

Gradually the Vermonters are elbowing the Ohioans off the Mayflower. Anyway Governor Pinchot is no undetermined quantity. He is always riding the crest of the wave or playing the wreckage that the backwash of disaster casts up to bleach on the sand.

In January the Bellefonte Methodists always have a revival to rekindle the sparks of brotherly love and christianity, but by March, conference time, when the future of their pastor is in the balance there isn't a spark of either left.

Aside from the earthquake on the Atlantic seaboard, the disastrous fire in Japan, the tornado in Illinois, the defeat of the United dry bill and a few other calamities that we've got to face when they come March hasn't been such a bad month after all.

The Legislature is doing the right thing in refusing to appropriate all the money Pinchot wants for his various measures. We're going to have a new Governor in less than two years and it is our bet now that he won't need help for any one of the Pinchot hobby-horses.

The President is longer as having decided to lean no longer for support on the "Old Guard" in the Senate. He is going to designate Senators Reed, Edge and the other younger Senators as his mouth pieces. You know they were such howling successes in handling his nomination of Warren for a Cabinet position.

The statement recently made by Mary E. Hamilton, New York's first policewoman, to the effect that less than ten per cent. of delinquent children come from criminal environment, is astounding. It is not only astounding, but a terrible arraignment of the homes of the other ninety per cent., where parents, smug in their social and other positions, are losing touch with their children, and letting them slip into the devious paths of crime.

John A. McSparran, former head of the State Grange and our recent candidate for Governor, is seeking a divorce on the grounds of desertion. It will be recalled that he was married to a very prominent Massachusetts woman in the midst of his gubernatorial campaign, and it is now intimated that she was so obsessed with the idea of presiding over the executive mansion on Front St., Harrisburg, that the shock of landing in a real "dirt farmer" home at Furnace, Lancaster county, was a bit more than she could stand.

If we could only clear up one little uncertainty we'd be able to give you a right intelligent idea of what is confronting Centre county in the way of a judicial contest. We have all the candidates but one indexed exactly. If some one could get Arthur Dale out of the twilight zone and tell us definitely whether he will be a candidate, and, if so, what tickets he will run on for nomination we would go so far as to make a prediction as to who the nominees will be. This much we will say. If Judge Dale is a candidate at the primaries there will be three nominees on the fall ballot.

In an article in April World's Work Mr. Rollin Lynde Harte says, after having traveled three thousand miles investigating the situation "it did not seem to me that prohibition was supported by an overwhelming majority of the American people." He is of the opinion that the chances of effective enforcement have been irretrievably lost more through the appointment of crooked enforcement officers than from any other cause, though in his conclusion he coincides with the "Watchman's" oft expressed opinion that if the experiment fails it will really be because of the fact that it is a moral and not a political or legal issue.

Methodists are inaugurating an architectural campaign in church construction that would restore the altar and create more imposing and impressive auditoriums. It is a step toward the ideal we have always held for the House of God. To us the interior of a church, if it is subdued in light and coloring, significant in its furnishing and appointments, impressive in its solemnity, is a wordless sermon that often gets nearer the heart and conscience than the spoken one from the pulpit. All the atmosphere of our deal church should so convey its Christ saturation as to compel entrance into it with bowed head and humble mien. To us what God's servants say doesn't count nearly so much as consciousness that we are in God's house.

The Ludlow bill, now before the Legislature, and advocated by Women's clubs in many parts of the State is a measure that would effect great economy might do so in its application in larger counties, but it would be of doubtful value to Centre. We are not able to present a comparative statement as to the cost of its operation in the collection of taxes. It provides a new plan of assessment, however, by reating two county assessors at a salary of \$2,000 each and such assistants at \$1500.00 as the population of the county would require. It cost Centre last year to assess properties and register voters \$6943.29. If only we assessors were named there would be a saving, but we fear the scramble of the \$1500 plums as assistants could be so great as to break down the resistance of any appointive power and the new method would soon become more costly than the old.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Coolidge Adopts a Curious View.

The grand jury sitting in and for the United States District court in Philadelphia, made a presentment, the other day, which created quite an excitement in Washington and considerable comment everywhere else except in Philadelphia. After a searching investigation covering a period of five months' time the jury reported to the court that "Philadelphia is the alcohol capital of the United States," that "agents and employees of the prohibition department should be under the civil service law;" that "it would be better to place the enforcement end of this law directly under the Department of Justice;" "that distilleries should not be allowed to purchase alcohol from other distilleries," and "a complete reorganization of the prohibition department," should be made.

