

Germany may have to organize an electoral college to elect a President.

The Prince of Wales is off on another business tour. He is the champion "drummer" of his age and generation.

The reports of impending changes in the Cabinet are denied from the White House. This appears to be an unlucky season.

The slump in the stock market and the drop in the grain market indicate that the prosperity which followed the election was not of the enduring type.

Where does Pinchot expect his threat to call an extra session of the Legislature to get him. A body that has declined to let him make a monkey of it in the spring will scarcely stand for his making an ass of it in the fall.

The reappearance on the front pages of the Philadelphia papers of startling stories of hold-ups in that city prompts us to inquire as to what has become of our old friend Gen. Smed Butler. Has he left the city or are the bandits crowding him off the front pages?

If the Republican leaders of Pennsylvania are really looking for a decent candidate for Governor, as reports from various quarters seem to imply, why don't they try to persuade Geo. E. Alter to give them the opportunity of vindicating themselves as well as give Pennsylvania a chance to get back to sanity in government.

How some people get away with it will never be able to understand. On Monday Jay E. House used up three quarters of his column in the Philadelphia Public Ledger for "sucker" bait. If you read "On Second Thought" wait for the size of "the string" he gets for having told his "Dollar" correspondent that Heywood Brown wanted to see a "five-toed sloth."

The President seems to have gone off half-cocked when he criticized that Philadelphia Federal grand jury for not having indicted anybody as a result of its rather startling findings. His "yes" man must have said "yes" once too often. He ought to have found out that the jury in question couldn't indict those to whom it had to grant immunity in order to get the information it was after.

Judge Schaeffer, of Berks county, has just handed down an opinion to the effect that taking apples from another's orchard is not stealing. He declares that nothing but personal property can be stolen and as apples are regarded as attached to the land they do not become personal property until picked by the owner. It may appear strange law, but able lawyers are of the opinion that the ruling is good law.

The Republican Senators who are now announcing that they are in favor of the Dawes' proposal of cloture give as their reason that it is very desirable to have "gag rule" apply to such members as "Tom" Heflin, for instance. So it may be, but a rule that will choke Heflin off will choke them off as well and we have recollection of Quay, Penrose and Lodge reading musty old books for days on the Senate floor when it served a Republican interest to talk a Democratic measure to death.

The cables bring the news that taxis are chasing the jaunting car from the highways of Ireland. The exit of the ancient vehicle of travel song and story is tragic to us. Not that we have ever seen a jaunting car, but we've heard Jim Herron tell the "Wishing Fairy" story and heard Mortimer O'Donoghue sing "The Low-Backed Car" so that Ireland will mean nothing to us now that the setting for such gems is gone. So far as our further interest in it is concerned Ulster might as well gobble it up.

The warm weather of last week is said to have caused snakes to crawl out of their holes in many sections of the country. Snakes are our pet aversion and in twelve days we have to be in the mountains fishing. Honestly, you can't understand the feeling of insecurity a man who jumps ten feet every time a dead twig snaps under his feet has with his "private boot logger" on the other side of the continent and all lines of communication snopped into by heartless snoopers when he feels that a snake is coiled to strike behind every log along his favorite stream.

Senator Woodward's idea that Pennsylvania should have a budget commission to make a scientific study of State requirements before each session of the Legislature. It would result in fastening another expensive department on the taxpayers of Pennsylvania, and that's all. The Legislature wouldn't act on its suggestions if they didn't suit it. It wasn't so long ago that the State Board of Charities made a scientific study of the hospital's needs every year. From this it would report to the appropriations committee of the Legislature just what it thought each institution should have by way of aid for the following biennium. The Members paid no more attention to the report than if it had never been made and went their log-rolling way just the same. Senator Woodward's idea is good enough theoretically, but, practically, it would do nothing more than create a lot of fat jobs.

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Lucky Gifford Pinchot.

Governor Pinchot is certainly a lucky man. Whenever he goes down for the count, his enemies in his party commit such blunders that public opinion raises him to his feet with renewed strength and opportunity to resume operations. After his defeat in the organization of the Legislature the machine indulged in absurd excesses which turned the tide of popular favor in his direction. Then he blundered into another mess which resulted in the defeat of his pet measure, the United dry bill, and that misfortune was followed by a complete and apparently irretrievable disaster in the mutilation of his code measure. But luck again intervened in his favor. The blunders of his enemies rescued him.

