

—The days are lengthening, but we can all do without the cold strengthening.

—Marvelous how gay a lot of people have gotten since they are sure that Gifford is no longer in the saddle.

—The season for spiritual revival is on. Always when the body gets cold the preachers start in to warm up the soul.

—We're going to give the Hon. Holmes a rest this week. He needs it against the time when he'll have to go to the mat with Pinchot, Baker, Vare and Grundy, all at once.

—Martin G. Brumbaugh has returned to Huntingdon. The erstwhile Governor and peripatetic pedagogue is about to dedicate himself, eye-brows and all, to the conduct of Juniata College.

—Anyway, up to this time, the snows have been so light that the old man has not had to do any of the shoveling through fear that it would be too heavy for the boys to handle. We're strong for light, fluffy snow.

—We don't believe Governor Davis, of Kansas, either sought or took a bribe. We base our disbelief purely on the amount in question. Jonathan might be a piker, but \$1250 pikers rarely get to be chief executive of a Commonwealth as erratic as Kansas—if there be another.

—The real inwardness of the Cabinet disintegration will probably never be known. Only three of Harding's advisers remain and rumor has it that they will have tendered their resignations ere March 4. It would be interesting to know whether they actually want to quit or whether Cal wants them to.

—To add to the general slowing up in business places and households the "Watchman" is this week making a contribution. We are inviting you to solve our series of cross-word puzzles. We want you to try them. Get practiced up, as it were, for we're ultimately going to offer a grand prize to the best solver. We haven't yet decided what the prize will be.

—If they want to move the eastern penitentiary to the country why don't they move it to Rockview. The State already owns five thousand acres of land there, with enough air, water and opportunities for healthful out-of-door life to suffice for all the convicts Pennsylvania will have for all time. If politics hadn't been in it the State would have concentrated and economized in one prison long ago. Because politics is certain to remain in it this sensible move will probably never be taken.

—The judicial race was one of addition all fall. As spring approaches it will assume the nature of subtraction. In a graceful letter to the Republican last week James C. Furst Esq., took down his lightning rod and we are assured that others will follow suit, ere long, so that the danger of all the lawyers being on the hustings by spring, with no one left to look after clients, gradually abates. We have heard by way of State College that there is a prospective new alignment of the dry forces. One that is very intriguing to discover the motivating purpose.

—The first thing that greeted us when we reached the desk Monday morning was a cheery little message from an old Clearfield friend. He is away out in Spokane, Washington, now, but still keen for Central Pennsylvania people and politics and, as his name is John, a brother of the late Senator George Dimeling, we opine that he'll never get over his interest in the latter. We don't know whether he dabbles any out there or not, but from this distance Washington looks capable of cutting political capers very much after the fashion of Clearfield county when John was helping to pull the strings over there.

—Phillipsburg, Clearfield, Osceola and Houtzdale are beginning to take notice that the baseball season approaches. None of them, so far as we have been informed, contemplate establishing spring training camps on Six Mile run or any place like that, but they are beginning to pump air into the deflated Clearfield-Centre baseball league. Rather naively the Phillipsburg Journal suggests the possibility of Bellefonte's joining and making it a five instead of a four-town circuit. The suggestion takes us back to 1892, when with our lamented friend, Sam Graham, of Phillipsburg; Jimmy McGuire, of Houtzdale, and Bill Bradley, of Clearfield, we helped organize the Mountain League and started something that we couldn't stop until every sport about the town had his name on a note in the bank the proceeds of which went to importing players. Them were the days. From well-planned intention to use none but local players the urge to win swept every community into a frenzied scramble for professionals, no matter what the cost, and by the time September rolled around the rocket came down, nothing but a stick—stuck is the real word. We got out from under after several years' pinching and scraping and therefor feel qualified to advise Bellefonte to think before it is seduced by the Ledger or any one else. If they'll stick to amateur ball Bellefonte could find much enjoyment in joining. If they don't, Bellefonte will save herself a lot of embarrassment by getting out while the getting's good.

