

Democratic Watchman

INK SLINGS.

—They bust governments in Europe easier than we bust trusts in America.

—Lent being over the friend who cut out cigarettes and took to cigars has given up the cigars and gone back to cigarettes.

—The Legislature has adjourned and Centre county's Member is home, disillusioned, we presume. If he isn't he ought to be.

—On April 15th, 1916, farmers of Centre county had not begun to plow. Today most of them are done and many have their oats sowed.

—Rebecca Naomie is to sail for Europe shortly. We are not advised as to whether she intends to return in time to pick another Judge for Centre county.

—Time flies so rapidly that the last wisp of smoke from the burning spring rubbish pile hasn't disappeared in the sky until we detect another curling from the pyre of fall leaves.

—Col. MacMillan wants small men for his flight to the North Pole. He says the big fellows can't stand the gaff like little ones do. They take a bigger hole in the ice too, and arctic ice is hard to dig.

—The suggestion that the State increase the tax on gasoline and reduce the license fees for automobiles, is not without some merit. Under such a plan those who use the roads most would contribute most towards their upkeep.

—If Harvey Markle had attempted to beat that motor policeman with his business wagon instead of his pleasure car we fear that his "clover-leaf chocolate milk" would have been fudge ere he ended his wild flight in a corn field.

—Since nobody else seems to have thought it timely we suggest that you swat the first fly you see. If you think it unimportant bear in mind that there would have been no you, or me, had something swatted Adam before he gave up that rib.

—Since July 31st, 1924, we have waited, with all the patience that one with a terrible weakness can, for Wednesday. It came only to prove that anticipation is about all there is to any great pending event. We caught three puny trout.

—The period of jazz government in Pennsylvania is drawing to a close. The Legislature has adjourned and the Pinchots have had their last chance, unless they call a special session, of leaving their personal impressions on the statutes of a State of which they are only temporary residents.

—A discussion we heard last Friday leads us to believe that if the Presbyterians don't find some other place than the hill back of their church on which to dump the ashes of the fires necessary to keep them physically warm while trying to get het up a bit spiritually there is going to be a demand that a few elders be planted there to hide the unsightly accumulation.

—Next Monday we expect to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of our declaration of independence. Fifteen years back from that date we might have qualified as an ace in any high flying squadron. Since then domesticity has so benevolently assimilated us that we shall feel that we are doing something really devilish when we go to the movies Monday night to commemorate.

—Poor Norman Selby. In the heyday of his fistic triumphs as "Kid McCoy" he was the idol of the sporting fraternity. Today, he is in San Quentin prison, California, doing from four to thirty-four years for complicity in a murder. He was a great fighter of men, but booze and the white lights finally licked him just as they have and will everyone else who enters the ring with them.

—The President is reported as having become an advocate of "State's Rights." He is going in to unscramble the scramble toward centralization of government that has for years been insidiously sapping the initiative of the Commonwealths of the Union and building up a paternalistic bureaucracy at Washington. More power to Silent Cal. May Plymouth become the Monticello of Vermont.

—A pretty question of law has bobbed up in the Chapman case. The bandit is under sentence to serve twenty-five years in a Federal prison for mail robbery. Meanwhile Connecticut law has convicted him of murder and wants to hang him. Chapman's lawyers say Connecticut can't be accommodated until his engagement with Uncle Sam is kept. The President might commute his federal sentence to oblige Connecticut. Otherwise the Supreme court will have to solve the unique legal problem.

—In his letter explaining cuts in hospital appropriations Governor Pinchot says: "While I can reduce amounts absurdly in excess of possible needs, etc." From that we are to infer that he cut \$3000.00 from the bill for Centre County hospital because it was "absurdly in excess of possible needs." The Governor has many friends and admirers in Centre county. Is there one of them who will write us a letter stating that we are doing him an injustice when we say that he talks like a nit wit when he says \$13,000 were "absurdly in excess of possible needs" of the Centre County hospital for the next two years.

Democratic Watchman

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Warren and Myers Cases Not Alike.

The labored effort of some Republican contemporaries to establish an analogy between the refusal of the Senate to confirm the nomination of Charles S. Warren, of Michigan, and the action argued in the Supreme court on Monday incident to the removal of Frank Myers from the office of postmaster of Portland, Oregon, by President Wilson in 1917, is absolutely futile. Mr. Warren failed of confirmation because in the opinion of a majority of the Senators he was unfit for the office. It was proved that he had long been closely identified with the Sugar trust, not as a lawyer but as an agent, in its efforts to stifle competition and create a monopoly. The government is in litigation with the Sugar trust and the Attorney General would have charge of the proceedings.