It is not surprising that President Coolidge was deeply "stirred" when he read this report. The grand jury which made the report was composed of respectable, and presumably intelligent, citizens of the several counties which comprise the Eastern judicial district of Pennsylvania, and was assembled at the instance of Judge J. Whitaker Thompson, a jurist of high character and large experience. Moreover its findings are not surprising. Other investigators had made similar reports. Governor Pinchot in two addresses to the Legislature had revealed all the facts embodied in the jury's report and considerably more. But even the speech of the Governor failed to carry the weight of a grand jury's presentment, and possibly the voice of Pinchot failed to penetrate the White House.

But though "stirred" by the incident President Coolidge does not seem to have given it the interpretation which might have been expected. He has expressed the belief that the jury was "four-flushing," that "it was unable, apparently, to find anything on which to base indictment," and curiously enough Wayne B. Wheeler, counsel of the Anti-Saloon League, adopted the same view of the subject. That is clearly "begging the question." The grand jury was a special panel assembled for purpose of investigation and fulfilled its obligation. The President must have known that and understood that though the Representatives in the Legislature had been fully informed, forty of those from Philadelphia voted against legislation which would have abated the evil and corrected the fault.

In Philadelphia banditry runs in private as well as public life, but the policemen don't bother the official perpetrators.

Pinchot Influence Vanishing.

Three weeks ago all signs indicated that Governor Pinchot had not only recovered from the shock administered to him in the organization of the House of Representatives but that he had achieved a complete "come-back." Today it looks as if he has relapsed into a condition of absolute helplessness with the enemy "riding roughshod" over his prostrate body and vanished hopes. Last week his pet piece of legislation, the United dry bill, was defeated and this week his hardly less cherished measure, the Budget, was torn into shreds and tatters of an adverse vote of overwhelming proportions. Three weeks ago the machine managers were ready to "eat out of his hand." Now they flout him at every turn.

There is always more or less mystery in political movements and changing majorities perplex the most careful observers. But the solution of this problem is not greatly involved. After the wet victory in the selection of the Speaker of the House the dominant faction indulged in orgies that disgusted the conservative minds in and out of the Legislature, and out of the confusion that followed the friends of the Governor formed a force that for the time seemed able to restore him to popular confidence. His speeches on prohibition legislation materially strengthened his position and his plausible pretense of devotion to the interests of the people contributed considerably to his cause.

But the liquor interests with their backs to the wall, rallied in a desperate purpose to save the bootleggers and defeated the dry bill by a narrow though adequate margin. This result, though hoped for, was not confidently expected. It served to give the machine courage, however, and the mutilation of the budget measure is a logical result. It may now be safely predicted that during the remaining days of the present session the Governor's influence on legislation will be held at the zero mark. He may make the veto power effective in some cases in which the rural representatives are in sympathy with him. But in matters in which machine interests are vitally touched his actions will be unimportant.

Credulous Bill Vare.

For a politician of long and varied experience Congressman Bill Vare appears to be surprisingly credulous. According to current political gossip he is now building hopes of election to the United States Senate on the foundation of an expected division of the "dry" vote between Senator Pepper and Governor Pinchot in the primary contest. It is true that both Pepper and Pinchot are dry and that the wet element in the party would prefer Vare to either of them for any minor office. But it doesn't seem reasonable that even a self-respecting wet voter would think favorably of Vare for Senator in Congress against any other candidate. It is now said that Grundy may be for Pinchot.

The contingency which might bring about that combination is an agreement on the part of Governor Pinchot to place the force of his official influence and family bank roll behind John W. Fisher, of Indiana, for Governor. That ought to be reasonably easy, for Fisher pulled out of the race three years ago and thus secured the nomination of Pinchot. Besides Fisher is a sizable man in high esteem by corporate interests. With his name associated with that of Pinchot and a generous slush fund such as Grundy and the Governor provided in 1922 the Senatorial ambition of Cornelia would take on a rosy hue, to say the least. So far as Grundy is concerned he can "hook up" with any combination.

The Vare scheme is to enlist Congressman Griest, of Lancaster, as a candidate for Governor. That would certainly launch an outfit that must satisfy the wet element in the party and would probably poll a record vote in Philadelphia. But outside of that city Griest is no more popular than Vare. Even in Lancaster county, where he controls most of the public utilities, he has fallen several thousand behind his party strength in the last two Congressional elections. In view of this fact it is not easy to imagine how Mr. Vare can build up expectation of election to the Senate against either Pinchot or Pepper, who has the Mellon interests and the State machine behind him.