Democratic Watchman

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Mr. Hughes and His Successor.

The reasons which influenced Charles E. Hughes to resign the office of Secretary of State is left to conjecture, and there are a good many politicians throughout the country guessing on the subject. Practice of his profession would be much more lucrative and many will believe that he adopted the expedient to increase his revenues. Others may imagine that the Presidential bee is still buzzing in his bonnet and that he resigned in order to be in position to "toss his hat into the ring" in 1928. More cynical observers may jump at the conclusion that a disagreement with the President is impending, or that he dreads intimate contact with the new chairman of the Senate committee on Foreign Relations, Mr. Borah.

Either of these reasons would be sufficient and neither may be the real cause of action. Mr. Hughes has been in public life a long time, and though acknowledged to be a great lawyer has had little opportunity to prove it. During the four years between his defeat for President and his appointment as Secretary of State he is said to have earned large fees and such experiences are enticing. But having acquired ample means the quiet dignity of private citizenship is alluring and possibly Mr. Hughes resigned in order to enjoy that luxury during his declining years. In any event he had a legal and moral right to resign and everybody imbued with the right spirit will wish him well.

Of his successor in office less is known. As a Senator in Congress for Minnesota, Mr. Kellogg ranked fairly high. He is also a well equipped lawyer and his service on the committee on Foreign Relations and subsequent tenure as Ambassador at the Court of St. James were fitting primary schools in diplomacy. As Senator he favored the ratification of the covenant of the League of Nations with the reservations proposed by the committee and was invariably classed among the supporters of corporate interests for which he was punished by defeat for re-election. But he was never a "bitter-ender" or in sympathy with the policies expressed by Senator Borah, so that there may be "breakers ahead."

—Every Democrat in Pennsylvania will hope Warren Worth Bailey will win his seat in Congress, and the right way to express it is by contribution to the expense fund.

Compulsory Liability Insurance.

One of the important measures scheduled for consideration during the present session of the Legislature will be a bill requiring all automobile owners to carry liability insurance. At first glance this would seem like levying tribute on motor vehicle owners for the benefit of insurance corporations. But as a matter of fact it will afford a needed protection to victims of automobile accidents. So far as farmers who own machines are concerned such legislation would not be needed, for as a rule they are responsible for any damages they cause. But so many joy riders driving encumbered machines occupy the highways that some method of protection against carelessness ought to be devised.

It is reasonable to believe that a State law requiring liability insurance would, in some measure at least, supply this need. If damage is done through carelessness or otherwise by an irresponsible driver, there would be a certainty of recompense, and it may be assumed that insurance companies would take reasonable care to issue policies only to owners who had sense enough to be careful. In that event a reckless driver would be unable to get insurance and the highways might thus be relieved of the most prolific source of automobile accidents. The security against loss on account of irresponsible and careless drivers would amply compensate responsible car owners for the expense of insurance.

Employers of labor in every line of industry and commerce are required to insure their employees against accidents. When this law was first suggested objection was made that it would work a hardship on employers and would cause the organization of wild-cat insurance companies. It has caused neither of these evils but has saved the families of many an unfortunate wage earner from suffering. The State organization created for the service of the industrial insurance could be adapted to cover the proposed automobile liability, and while the car owners would have an option to use other insurance concerns there is no valid reason for assuming that the purpose is to make business for existing companies.

—It would be funny as well as surprising if President Coolidge should adopt the big stick method of getting support in Congress.

A Mare's Nest Discovered.

The esteemed Philadelphia Public Ledger has discovered a "Mare's Nest." By diligent scraping of the underbrush of politics our contemporary has found out that the Senators and Representatives of the General Assembly are conspiring to pass generous appropriation bills, "the objections of the Governor to the contrary, notwithstanding." The plan to accomplish this nefarious purpose is to have the appropriation measures brought up early in the session, passed promptly and presented to the Governor for approval in time to pass them over his veto, if he disapproves. The proof of the conspiracy is contained in a letter recently dispatched by the new Speaker to the Representatives.