The right of the Senate to refuse confirmation of Mr. Warren was never challenged by anybody except the President himself, and he doesn't seem to know much about the subject. It was asserted by Senators favorable to confirmation that it has been customary to allow the President free choice in the selection of his cabinet. But that custom grew upon the theory that the President would select fit men for the service. There had been exceptions to the rule and the records show that the public interests would have been conserved if there had been more of them. In any event the constitutional right of the Senate to reject a nomination by the President for a cabinet office was not involved, nor was the question of a conflict of authority between the President and Senate raised, directly or indirectly.

In the Myers case, on the other hand, that is the sum and substance of the controversy. Mr. Myers sued the government for salary covering the period from the date of removal to the time his term would have expired, on the ground that a dismissal from office as well as an appointment to office must be confirmed by the Senate. The Court of Claims, in which the suit was tried, decided against Mr. Myers and he appealed to the Supreme court where the question was argued on Monday. The decision of the court has not been handed down at this writing and the result is still in conjecture. But there is certainly an absence of similarity between the issues involved in the two cases. The Myers case directly denies a prerogative frequently exercised by the President. The Warren case doesn't even touch that question.

Childish Threat of the Governor.

The "comedy of errors" in Harrisburg has developed a new and somewhat startling feature. The Governor threatened to veto the appropriation to the sesqui-centennial as an expedient to punish the Legislators of that city for opposing his pet measures. It is a contemptible prostitution of power, of course, but not altogether surprising. The Governor is a selfish, false pretender of such limited vision that even so absurd a proposition might appeal to him. In any event the threat serves to reveal him in his real character. He is simply a political huckster whose stock in trade is public patronage and official favor which he offers in exchange for personal service.

The State of Pennsylvania, by resolution of the Legislature of 1921 and 1923, stands committed to sponsorship of the sesqui-centennial. Upon that sponsorship Congress authorized the President to invite the civilized world to participate in its activities. The sister States of the Republic have been similarly urged to contribute to its success. As an evidence of good faith and token of sincerity the Legislature of this year properly voted an appropriation of one million dollars to defray the expenses of participation. It might have doubled the amount and remained within the limit of propriety. But the Governor threatens to veto the bill because he is peeved over his failure to control the Legislature.

What a spectacle of hopeless idiocy is expressed in this childish gesture! The honor of the State would be outraged, the faith of the people flouted if this threat were fulfilled, and for no other reason than that a majority of the Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly exercised their absolute right to disagree with the Governor. It may be, and probably is true, that the Senators and Representatives were influenced by selfish motives in their action. But their wrong doesn't justify the infinitely greater wrong which the Governor threatens to perpetrate. It serves the purpose of a "card index" to classify the mental and moral standard of the Governor of the State.

—The best job work done here.

Bitter Fight Ended in Compromise.

After prolonged and bitter wrangling the conference committee on the general appropriation bill submitted its report to the House of Representatives in Harrisburg, on Monday evening. It provides for a decrease of the Senate bill of \$291,620 and an increase of \$9,148,495.00 over the original House bill. The Senate acted upon the measure while public indignation over the meager allowance for educational purposes was active and the Governor had the Vre-Grundy machine on the run. The conference action was taken after more mature deliberation and in the face of partially restored confidence of the machine managers. It leaves something for the Governor to do in balancing the receipts and expenditures.

The Governor estimates that the appropriations, including the general bill as framed by the conference committee, will exceed the revenues for the biennium by something like \$10,000,000. The Legislators propose to increase the revenues by more than that amount through the extension of the emergency tax on gasoline, the bill providing for a part of the national inheritance tax and the bill providing for a uniform tax on book value of capital stock. The Governor is not persuaded that these measures will produce adequate revenues to balance the accounts, especially if the sesqui-centennial million dollar appropriation is approved, and public opinion demands approval of that measure.

In the Senate bill the hopes of the State administration is clearly expressed. The budget provision for the Attorney General's department was adopted and practically everything the Governor asked for except the half million dollars for enforcement of the Volstead law was allowed. But the conference bill cuts the appropriation for the Department of Justice, reduces that for the state police and slices that for fighting the Japanese beetle. Obviously these cuts were made in order that the Governor might come to understand that he is not "the only pebble on the beach," and that after all the Legislature controls the purse and will hold to its prerogative to the end.

—Expectations of more help from Harrisburg for the Centre County hospital were short lived. The Legislature increased the allowance for the biennium \$3,000, making it \$13,000 instead of \$10,000, as it had been. The Governor has set it back to the original figure, which means that this community will have to contribute that much more toward the maintenance deficit.