When a tax was first levied on anthracite coal, the price was raised to cover the tax. When the law was declared invalid the tax price was continued as though nothing had happened.

The Question of Reforestation.

There ought to be a little difference of opinion among the country members of the General Assembly as to the merits of the pending resolution authorizing the issue of bonds for the purpose of reforestation. It is an admitted fact that the State is on the verge of a timber famine. Building operations are already seriously retarded on account of the scarcity and consequently the high price of lumber. Every year adds to the menace of prosperity which this fact presents. The only remedy lies in reforestation. The only feasible plan of accomplishing this result is in the issue of bonds in sufficient amount to pay the expense.

The several plans that have been presented in the Legislature to achieve the purpose without issuing bonds are futile. One is that the fees paid for hunters' and fishermen's licenses be diverted to that purpose. These fees are paid by hunters and fishermen for the purpose of propagating game and fish. Any other disposition of these funds would be a fraudulent appropriation of money and legalizing it by Act of Assembly wouldn't better the case much. Another is that it be paid at the rate of \$300,000 a year out of the general revenues. If the were a guarantee that future Legislatures would continue the appropriation it would be a slipshod method. But as a matter of fact there can be no such guarantee.

No safer, better or more certain method of investing the resources of the State than that embraced in the proposed bond issue can be devised. It is certain to create rather than consume revenue in the future, and later on the opportunity to acquire the land at the prices now proposed may not be present. There is no likelihood of graft in the proposition, either. Possibly that is the reason of some of the opposition. In any event there is no harm in putting the question up to the people for final decision as the resolution proposes. If it is not a desirable enterprise in the public mind it can be defeated at the polls.

Judge Berkey has been vindicated by the legislative committee that inquired into his operations in stocks and law, and he needed the whitewash.

If Pinchot should be elected Senator next year it would be a "come back" worth while.

Influences in Capitol at Harrisburg.

The Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia Public Ledger summarizes one phase of the legislative muddle in this fashion: "It was learned today that Armstrong had the bill (to tax manufacturing corporations) in his desk many weeks, and that despite pressure from the anthracite bloc, insisted upon holding it until the United Dry bill was disposed of. When that measure was killed, with the assistance of the Grundy forces, Armstrong produced his club and went to work with it for the purpose of punishing the forces which, he charges, were responsible primarily for the death of the law-enforcement bill." The merits of the measure seem to have had little influence upon the mind of its sponsor.

In another paragraph of his letter the same capable, if critical, observer expresses an opinion that the Governor is not very particular as to the source of revenue, and the supporters of the bill to tax manufacturing corporations are "counting upon animosities engendered by the administration's defeat in the speakership fight and the dry bill contest to influence Mr. Pinchot to play their particular political game against the manufacturers of the State." The plan is to repeal the anthracite coal tax bill and cover the loss to the treasury by the proposed four-mill tax on manufacturing corporations. Governor Pinchot vetoed a similar coal tax repealer two years ago but has since changed his mind.

This rather cynical view of conditions in Harrisburg pretty clearly presents the situation as it exists. No measure of legislation, no policy of administration and no purpose of the legislators is based on public welfare. Personal ambitions or political animosities control the minds of all from the Governor down, and from the highest to the lowest the trading stamp method of dealing is in vogue. They all know that the repeal of the coal tax will benefit nobody except the coal producers and that the manufacturer's tax will tend to equalize the burdens of government. But the legislators are not influenced by such considerations. They are for or against measures because they help or hurt factions.

Counterfeit \$10 bills were put in circulation in Altoona on Saturday, one bank having received five of the spurious notes and three other banks one each. The bill is a counterfeit of one issued by the Federal Reserve bank of Boston. Banks in other places have been notified to keep an eye open for the counterfeits.

A New Serial Story.

For some time past many "Watchman" readers have asked when we would begin publication of another serial story, and the only reason we delayed doing so was that we were waiting for one that we felt would appeal to our readers. We have at last secured the biggest American fiction success in recent years, "So Big," by Edna Ferber, the regular female O. Henry. It is a story that will appeal to every class of reader. It is a story of a farm and city, of poverty and hardship, wealth, ease and pleasure; a true and fascinating picture of mid-western life and development during the past thirty years.

It is a story that the "Watchman" editors can endorse as good, wholesome reading. The opening installment of "So Big" will be published week after next and we advise our readers to watch for it and be sure to read the first chapters.

Vice President Dawes is going to appeal to the court of public opinion for a decision in his dispute with the Senate. There is an adage that a litigant who pleads his own case "has a fool for a client."