Previous to the service of the late William S. Stone, as Governor, the authority to veto distinct items in appropriation bills was exercised under the provision of Section 16 of Article 4 of the State constitution. Following the session of 1899 Governor Stone enlarged this prerogative by slicing chunks or cutting out parts of appropriations with the view of keeping the disbursements within the limit of the revenues. There was a good deal of dissatisfaction expressed by Legislators whose districts had suffered by what seemed like a usurpation of authority on the part of the Governor, and it was promptly proclaimed that thereafter all appropriation bills would be passed in time to re-pass them after a veto.

At or immediately before every session of the Legislature since, the statement has been made with considerable solemnity that appropriation bills would be sent to the Governor in time to pass them over the veto in the event of disapproval in part. But the threat has never been carried out. The passage of appropriation bills is a product of log rolling, and whether introduced late or early are left for consideration at the close of the session after John Doe has had ample time to arrange with Richard Roe for a reciprocal mutual aid society for the benefit of all. Probably this is the first time the Speaker has butted in with a suggestive letter, but it is safe to say the system will endure.

—In proposing to read progressive Congressmen out of the party Representative Longworth may stifle the majority before the next session ends.

Vare and Grundy in the Discard.

One of the certain results of the Grundy-Vare coalition is that Congressman Vare will be a candidate for United States Senator at the expiration of Mr. Pepper's term of office. It is universally agreed that Mr. Pepper must go. He started well by promising to "spit in the eye of a bull dog" and do other absurd things that appealed to the "rough element" in the "neck" in Philadelphia and the "strip" in Pittsburgh. But he didn't fulfill his promise. The best he has ever done in this way was to eulogize Griest, of Lancaster, and some other offensive bosses. He ought to have known that that sort of lip service would not satisfy the managers of the Pennsylvania Republican machine. He didn't measure up.

The principal reason that influenced Vare to affiliate with Grundy in an enterprise to destroy Pinchot and eliminate chairman Baker was his ambition to become a Senator in Congress. By the same token it may be predicted that the same reason will work a speedy dissolution of the peculiar partnership. Grundy will not stand for Vare as Senator and as the signs of the Vare aspiration are already being hung out, an early break may be predicted. It will not result in the restoration of Pinchot to favor, but it is more likely to force Secretary Mellon, Senator Reed and chairman Baker into a combination that will make both Vare and Grundy look like a plugged fi penny-bit.

Of course the question of the party nominee for Governor is more or less involved and Baker is not in accord with Mellon and Reed on that subject. The chairman still cherishes a hope that his boyhood friend Beidleman, may be chosen for that honor, and Mellon and Reed are averse to that "a shuffle of the cards." But differences of that sort may be adjusted easily and amicably. Mr. Baker is getting into the habit of withdrawing candidates. It is his greatest weakness. He withdrew Beidleman three years ago and Harer the other day and he can easily do so with his gubernatorial candidate next year if necessary or expedient. The only thing certain is that Vare and Grundy will be "done for."

—We are not likely to get the full measure of fun out of government until the Legislature tackles the Pinchot budget.

Politics Again in the Saddle.

The appointment of Charles B. Warren, of Michigan, to the office of Attorney General looks very much like a recurrence to the Harding form. When Harry Daugherty was forced out of the Cabinet a real lawyer was put in his place. But that was before the election. Now that the office is again vacant and there is no real necessity for placating public opinion, Mr. Warren, essentially a politician, is named. One of the Michigan Senators and all of the Michigan Representatives in Congress protested against the appointment, but to no purpose. He has been nominated by the President and will be confirmed by the Senate either out of courtesy to the executive or in consideration of patronage.