In their zeal to humiliate and destroy Mr. Pinchot the Vire-Grundy bunch threw a harpoon into the hearts of the people. There wasn't much harm in clipping the wings of ambition by cutting the appropriation for the Attorney General's department and eliminating the item for enforcement of the Volstead law. A few good citizens might have felt a thrill of disappointment because of the paring of the appropriation to the Department of State. Popular interest in the activities of these officials was and is languid. The cut into the appropriation for the public schools, however, struck a vital nerve in the anatomy of every man, woman and child in the Commonwealth, and turned every rational mind to warm sympathy with the Governor.

And Mr. Pinchot was alert to take advantage of the situation. He issued a statement immediately following the event in which he said "the men responsible for this bill have attempted to sacrifice the State government, and what is more, the school children of Pennsylvania, without reason and without excuse." He also threatened an extra session of the Legislature in the event the bill is passed. It will be noticed that his chief anxiety is for his departments but the appeal is on account of the schools. And he promptly got the expected rise from the public. The churches as well as the schools have responded in certain tones and the machine managers are trembling in their boots.

Those contemporaries, esteemed and otherwise, who are worrying their subsidized lives out with fear that a corporation tax will be levied are wasting their sympathies. The corporations threatened have been dodging their share of the burdens of government for sixty years.

Dawes Will Appeal to the Public.

Vice President Dawes is going to appeal to the people in what he imagines is a controversy he has with the Senate. On entering upon the duties of his office on the fourth of March he undertook to change the rules and alter the methods of procedure of that more or less august body. Of course he was sharply rebuked for his impertinence. But he is not satisfied. He wants public opinion to decide the question. It makes no difference to him that the public has no voice in the matter. The Senate makes its own rules and good or bad they can only be altered by action of the Senate. "Hell an' Maria" may think different, but he'll change his mind on the subject in the course of time.

Mr. Dawes will open his campaign against the Senate next week, in New York, when he will appear as a guest at the annual dinner of the Associated Press. He could hardly have chosen a better vehicle for communication with the public. Nearly all the business managers and some of the editors of the leading newspapers of the country will be present and in cordial sympathy with his purpose, which is to create a sensation. A first class sensation is the "advance agent" of circulation prosperity. But few, if any, of those who will hear him enjoy the privilege of voting on the rules of the Senate, and it is not certain they would vote his way in any event. There are two sides to that as well as other questions.

In the plan of the government adopted by the framers of the constitution it was intended that the Senate should serve as a restraint upon the more impulsive popular branch of Congress. It is against the exercise of this restraint that Vice President Dawes complains. There seems to be a secret, or silent, understanding between the President and Vice President that they are "the whole cheese." If the rules and traditions of the Senate were made to conform to the Dawes idea this ambitious notion might be brought about. But the present outlook for such a condition is not promising. A considerable number of the Senators had more experience and have quite as much patriotism as the Vice President.

Signs of Coming Improvement.

It is heartening as well as refreshing to learn that the Methodists of the Philadelphia conference are indignant and even resentful at the defeat of the United Dry bill by the Legislature. On Saturday last, in session at Norristown, the conference declared that members of the Legislature who had given pledges to support dry legislation had betrayed the trust reposed in them and "called upon all the friends of law, order and public welfare in the districts where these members live, to promptly call them to account in such a way that they shall make no mistake about the attitude of the people." They also call all Christian bodies to join them in their "solemn denunciation."

For a great many years the Republican machine of Pennsylvania and the whiskey interests have maintained political partnership. The whiskey ring has supplied the money to maintain the Republican majorities and the Republican majorities have been giving the whiskey ring such protection as friendly legislation and immunity from prosecution as was needed. Most of the members of the Philadelphia conference of the Methodist church have been familiar with these facts for years, yet at each recurring election of Senators and Representatives of the Legislature they have gone to the polls and voted for the candidates of this machine. If they were betrayed they swallowed their disappointment.

If the declaration of the Norristown conference is to be accepted as the beginning of a new rule of action among Christian voters it may be assumed that the power for evil of the Republican machine is about to end. If all the people of the State who believe in good citizenship will follow the suggestion of the conference to support for the next Legislature only "men and women who cannot be bought, either by money or political preferment, and who cannot be controlled on moral questions by a political machine," there will be a lot of new faces in the next session and the Republican control of the State will vanish. But men and women have short memories and party prejudices are strong.

If Governor Pinchot, of Pennsylvania, were as sincere as Governor Smith, of New York, the schemes of Vire and Grundy would fade away.

Mistaken Notion of Duty.

A Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Public Ledger says: "In the long run, if the Senate is to remain at the mercy of the minorities, and the President is to be at the mercy of the Senate, the present balance between the executive and the legislative branches of the government will be upset." How do men with sufficient intelligence to write for newspapers get such stuff into their heads? There are ninety-six Senators in Congress. Forty-five of them are a majority and under the rules a majority of a quorum constitutes a majority of the body on any question under consideration. In no instance has a question been decided adversely to the vote of a majority of those present.

Lately Republican politicians have been setting up as an hypothesis that the government of the United States is a government not of principles but of parties. The late President Harding was the first chief magistrate to assert this philosophy, but President Coolidge on one or two occasions, notably in his inaugural address, expressed it. In substance he asserted that public officials owed allegiance to the party rather than to the country. It is a wicked interpretation of public obligations. The public official who supports his party, "right or wrong," is an enemy to the public and a menace to the government. It may conform to the perverted notion of the machine politician but not to a proper standard of political morals.

A Senator in Congress, upon entering upon his duties, solemnly swears that he will support the constitution, not the party organization. His obligation is to serve the country, not the party. If a man chosen as a Republican is asked to support a measure abhorrent to his conscience, it is his moral duty to refuse. Unless he has the courage to do so he is unfit for the service for which he has been chosen. There is no analogy between the conditions when Wilson was President and now. Hatred of Wilson and not conscience influenced the opposition to the League of Nations. Conviction of duty influenced the vote against the confirmation of Warren for Attorney General.

The incompetents in Washington are still pursuing General Mitchell. Small minds are unforgiving.

Probably the reason Legislators are so much afraid of an extra session is that it carries no pay.

The Other Ox is Gored.

Governor Pinchot would stand higher in popular esteem if he were less selfish, less ambitious and more consistent. For example, he complains bitterly because the dominant faction in the Legislature has cut the appropriations of departments of the government under his control and increased appropriations for the departments that are independent of him. He appeals to the public to condemn the action of the machine in cutting the appropriation to fight the imported pest which threatens to destroy the crops of the State. Yet two years ago he cut the appropriations to the independent departments to the bone and reduced that to fight the beetle to a negligible sum.

Two years ago, it will be remembered, Governor Pinchot cut the appropriation to the Treasury Department in half and that to the Department of Internal Affairs almost to the vanishing point. The State Treasurer protested that the action crippled his work and the Secretary of Internal Affairs declared that it would be absolutely impossible to operate that department upon the meager allowance provided in the bill after the Governor got through with it. But the protests fell on deaf ears. The Governor ventured the suggestion that the Department of Internal Affairs was of no earthly use and ought to be abolished, and intimated that Treasurer Snyder might use the money he spent for personal decoration to pay office expenses.

Now the other ox is gored and the Governor roars. Two years ago the funds for the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Attorney General were considerably increased over the amounts previously allowed to those departments because, it was said, that the disbursements would be under control of the Governor. This year the Vire-Grundy machine probably cut them down for the same reason. In any event the principle of reprisals appears to be in vogue in Harrisburg during the Pinchot administration and it will be a hard matter to enlist public sympathy on one side or the other. In the matter of the public schools it is different and there will probably be a change in that program.

The Pennsylvania Railroad System expects to sponsor a course of intensive study of traffic conditions during the spring and summer, especially in reference to application of methods for greater service and economy. While most of the problems to be studied are technical one of especial interest will be that concerning the wisdom of reviving special apprentice positions. Years ago the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. offered opportunities to young men who thought more of obtaining a technical knowledge of railroading than they did of the amount of wages they were to receive. Many took advantage of it with the result that the company developed a lot of very valuable specialists. Among them we recall the late Randolph Breeze and several of the Harris boys of this place. All of whom more than made up in later earning power for the trifling wage they were content with while student apprentices.

Contractor Benjamin Bradley started work this week on the remodeling of the old pumping station at Bellefonte's big spring. The boiler house, the front part of the building has already been torn down and the foundations for the new structure will be started within a few days. The demolished building was so badly decayed that it was on the verge of falling down, and when the new portion is completed and the rear section remodeled it will be a great improvement in the appearance at the fountain head of the town's water supply.

Any person who has felt inclined to complain about the weather this week should look back to a year ago when a foot of snow fell on April first, which was followed by a cold spell, the thermometer going down to within fifteen degrees of zero on April 3rd. That was the freeze that killed the early fruit.

A few people in Bellefonte made a little garden and planted onions and lettuce last week, but the weather this week has not been very favorable for gardens, farming, etc.

Don't fail to read the opening chapters of "So Big," published on the second page of next week's "Watchman." It is a story worth reading.

It would be interesting to know what party service is expected from Judge Berkey, of Somerset county.

When Bill Vire goes to the Senate mice will be popular pets among women.