March, supposed to be the most vagarious month in the year, is almost at an end and hasn't been a half bad month after all. Let us hope that April will give us the right kind of spring weather.

We will soon find out the ratio of influence in the Legislature that public interests hold to the slush fund of the tax collectors' lobby.

The speculators know when to raise or lower the price of farm products. Before the election it raised and after it slumped.

Jury fixing appears to be a prospering industry in Lackawanna county. And it is a growing evil in many other counties.

There will be no serious interference with the bootleg industry in Pennsylvania if the Legislature has its way.

Discoveries.

Beyond the hill
And past the plain.
The tide creeps in
And out again. —Chicago Tribune.

Day after day,
The whole year round,
The sun comes up
And then goes down. —Springfield Union.

I'm tired of life's
Dull roundabout—
First I breathe in,
Then I breathe out! —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A deadly bore
And grind, Dear Brother—
I move one foot
And then the other. —Harrisburg Telegraph.

And ev'ry morn
I look ahead
And count the time
'Till I'm back in bed.

The President "PASSES THE BUCK."

From the Philadelphia Record.
The President takes the position that the enforcement of the Volstead law is primarily the function of the State and municipal authorities. This is his reply to the presentment of a Philadelphia grand jury that the Federal enforcement is inefficient. His view is rather singular, and it looks like justifying the inefficiency of the persons in whose hands the Republican Administration placed the enforcement of this law.

The Volstead law is a federal statute, and therefore its enforcement is a federal obligation. The duty of the federal government to enforce its own laws is too obvious to require argument. The obligation of the States to enforce a federal law is only incidental. Not only is the duty of enforcing a federal law upon the federal government, but that government has assumed the duty. It maintains a special police force for the purpose of this and nothing else at a cost of about \$10,000,000 a year, and the cost of its "dry navy" is somewhere between \$10,000,000 and \$20,000,000.

If the efficiency of the prohibition policy is impaired by the fact that the personnel is appointed under the spoils system the responsibility rests upon Republican Congressmen. The President has advised them to put the force under the classified civil service, and they won't do it because they want the jobs for their friends and their henchmen. And these persons, of course, have political pull. The list of prohibition enforcement officials who have been charged, and in most cases convicted, of violating the law, or conniving at its violation, is a very long one.

When a Republican Governor drove the ratification of the Eighteenth amendment through the Legislature of this State and last spring wrote a letter to Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler strongly commending his condemnation of prohibition, how much sincerity can be expected among the Republican politicians and enforcement officials? In many localities the chief enforcement officers seem to have been appointed for the purpose of preventing the appointment of persons who would really try to enforce the law.

When the Eighteenth amendment was pending in Congress the chairman of the House Judiciary committee explained that the "concurrent jurisdiction," State and national, which was provided for the first time, meant that the States might enforce the law themselves and avert the inconvenience of having the State overrun with federal officials. But as soon as the amendment went into effect the Federal government undertook the entire work of enforcement, and the federal officials operated in every State.

There is no precedent for jurisdiction of "concurrent jurisdiction," and the nearest approach to an analogy is the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave law. While State officials and municipal police were supposed to be under obligations to aid the United States marshals in that, and in some cases did so, no less than ten States were so hostile to the law that they enacted laws prohibiting State officials from rendering any assistance to Federal marshals. In the present case nothing of the sort has been attempted, and many States have enacted laws for the reinforcement of national prohibition. State officials and municipal police will continue to aid in the enforcement of the Volstead law. But it is unreasonable for the President to undertake to fasten the responsibility upon local officials because the Federal officials are inefficient in the enforcement of a Federal statute.

The Baches bill permitting fishing on Sunday with one rod and two hooks was defeated by the House of Representatives in Harrisburg, on Tuesday. Representative Baches, of Berks, the sponsor of the measure, said Pennsylvania and California are the only two States to prohibit Sunday fishing. The members were asked to be consistent in their voting by Representative Williams, of Tioga, who called attention of the House to the passage of the Huber bill on Monday night, which prohibited Sunday fishing.

R. B. Eshelman, a Pennsylvania railroad engineer, did an enforced barefoot dance on the tin roof of his home in Harrisburg, on Monday. Eshelman had returned from a sixteen hour trip and went to bed. Later he awakened to find his home ablaze and escaped down the stairway that led to his room out off by flames. The only exit flame-free was a window. He had no time to grab his clothes as he leaped through it onto a tin roof. There again he was hemmed in by flames. The fire under the roof heated the tin and he was forced to step lively until firemen rescued him.