When President Harding was scurrying among the best minds for Cabinet timber he selected Albert Fall, Edwin Denby and John W. Weeks for statesmanship; Andrew Mellon for financing and Harry M. Daugherty for politics. Daugherty was a member of the bar, which was the only reason for putting him in that office other than his personal services in politics. He had been manager of the campaign for nomination and won a surprising victory. Mr. Warren, of Michigan, didn't serve as manager of any campaign but he wrote the platform adopted by the Cleveland convention and it was a marvelous performance. It reconciled the negro voters to the Ku Klux candidate and "snatched the flower victory from the nettle danger."

In the Harding Cabinet Mr. Hughes was the small quantity of leaven "which leavened the lump" and in the Cabinet to come he will be missing. Fortunately Fall, Denby and Daugherty are not available for seats at the table, but Warren may be depended upon to fill Daugherty's place and produce results "equally as good." He may not need the little green house on K street, but he will find place and opportunity to meet every political contingency as it arises and keep the machinery in motion full time. His appointment is a sign that though the President is cold he is not without a sense of appreciation, and that those who served him well or to his liking will be taken care of.

—To pay American citizens for losses during the war and to compensate our government for the maintenance of our army of occupation the Allies have agreed to give us six hundred million out of the German reparations. That sounds like a pile of money and it is, but our Congress would spend it in less than six months.

Highway Department Equipped to Keep Roads Open.

So far this winter travelers by automobile or horse-drawn vehicles have not been handicapped with drifted roads, principally because of the fact that snowfalls have not been followed by high winds. But should such a thing occur before the winter comes to an end the State Highway Department is better equipped than heretofore to open the lines of travel on state highways, and any blockade would be of short duration.

As a matter of fact the department keeps a night watch for snow storms and when a snow reaches a depth of two inches the snow-plow gang is called and sent out to clean the highways. This occurred on Sunday night, or rather Monday morning, when the gangs started out at 1:30 o'clock and by nine o'clock had made the rounds of all the roads in this section. For removing an ordinary snow fall from the road-ways the department uses a light plow pushed by a two and a half ton, four wheel drive truck, weighted down, if necessary, with a ton or two of iron or stone. For big drifts they have two ten ton traction engines, with two huge snow plows. These will go through drifts four feet deep.

Past experience has shown that the worst sections in Centre county for drifting snow are from Centre Hall to Potters Mills and from State College to Pine Grove Mills and down through the Glades, consequently one of the engines and plow is kept at Centre Hall and the other outfit at State College so as to be as near as possible to where their services may be required. The smaller road cleaning outfits are kept in Bellefonte. Prior to Sunday night's snow the state roads were entirely clear, and while a number of people commented upon the fact very few realized it was due to the watchfulness and work of the Highway Department.

—That affair in Kansas may lead to the impression that real "dirt farmers" are too credulous to be Governors.

—One thing may be relied on. The Legislature will find some way to make automobile users pay more taxes.

Judge Dale Disposes of Various Pleas of Guilty.

At a session of court yesterday morning John A. Wilk plead guilty to escaping from the Rockview penitentiary and was sentenced to serve an additional sentence of eighteen months to three years.

James H. Ryan plead guilty to fornication and Judge Dale imposed a fine of \$1, costs and fifteen days in jail. Mr. Gettig informed the court that he could not impose a jail sentence when Judge Dale changed the sentence to \$10 fine and costs and to stand committed until the sentence is complied with.

Homer Johnson plead guilty to adultery and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, costs and three months in the Centre county jail.

James Leitzell plead guilty to failure to pay a board bill of \$10 and sentence was suspended for a period of three months on condition that he pay the bill and costs.

John Hart plead guilty to possessing and transporting intoxicating liquor and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$10 and go to jail for thirty days. This was the first liquor law violation to come before Judge Dale.

Grace Page was brought before the court to answer to the charge of harboring and aiding and abetting an escaped prisoner, and after the court suspended sentence for a period of three months, he warned the girl that any harboring of prisoners in the future would result in her and any other members of the family implicated being given the full penalty of the law.

