours worrying over keeping the oven hot and properly basting the bird is concerned.

—The "Watchman" congratulates Mervin Betz, of Jacksonville, upon his appointment as mercantile appraiser for Centre county. Being a merchant, himself, he is well qualified to make a just and equitable return of all dealers in the county.

—Who is to deliver the Hon. Holmes? Will Rebecca Naomi and Judge Dale hand him over to Pinchot, or will Scott, Fleming and Co., present him to Baker as proof that he is a "regular" Republican?

—There must be something menacing in the condition of affairs between France and Germany. Marshal Poch is beginning to take notice.

—Money is a great force in this country. It has just changed Trinity college, in Durham, North Carolina, into Duke University.

—Since the jingoes couldn't get us into a war with Japan they seem to be sitting up nights to make a casus belli with France.

—Thus far Pinchot has an advantage in the epistolary duel. His letters are longer than those of his opponents.

—Kid McCoy gets off easily under a verdict of manslaughter and that is no "kid."

The "Dry" Republican Party.

From the Philadelphia Record. The selection of a Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives is a Republican function, at which the 14 Democratic members of a body numbering 207 will play the role of interested but impotent spectators.

From their position on the sidelines of the scrimmage, however, the Democrats, if they shall keep their ears open, may gather some curious information. For instance, the voice of the Governor of Pennsylvania is raised to assert that "this nation is dry. The Republican party in the United States is dry * * * The Republican party of Pennsylvania is dry."

We should like to think that the Governor believes his own statements, but we cannot force ourselves to that extent of credulity. He has recently and publicly pointed out to the federal authorities in charge of prohibition enforcement, who are all Republicans, the excessive wetness of Pennsylvania, and has charged them with responsibility therefor.

It strikes "The Record," merely as a spectator, that if Mr. Bluett, orthodox Republican candidate for the Speakership, is as wet as Governor Pinchot says he is, he represents very accurately the sentiments of the dominant element in his own party.

The Speakership.

Under existing political conditions in Pennsylvania, the Speaker of the State House of Representatives is not likely to be a forceful personality. In the absence of a single dominating leader, the members are being lined up in support of a Philadelphian whose chief claim for preference seems to be his selection by "the Vares."

From all accounts, the Speaker at the session of 1925, Mr. Goodnough, made a satisfactory debating officer, and he may decide to offer himself to the House for re-election. But he labors under the serious handicap, so far as the majority of the new House is concerned, of being the favored candidate of Governor Pinchot.

Nor are those of another aspirant for the place, Mr. Harer, who was chairman of the Appropriations committee at the last session, thought to be much better. He was unable to please everybody with an interest in the appropriations, and he is said to have particularly offended interests upon whom the party machine depends largely for campaign contributions.

The Chicken Plague.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. Pennsylvania's chickens have not got the European fowl plague decimating flocks in parts of other States and generally upsetting the trade in poultry in the eastern part of the United States, but the State authorities have very wisely put on a quarantine to protect the health of our own birds.

—When you see it in the "Watchman" you know it's true.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Dr. J. George Becht, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who is ill at the University hospital, Philadelphia, is reported as "doing nicely" this week.

—Delegates from the councils of the Junior Order United American Mechanics in Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Centre, Clearfield, Bedford and Fulton counties will assemble in Altoona on January 10, for a district convention.

—When a fire in the store of Joseph Nays, of Bethlehem, was at its height on Friday Nays rushed through the smoke and flames to his safe and returned to the street, nearly suffocated and badly singed, but with \$1000 he had managed to save.

—Bondholders of the Columbia and Montour Telephone company on Monday stated that the company would not operate after December 31. State Telephone company gives up its lease on their lines. No plan for continuance of service had been arrived at, the bondholders said.

—A. M. Pearce, superintendent of the Penn Public Service company, has been appointed general chairman of the committee which is preparing for the Allegheny Region anniversary meeting of the I. O. O. F., at Clearfield, in April. H. S. Mann is secretary and E. Clair Davis is treasurer of the committee.

—An illness that proved baffling to doctors resulted in the death of Joseph Eick, 24 years of age, of Carbondale, Pa., at the Hageman hospital in Scranton, on Monday night. While it is believed that he suffered from sleeping sickness, an autopsy was being performed to learn if the victim had been poisoned.