Township commissioners or supervisors in a majority of the townships of any county are given the right to petition courts for orders on County Commissioners to apply for State road money if county officials fail to do so within thirty days of expiration of time limit for obtaining allocation of funds under terms of the Hess bill approved by Governor Pinchot. The bill was designed to meet a situation produced by commissioners declining to meet the State allotment by a similar sum, thereby causing loss of shares of counties. Another highway bill signed by the Governor authorizes counties or townships to exercise eminent domain in taking lands to eliminate dangerous curves or narrow highways.

For all the news you must read the "Watchman."

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Falling headforemost on a pile of material in the Pennsylvania Railroad erecting shop at Altoona, Charles W. McCarty crushed his skull and died.

Albert Brenner, 19 years old, of Quentzin, Lebanon county, was killed last Friday when he pitched headforemost through a hole in a hay mow into a gasoline-driven straw baler.

Falling in front of a hand-truck hauling ties, Abraham Traylor, a Covadale trackhand on the Pennsylvania Railroad, was so seriously injured that he died five hours later.

Mrs. Sarah Ann Weaver, of Burnside, Clearfield county, one of the oldest residents in the State, celebrated the 103rd anniversary of her birth on Monday. Despite her advanced age Mrs. Weaver is able to walk with the aid of a cane.

A gang of thieves believed to have been accompanied by a girl, robbed the store of William Miller, of Springfield, a suburb of Shamokin, of goods worth \$500, Thursday night. The thieves picked out the high grade silk stockings and lingerie, taking most of the valuable stock in the store.

While the family was absent a burglar entered the home of Frank X. Endress, of Altoona, through the cellar on Monday night and carried off \$500 worth of jewelry and several suits of clothing. Among the loot was the wedding suit of Michael Auer, Endress' son-in-law.

The village of Portland Mills, Elk county, located twenty miles from DuBois, will soon be a memory. Ralph Manning, of Ridgway, has purchased the Elk Tanning company's plant and 26 houses there, including forty acres of land. He plans to dismantle the tannery and houses and clear the land.

William Barnard, aged 30 years, an employee of the Winner packing plant at Lock Haven, was severely burned about the head, back and arms last Thursday morning when a large kettle of lard in the rendering room of the plant exploded. He was taken to the Lock Haven hospital, where his condition is reported serious.

Thomas O. Gutelius, of Johnstown, former delinquent tax collector for Cambria county in the years of 1921-22, on Monday pleaded guilty in court at Ebensburg to a charge of embezzling county funds and was sentenced by Judge John E. Evans to two and one half to five years in the Western penitentiary and ordered to make restitution.

Announcement that the general spring discount of 50 cents a ton on domestic sizes of anthracite has already been made or will become effective on April 1, was made by coal dealers at Scranton this week. The reductions will set the new costs at the following averages: Egg, \$10; stove, \$10.25; chestnut, \$10; pea, \$7.25, and No. 1 buckwheat, \$4.25. No change was made in the price of the finer sizes.

Work has been started on the new combat rifle range at Mount Gettys military reservation, which, when completed, will be the only one in the east, outside that at Camp Benning. The range will cost about \$14,000, which has been contributed by the federal government. It has a maximum distance of 1099 yards, and it is General Berry's plan to handle larger bodies of men than ever have been trained at one time in range work in that camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis O. Shuey, of Mt. Rock, Mifflin county, enjoyed a strenuous period Monday when "Lizzie" took the bit in her teeth, plunged through the guard rails, knocked off the abutment of the Eshaccoquillas creek bridge at Alexander Springs and plunged into the creek from where Mrs. Shuey and three children were rescued without injury. Mr. Shuey was thrown through the top and landed high and dry on the creek bank with only a few bruises.

The Rev. A. F. Weaver, new pastor of the First Evangelical church of Williamsport, is one of the busiest men in the Central Pennsylvania Evangelical conference. He is treasurer of the conference financial budget, a member of the church extension society, a member of the examining board and on the board of trustees of the Ministerial Aid Society. In addition, in the general conference of the Evangelical church, he holds the position of the secretary of the commission on finance.

C. F. Abel, acting postmaster at Springdale, Pa., since the disappearance of A. W. Porter some days ago, will continue to discharge the duties of the office until a permanent appointment is made. Mr. Abel with several others, will take the civil service examination, a date for which has not yet been set by the Postoffice Department. It was said at the department that the whereabouts of Porter is not known, but inspectors are endeavoring to follow his movements since his disappearance.

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