More Taxes? Ugh!

From the Williamsport Sun. Whatever the motive of the Legislature in trotting out for hearing the manufacturers' tax bill against negative recommendation of the ways and means committee, that body is playing with fire in this particular kind of proposed legislation.

And the unfortunate thing is that if the Legislature gets its fingers singed the entire Commonwealth, manufacturing interests as well as the public, will suffer more pain than the law-making body.

Funnier things than the enactment of undesirable legislation has resulted from the use of measures of this kind as footballs in legislative halls.

If that should be the result from the present legislative situation, there would be cause for great regret on the part of both legislative members and the people they represent.

If the Legislature had occasion to rap some one over the knuckles for too much interference in its business, it is too bad it could not have used a measure containing less explosive material.

There are various reasons why a manufacturers' tax bill has no right upon the calendar.

In the first place it will be difficult for any one to prove the legitimacy of such a tax on a scientific taxation basis and economic grounds.

Secondly, if we believe the figures of the executive department's statisticians, and they are just as likely to be correct as any others, the State Treasury doesn't need any new taxes to meet all the normal demands upon it for the next two years.

And, thirdly, the people of the Commonwealth are looking to the Legislature for the same kind of relief from taxation the federal government is attempting to give them. They are tired of and discouraged under constantly mounting State assessments which tend toward more extravagance in the cost of government than is good for it or the people who must pay the bills.

Again, and probably more important than all, this proposed tax is undesirable because in the end it must be paid by the buying public.

It is termed a manufacturers' tax, but no one is foolish enough to believe that the manufacturer is going to take from his own pocket any such assessment.

The manufacturing business is not so stable that there is profit in it every year. One season may be a good one and then follow several periods of losses, but the business must go on just the same. It can't stop in poor seasons and resume again in times of prosperity.

It must carry on throughout all periods hoping that the losses of the slack seasons may be covered up in more prosperous times.

This is the hard and fixed experience of business established by history.

Accordingly, when an additional State tax is laid on his desk, to be on the safe side and to make sure that the sale of his products will return sufficient to make up taxes which must be paid whether or not there is a surplus or profit to provide for them, the manufacturer is going to figure it into the cost of his goods.

And the public will pay.

Mr. Couzens is an Object Lesson.

From the Detroit Free Press. Senator James Couzens would have lost nothing by following the custom of business men in such cases and signing the waivers offered by the government in connection with the dispute over the amount of income tax due on the proceeds of his sale of Ford company stock, nor does he gain anything, except possibly trouble, by refusing to do so. His action is comprehensible only on the assumption that it was the result of a fit of temper, or of a desire to get more of the sensational publicity for which he seems to have an insatiable hunger, or of both.

Meanwhile Mr. Couzens, with his annual income tax payment of approximately \$5000, stands out as one of the world's foremost adepts in the art of evading contributions to the public treasury by burying wealth in the cyclone cellar of tax-exemption. There is something quite enlightening if not especially inspiring in the object lesson Mr. Couzens provides, as, in his capacity as chairman of a Senate committee, he delves industriously into the affairs of other men to determine whether the government might not have exacted from them a bigger tax than it did exact, while in his capacity as an individual he at the same time points out by example the manner in which those under his frowning scrutiny might have avoided large payments.

To Protect the "Tur Smelling" Animal.

From the Altoona Tribune.

The lowly skunk is not without its friends in the State. A hearing has been requested of the Senate game committee on the Irvin bill which would remove the animal from the protected fur-bearing list. The bill has been passed by the House. As one of the Senators remarked, the skunk should be afforded protection for two reasons, it is "fur smelling," as well as fur bearing.

Regulator readers realize that the "Watchman" stands in a class by itself.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

J. R. Fleming, for several years assistant maintenance superintendent of State Highways in York county, has been appointed as maintenance superintendent of Clinton county to succeed F. M. Sanderson, promoted to be general foreman.

The Pittsburgh coal company has begun to dismantle sixteen of its forty-five mines, in the Pittsburgh coal fields. The mines have been idle since early in 1924, the announcement said. It was added that machinery and pit cars are at the mines, all of which are located within a radius of thirty miles of Pittsburgh.

A verdict of \$15,355 for the death of her husband, George Patterson, was returned by a jury in Common Pleas court at Pittsburgh, on Saturday, in favor of Mrs. Anna Patterson in a suit against the Pennsylvania railroad. Patterson, a brakeman, was crushed to death under the wheels of a freight train two years ago.