William Confer and Boyd Musser, of Gregg township, plead guilty to breaking and entering and larceny. The charge was based on their having gained entrance to two tool houses of the Pennsylvania Railroad company; along the Lewisburg railroad, and stealing three pairs of gum boots. After hearing evidence in the case Judge Dale sentenced each of them to from one to two years in the western penitentiary.

Moose Hearing a Perfunctory Affair.

The hearing held before justice of the peace S. Kline Woodring, last Friday afternoon, as a result of the raiding of the Bellefonte Lodge of Moose, on Tuesday evening of last week, was a very perfunctory affair, being confined principally to offering sufficient evidence to warrant holding the acting steward, Jesse Dunlap, for trial at the February term of court. The prosecution was represented by district attorney Ivan Walker, who was instrumental in having the search warrant sworn out prior to the raiding of the Moose club, while W. D. Zerby and John G. Love represented the defendant.

Sergt. J. V. Buckley, of the State police, testified to the raid on the club, although he was not in charge. State policeman Kelly, one of the men participating, testified that when the raiding party entered the club Jesse Dunlap was in charge, and so admitted; and that he saw him sell the home-made brew and take money in payment thereof. He stated that the stuff confiscated included one hundred and seventy-one and a half cases of home-made brew, twenty-four pint bottles to a case; four fifty gallon crocks filled with the brew in process of fermentation; one empty crock; bottle stopper, bottle washer, a quantity of malt and sugar and other ingredients. Six of the bottles were turned over to David Washburn, chemist, for analysis.

Mr. Washburn being called, testified that he had made an analysis of the six bottles and they ran in alcoholic content from 1.274 to 3.14. Officer Kelly was asked by counsel for defense if they put anything into the bottles before turning them over to Mr. Washburn for analysis, and he stated that they had put bichloride of mercury in to hold the alcoholic contents. Mr. Washburn was then asked if he found any mercury in his analysis and stated that he hadn't made an analysis for that and therefore didn't find it.

That ended the hearing and justice Woodring held Mr. Dunlap in one thousand dollars bail for trial at the February term of court, Curt Gingery going on his bond.

—That Philadelphia magistrate who complained that one of the leading hotels violated the Volstead law must be trying to break up the Vare organization.

—Congressman Tillman is unduly concerned about the reputation of Congress. The last one left the body without a reputation.

—Secretary of State Kellogg will serve big business generally quite as well as Hughes but his sentiments on oil are not so well known.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The desperate efforts put forth by M. F. Hammell, of Parkersburg, of Chester county, to raise sufficient funds to meet an alleged shortage in the school board funds are declared to have proved successful. Hammell is president of the Parkersburg National bank, which failed some time ago on account of embezzlement of the funds, and is also the treasurer of the school board.

—Five masked men early on Sunday held up and robbed two messengers of the Bank and Trust company, of West Philadelphia, of approximately \$14,000 in cash and \$7,500 in checks. The robbers escaped in a motor car. The loot represented Saturday's business at a branch bank, a day and night institution. Officers said the money was insured and there would be no loss to the institution.

—Arrangements for distribution of almost a million dollars to municipalities of the State as their shares of the tax on premiums of foreign fire insurance companies originating in Pennsylvania have been made at the State Treasury. Hundreds of checks will be required. Philadelphia and Pittsburgh will receive the largest sums, in addition to cities, boroughs and first class townships' share.

—When C. T. Thompson, a Salona meat dealer, slaughtered a cow he purchased from a neighboring farmer, he found in her stomach nails of all sizes and kinds, a piece of wire and a gold ring with L. H. H. S. on it and the name "Richard Gummo" inside. It developed that Richard Gummo, a student at the Lock Haven High school, had lost the ring in the cornfield when he was working for the farmer from whom the cow had been purchased.