Pinchot's Radiant Opportunity.

If the Governor doesn't overlook a brilliant opportunity he may cut the expenses of the State considerably by the use of his ever ready pen. The bill increasing the salaries of the judges is before him, if he has not already disposed of it, and a veto of that measure would inflict no great hardship on anybody and would go a considerable way toward balancing the books. While the measure was in final passage in the Senate, on Monday evening, Senator Barr, of Pittsburgh, declared that "the increases would run several hundred thousand dollars a year and would amount to more than the State has to pay at the present time." He failed to influence the Senators but the Governor might adopt his view.

If the judges of Pennsylvania were an overworked and poorly paid bunch of public servants there would be reason as well as justice in helping them to fight the high cost of living. Or if they had been forced against their will to serve the public or induced by promise of future increase in pay to "don the ermine," a moderate increase in salary would be a graceful expression of appreciation of faithful service. But none of these reasons are given, either by the judges themselves or their friends, for the increased recompense provided in the Neely bill. In most of the judicial districts the office is a dignified and leisurely employment, inviting and even alluring to most any lawyer at the bar.

There are a whole lot of things more deserving of financial aid than the judges. It was alleged by several speakers during the consideration of the bill in the General Assembly that the judges of Pennsylvania are the best paid jurists in the country. This may not be literally true. In fact we have reason to believe that judicial salaries are higher in New York. But those in Pennsylvania are certainly paid enough to "keep the wolf from the door," if ordinary prudence is practiced in their domestic affairs. In any event it is safe to say that the "several hundred thousand dollars" referred to by Senator Barr might be appropriated to better purpose than increasing salaries already generous.

Women Voters League Disappointment.

The fair and faithful head of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters is justly indignant because a considerable number of the Republican Representatives in the General Assembly who had promised to vote for the Ludlow tax bill, which was defeated last week by an overwhelming majority, voted against the measure. The president of the League has a list of these untruthful and recreant statesmen and is seriously considering the question of publishing the names to the world. It would make an interesting roster for the time being and a useful list for future lobbyists or others interested in legislation. It is to be hoped the publication will be made.

The trouble with the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters is that they take themselves too seriously and are a trifle credulous besides. The chances are ten to one that the thirty-six members of the House who promised to vote for the Ludlow bill were simply "kidding" the charming women who solicited their support of the measure and never intended to vote for it at all. It is believed by the average Legislator to be an easy as well as a pleasing thing to promise to vote for any measure the lady is interested in. She takes the promise as a sacred pledge and is happy and satisfied with the result of her labors. Then when the vote is counted she is disappointed and correspondingly depressed.

But the recreant Legislator don't mind the disappointment. He understands that it is only a temporary depression of mind and will be forgotten the next time she is anxious for his support, and will accept his renewal of the promise as cheerfully as she was grateful the first time. Besides that he knows that the ladies who compose the League will be on the firing line for the grand old party at the next election so that practically nothing is lost by his betrayed promise. The Republican women are as steadfast in their fidelity to party as it is possible to be, and a few disappointments merely whet the edge of their political enthusiasm to a keen edge.

—After every extra copy of the "Watchman" had been bought last Saturday a telegram from Philadelphia requested that thirty be forwarded to that city at once. Nearly every week the entire edition of Centre county's really worth while newspaper is exhausted. Why? Simply because it is so clean and reliable, so careful and honest in its expression of opinion that what it says counts, not only at home but abroad.

—Wyoming's Governor, Nellie Taylor Ross, is developing a case of nerves and has two guards patrolling the grounds of the gubernatorial mansion. Down in Texas, however, Ma Ferguson is still sitting serene at the helm of the ship of State.

—The Treasury Department is worried because it has to print more dollar bills to keep up the circulation than it used to. It is claimed they don't last as long as they once did. That's strange. They don't do half the work they once did.

—The miscreant who amused himself by starting forest fires in York county got two years in the penitentiary. It is to be hoped they will give him work hard enough to keep him out of mischief during that time.

—A close perusal of the list of charitable appropriations signed by Governor Pinchot reveals the fact that he played favorites, cutting deepest in those districts from which he expects the least.

—If the voters of Massachusetts are true to their own interests national chairman Butler will be an unofficial adviser of the President after the 4th of next March.

—When Grundy formed a political partnership with Vre he "put his foot in it," and now, according to reports, he is suffering with infection.

—Senator Larry Eyer got a liberal appropriation for his West Chester Normal school and thus the adage "virtue is its own reward," is proved.