Only bottled milk may be sold at eating places in Pennsylvania after May 26, when the bill that requires restaurants, hotels, soda fountains and dining cars to serve milk to patrons in the original bottle in which it is supplied, becomes a law. Governor Pinchot signed the measure last week. Under its provisions, "Mixed drinks" are excluded.

Coal under the site of the Bethel cemetery in Allegheny county, has caught fire, and what remains of the burial ground, one of the oldest in western Pennsylvania, is slowly being destroyed. Several families are reported to have removed their dead from the burning grave yard and others are preparing to do so before the removal becomes impossible.

Five minor children of Mrs. Flora Fisher, of Trevorton, have been awarded \$3,066.50 by Compensation referee Lewis, of Berwick. Their father died of influenza and Elmer Derk, a brother of their mother, saw their plight and supported them. He was killed in a Philadelphia and Reading mine. The referee held that they were entitled to the same compensation as though the man had been their father.

James Gregg, of Tyrone, aged 28, was taken into custody by chief of police Lloyd Michaels, and shortly after he said to have confessed to having set fire to the Hagg barn, near Tyrone, last Wednesday night. Gregg, who has previously served nine years and two months in the penitentiary for having set fire to six barns in the borough of Tyrone some years ago, was employed as a driver of a coal wagon for Mr. Hagg.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Northern Cambria Water company, at Harrisburg, plans were made to begin construction of an impounding dam on Schirr's Run to cost \$30,000. The storage capacity of the dam is to be 75,000 gallons. Schirr's Run is a tributary of Black Lick creek. The water from the new dam will have to be pumped into the Brown's Run dam, the present source of the company's supply.

Andrew Kozak and Frank Drobeck, both of Lilly, were arrested in the home of the former on Friday on a charge of raising \$1 and \$5 bills to the denomination of \$20, and the officers seized the equipment which the men are alleged to have used in their work. At a hearing at Lilly later in the day before United States Commissioner Ray Patton Smith, both were held in default of \$1500 for trial in federal court at Pittsburgh.

Rev. Dr. John Wagner, who was one of the ministers officiating in the installation of Rev. S. F. Greenhoe as pastor of the Lutheran church at Centre Hall, began his ministry at Hazleton fifty years ago, forming a congregation of fifteen members, the membership having increased to eight hundred. At the close of his active ministry his congregation presented him a purse of \$2500 and provided an additional \$50 for each year of his life.

Reunited after having obtained a divorce ten years ago, Barton C. Hendrickson, a Northumberland county farmer, and Nora E. Hendrickson, of Danville, were remarried at Williamsport last week. They first were married twenty-one years ago but after living together nearly eleven years had a disagreement and separated. In October, 1914, a divorce was obtained, and they since had been living apart. About ten days ago they met on the street, the misunderstanding that caused the original separation was explained and they patched up their troubles. The wedding was the result. They have three children.

George W. Hoover and E. L. Ferris, members of the G. M. Hoover Lumber company, of Williamsport, have announced the purchase of the entire holdings of the C. C. Slaght Lumber company, of Morris, Tioga county. The deal, said to have involved a consideration of \$200,000, includes the purchase of the company's big mill at Morris with 1,500,000 feet of manufactured lumber; ten miles of standard gauge railroad, with cars, locomotives and other equipment, and 10,000 acres of woodland, all in Tioga county, near Morris. The new owners announce that they will continue to operate the mill as it has been operated under the former owners and that the offices of the company will be located in Williamsport.

Suffering from an almost constant headache and approaching blindness, the cause of which physicians were unable to determine, Harry M. Hutchinson, an electrician, of Philadelphia, on Saturday sneezed from his nasal tubes an inch and a half piece of a quarter inch steel drill with which he had been stabbed twelve years ago. Hutchinson said that he had been stabbed through the bridge of the nose with the drill during a fight with a fellow workman. He was treated by physicians at the time for a broken nose. The wound healed and for two years gave him no further trouble. Then he said, the headaches started. After sneezing his headaches disappeared and physicians believe his eyesight will improve.

Jewelry worth approximately \$3000 was stolen from the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. McC. Davis, of Tyrone, but some years ago residents of Bellefonte, between 8 and 9:30 o'clock one evening last week. Mrs. Davis had gone out about 8 o'clock to make a call. When she and Mr. Davis returned they noticed a front window on the first floor open. They made an investigation and inside the window found a burned match. Several burned matches were also found at the foot of the stairs and also in the bedroom where the gems were kept. Mrs. Davis had intended to wear the jewelry but changed her mind and placed them in their accustomed place in the dresser drawer. As soon as the theft was discovered, police officials were notified and are endeavoring to apprehend the guilty one.