—With his mother, Mrs. Stephen Sheetz, believed dying at Shamokin, police have sent broadcast an appeal for her son, Edward, 18 years old, to return home. He disappeared on October 29. He is five feet eight inches tall, has light brown hair, and wore a cap, coat and sweater of the same color when he left home.

—Developments are expected soon in the mysterious death of Henry Rathburn, who was found a corpse in the kitchen of his home at Middleburg, on Christmas. Authorities are attempting to learn the identity of three men who spent the morning there. Coroner Herman has not yet made a definite statement as to the cause of death.

—Suits totaling \$11,000 were filed late on Tuesday against the Greensboro Gas company, of Uniontown, by four members of the family of James A. Anderson, of Annapolis, Md., whose automobile in Brownsville was struck by a heavy iron projection from a gas company truck, causing injuries which sent three of the family to a hospital.

—Notices were posted this week by the Danville and Sunbury Transit company that they would cease operation of trolley cars after midnight, December 31. The disposal of the equipment has not yet been decided on. The company operates between Danville and Riverside on the south side of the Susquehanna river, and runs to the Danville State hospital.

—Mrs. Eliza Anne Blauser Freed, of York, is 91 years old. She was born near Pleasantville, York county, and was one of sixteen children in the Blauser family. Samuel Blauser, of York, a brother, and Mrs. Emma Shelter, of Windsor Park, a sister, are living. She was married in 1854 to Daniel Freed, a farmer, who died in 1878. They had ten children.

—Charging the Pennsylvania Railroad company with negligence that resulted in injury to him, Louis H. Snyder, of Altoona, has entered suit in trespass asking damages in the sum of \$500. Mr. Snyder alleges that in September, he approached the grade crossing near BO tower in a roadster and that because of certain conditions he alleges existed there, his car stalled on the track and was struck and entirely destroyed by a train.

—What Potter county has done with certified seed potatoes is the wonder of the State. Of the 65,000 bushels grown in Pennsylvania, more than half were raised in the land of leeks. In fact, 37,945 bushels, 77 of the competing 123 local growers, passed the rigid requirements imposed by the Pennsylvania State College. Paul Smith, of Ulysses, has 6500 bushels, having raised nearly one-tenth of all the certified seed tubers in the whole State.

—The Tipton dam, erected for the Pennsylvania Railroad company, between Altoona and Tyrone, at a cost of \$1,000,000, has been completed. This is the last of six dams built for the railroad in the Allegheny mountains. It has a capacity of 400,000,000 gallons, increasing the supply 55 per cent. William B. McCreb, general superintendent of the Tipton company, was formerly superintendent of the Philadelphia Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

—Guy Myton, 57 years old, of Petersburg, is in a serious condition in the Blair Memorial hospital, at Huntingdon, suffering from fractures of the ribs of both sides of his chest, a possible puncture wound of the lung, and lacerations of the head which required ten stitches in closing. The man was found on Monday morning of last week, lying in the clearway between No. 1 and 2 tracks of the Pennsylvania railroad near the Petersburg passenger station by trackwalker, Charles Beatty. How he met with the accident has not been divulged.

—Another triumph for overalls over white collars is reflected in the report that more than 1700 of the 2700 night students in Carnegie Institute of Technology at Pittsburgh, this year are taking courses in the building and machinery trades. The growth in night student enrollment in these trade courses, which is this year about 100 per cent. over that of three years ago, gives further evidence, the report suggests, that young men are more and more appreciating the opportunities to win success by the "over-all route" rather than through the "white collar" jobs.

—William Rosenmund, 28 years old, of Mifflin county, was arrested by Pennsylvania railroad police on Saturday in connection with three attempts to wreck fast night trains between Mifflin and Denholm. The police in examining Rosenmund, who is a deaf mute, through his father and sister, said they were told that the prisoner had been despondent since the refusal of a girl in New Brighton to marry him, and that he had been counseled by "spirits" to wreck trains to frighten the girl into consenting. The police also were told that he had given the girl \$500. Two attempts to wreck trains were made early on Friday, the pony wheels of one locomotive being derailed by splice bars placed on the track. Railroad police watching on Saturday said they saw Rosenmund crossing the tracks carrying splice bars and arrested him. He lives on a farm with his parents.