—There will be no State bonus for world war veterans so long as the Republican machine is in control. This is not official but it's true.

—It is consoling to know that few reach the limit and nobody gets as many on the first day as he used to.

—Of course if the Grimes' bill is approved it will be necessary to keep the "town clock" in repair.

Delightful Weather but Poor Trout Fishing Wednesday.

The laws of compensation always inure to the advantage of the innocent and weak and the only "poor fish" on Wednesday were the hundreds of big, able bodied men who so persistently whipped the various trout streams of Centre county, hour after hour, and returned home in the evening thoroughly tired out with a few tiny trout.

The weather was all that could be desired. It was warm enough to be comfortable and after a small shower or two in the morning cleared up and was sunshiny all day. But the fishermen must have some excuse so they blame their poor luck on the clear, low water. So far as the writer has been able to learn not a single record catch was made. Some of the best fishermen in Bellefonte tried their luck on Spring creek and Logan's branch, and most of them came home without a single trout. A few trout were caught, of course, but not enough to depopulate the streams to any extent.

The many Bellefonters who journeyed to Fishing creek for the opening of the season had no better luck than those who fished hereabouts. That famous stream was thronged with fishermen and the result was nobody made big catches.

Keeping Dairy Cattle Pays.

While in Bellefonte last week a well known resident of Howard stated that the farmers in that vicinity are awakening to the fact that keeping good dairy cattle results in a steady income that they could not get in any other way, and are not only stocking up with high-grade cows but are putting their barns and dairies in the condition demanded by the Sheffield Farms company, which now operates the Howard creamery. As an example he cited the fact that one farmer from a herd of nine cows receives monthly milk checks ranging from \$150 to \$165. Another man who had struggled along for years trying to make a living on his mountain farm finally decided to go into the dairy business. Last month his milk check was \$325, and the work of taking care of and milking the cows is done by himself and two sons. Other farmers in that section are becoming interested and if the contagion continues to spread it will not be long until lower Bald Eagle valley will be one of the best dairy sections in Centre county.

—Borough manager J. D. Seibert cleaned out the big spring last Friday, and to do the work thoroughly it was necessary to open the flood gates and drain the spring. While it is a matter of record that the flow of the spring is 14,600 gallons of water a minute there has always been more or less speculation as to the correctness of the above figures. Most everybody in Bellefonte knows the size of the big spring and after it was properly cleaned on Saturday contractor Benjamin Bradley decided to time the filling of it and it took just seven and a half minutes from the time the flood gates were lowered until the spring was up to its normal height. This was evidence of a very strong stream as the source of the spring's supply.

—The Clearfield Republican says that "word is being passed quietly over the Twenty-third congressional district that M. Ward Fleming, of Phillipsburg, will ask the Republicans to give him the Congressional nomination in 1926. This will be shocking news to Congressman Swoope, who undoubtedly will want to continue on the payroll, especially since the salary has been increased to \$10,000 a year." While this may be shocking news to Congressman Billy he has had two terms at the public trough, and while we aren't ready to admit that our next Congressman will be a Republican, we are candid enough to say that if it must be, Congressman Montgomery Ward Fleming would sound rather imposing.

—If the Buckman bill amending the vehicle code becomes a law highwaymen may have to wear uniforms in order to ply their trade.

—The annual meeting of the Horseshoe Trail association will be held at the Fallon house, Lock Haven, this (Friday) evening.

—You may have noticed yourself that most legislative problems are solved by increasing taxes.

—The ward politician who has a "pull" owes something to his experience in pushing door bells.

—The Legislature of 1925 has gone into history and let us hope "we never shall see its like again."

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Fourteen revolvers, most of them of the automatic type, were stolen from a case in the F. H. Bentley store, Williamsport, the latter part of the week.

—Cletus J. Miller, 19 years old, of Hazleton, was fatally wounded on Sunday night in a dispute with an unidentified man who escaped after plunging a pocket knife into Miller's heart. Miller lived less than a half hour, dying within a few minutes after admission to the State hospital in Hazleton.

—Run over by a five-ton truck of coal, Charles Hess, aged ten years, son of Frederick Hess, of Shamokin, will recover, doctors at the Shamokin State hospital said on Friday. The boy was watching a flat tire when he lost his balance and fell under the rear wheel. "You run over me, Dad," he told the dazed father, after the truck was stopped.

—The store of R. R. Robinson, at Curwensville, was robbed early Friday morning of ladies' and gents' clothing, valued at \$2,500. The robbery was committed by a pair of automobile bandits who, after indulging in a gun battle with chief of police Clark, managed to make their escape. A dozen or more shots were fired, but all appeared to have gone wild.