—Eight hundred dollars is the capital which the average newly married couple should have to start their wedded life in the opinion of Bloomsburg merchants, who have been busy during the last few weeks furnishing many new homes. Of this sum, \$500 is for furniture and \$300 for incidentals. Many couples manage with a small initial investment, according to the merchants, but usually they expend that total before they have sufficient furnishings for comfort.

—Engineer V. J. O'Brien, of Buffalo, was killed and fireman William Breen, also of Buffalo, was fatally injured on Monday afternoon when the Philadelphia-Buffalo express on the Pennsylvania railroad left the tracks near Keating. The locomotive rolled over on its side but the baggage car, dining car, two day coaches and two Pullmans, although leaving the rails, did not overturn. None of the passengers were injured beyond suffering slight bruises and scratches.

—Mother forgiveness does not await Miss Ethel Galloway, 16 years of age, of Glasgow, Bucks county, who on Wednesday was married to her first cousin, James O. Smith, aged 23 years, of Lewistown, somewhere in Maryland. Mrs. John Galloway, mother of the girl, received a letter from her son-in-law stating that they had been married and that they would stay at his home in Lewistown for a while. Instead of preparing a welcome for the newbrides, the mother has threatened legal action to have the marriage annulled.

—Police have no trace of two Negro bandits who late Saturday night held up William Arnovits, proprietor of a small store at Sharon, and robbed him of \$200. The Negroes, unmasked, entered the store and asked for some cigarettes. When Arnovits turned to get them one of the robbers shoved a gun in his side and told him to hand over his money. "Make a sound and we'll kill you," they said. Searching Arnovits' pockets, they took his money and secured \$182 from a cash register. This was the third robbery of a similar nature in Sharon in two months.

—Hospital doctors at Allentown marvelled on Sunday that a 150-pound man could withstand the full force of a collision with a 125-ton locomotive, plus the weight of fifteen loaded cars, yet live and be little the worse for his experience. The man in the case is Hugh Quinn, aged 55 years, of Rose, N. Y., who Sunday night was struck by a New Jersey Central freight train, running at high speed, as he was plodding along the tracks through the deep snow. He was picked up unconscious but when taken to the Allentown hospital it was found that he was not injured. He was discharged after being permitted to rest from the shock.

—Constable Russell Kephart, of Deatur township, Clearfield county, was removed from office on Saturday by Judge Chase, who said, "Kephart has so conducted himself that it is apparent he is wholly unfit to be a constable." Kephart, with other constables, and justice of the peace, would go out on the public highway, hold automobiles, and search them for liquor. Of the many cars stopped, not one was found to contain liquor. When constable Kephart attempted to search a car filled with young men, a near-riot occurred, and when no liquor was found, Kephart arrested the men for resisting an officer. Judge Chase discharged the defendants, and fired the constable.

—Andrew Lacey, living just across the borough line from Berwick, in Briar Creek township, Columbia county, refused to pay firemen when his home caught fire and told chief Henrie to "let her burn." The chief did, and the building burned to the foundation walls while the Berwick fire department looked on. The loss was \$4,000. Hose had been laid to the house and the firemen were ready to turn on water when Lacey refused payment. Apparatus had been damaged in other fires outside the borough and when township supervisors refused to pay the borough for the fire protection, the companies were instructed not to give aid unless property owners would assume the expense.

—Directed to the cellar of the home of his sister, Mrs. Gray, of Brownsville, Pa., by a note left when he died, by Oliver L. Weston, appraisers of his estate found a jar of gold. The money was hidden away beneath the floor of the cellar and was easily found by the searchers. In \$3 and \$10 pieces the gold totaled a little more than \$900. Many of the coins were more than 50 years old. It was known that Weston had an aversion to banks and had stored his surplus funds away. At the time of his death the man was 65 years old. In addition to the jar of gold another jar of gold and silver coins was found in the Weston home. This amounted to \$124.50. The personal property totaled \$20,257.64. For many years Weston was employed in a hardware store in South Brownsville, and the members of his family were greatly surprised when they learned of the wealth he left.