—Horace Hess, 18 years old, died in St. Joseph's hospital, at Lancaster, on Sunday afternoon from a revolver-shot wound inflicted mysteriously early Easter morning in a club-house conducted by a number of young men about a mile south of Mountville. According to Hess' companions, they were looking at the lad's automatic revolver, and it was accidentally discharged.

—Solution of a wave of banditry is believed near by the police of Sunbury and Shamokin, with the arrest of Harry Mansfield, of Shamokin, on Saturday. David Shaffer and Joseph Osborne, of Shamokin, are already in jail and the police think they have the band that terrorized the state roads and shot Russel Dunkleberger through the back in a holdup near the Shamokin state hospital.

—Lack of available funds has resulted in the dismissal of the Dunbar, Fayette county, police force. The town has been without a police department since the first part of last month. For several weeks the lack of police was not particularly missed, but a street brawl broke out recently and the contestants fought for more than two hours. There were no arrests. It is said the town is in dire financial straits.

—A man, even though married, can kiss any woman he meets without violating the law of Pennsylvania, provided the woman who is kissed does not object, decided Alderman Hoepfner, of Pottsville, in the case of a woman who had her husband brought before him on a charge of kissing a woman not his wife. She charged she had seen her husband kiss the other woman. The alderman explained that under the laws of Pennsylvania, the husband could not be prosecuted unless the other woman objected.

—When the motor of his Curtiss pursuit plane stalled when the machine was at an elevation of 10,000 feet over the Allegheny mountains in Sullivan county, on Friday afternoon, Lieutenant J. T. Johnson, an army aviator, jumped in a parachute and landed unharmed in an apple tree a mile north of Stonestown after a thrilling drop through heavy clouds. His plane fell on a farm near Eaglesmere, four miles away and was wrecked beyond any possibility of salvage.

—Police are seeking a man who has been disposing of counterfeit 5 gold pieces to residents of Chester county, at \$3.50 each. The man represented himself as a collector or who had quite a large stock of the coins on hand, but was willing to dispose of a few. Those who purchased them found they had bought lead coins covered by a thin gold plating, the coins being soft and easily bent with the fingers. Just how many were sold is uncertain, as most of those who were swindled will not admit the fact.

—A sentence of two years, six months in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., was meted out to Chauncey F. Pyle, of Media, Pa., by Judge Thompson of the United States district court in Philadelphia, on Monday. Pyle was convicted a week ago of an attempted extortion of \$5,000 from T. W. Trainer, of Chester, Pa., by pretending to be able to return the 18-year-old son of Trainer, who was drowned at Ocean City last July 28. Pyle said the boy had been rescued by whiskey runners. The defendant was undone by the misspelling of four words in the extortion letters. In court he made the identical mistakes.

—Thirteen klansmen and nine Lilly citizens held prisoners in the Cambria county jail for the past year for affray and unlawful assemblage growing out of the Lilly riot on the night of April 5, 1924, were released on parole Saturday morning. The prisoners gained their freedom following an order for parole granted by Judge Thomas D. Finletter, of Philadelphia, who presided at the Lilly riot trials. Each prisoner was required to pay costs of \$80 before being released. The men paroled had been sentenced to serve two years for participation in the Lilly riot, in which three young men were killed and a score of persons injured.

—Touching a live switch at the Metropolitan Edison company's plant at West Reading, Harry S. Boyer, 34, electrician, late on Saturday, stopped all trolley traffic and shut off lights all over the city, houses, stores and theaters, for fourteen minutes. Boyer, burned from head to foot, died in a hospital in that city on Sunday morning. He was working on a copper piece of mechanism, without power at the time, when he accidentally touched the live switch. A loud roar warned the switchboard operator, who turned off all the current, suspending business all over the city and suburbs and trolley traffic. Boyer remained unconscious for many hours. He was married and leaves three children.

—For seven weeks Howard C. Cloud, 67 years old, of Concord, Chester county, has had a broken neck, and did not know it until last Thursday. Mr. Cloud, who is active in politics and a leader of the Concord Grange, was run down by an automobile February 22. He was removed to the West Chester hospital, where he remained until the next day, and then returned home. He did not regain his usual vigor, however, and several X-ray examinations were made. Dr. W. S. Manges, of the Jefferson hospital, at Philadelphia, discovered that Cloud was suffering from a fracture of the neck. He had his neck incised in a plaster of paris cast, and this will remain until the fractured spinal bone knits.