

—Anyway the frequency of fire alarms in Bellefonte is training the fire-boys to get to the scene and back at the best their motor apparatus will do without killing themselves or others who are on the streets.

—The race for judicial honors is on. Mr. Walker, Mr. Spangler and Mr. Johnston have formally announced and the others are likely to follow suit very soon. The voters are going to get an earfull between now and September.

—It took Wilhelm ninety minutes to express his joy at the result of the election in Germany. About eighty-nine of them were doubtless devoted to assuring his friends that hereafter it will be "me und Hindenburg" instead of "me und Gott" as he once declared it to be.

—Von Hindenburg, having been elected President of Germany, will doubtless set himself to the work of making one of the Hohenzollerns his permanent successor. Monarchy is not quite in the German saddle yet but Sunday's election put one of its feet in the stirrups.

—To those of our friends who shared our own suspicion that we had lost our piscatorial cunning with the desertion of our "private bootlegger" let us unambiguously announce that we caught the limit last Friday. As for us, the trout season of 1925 is already regarded as entirely satisfactory.

—Notwithstanding the conclusive proof obtained by late experiments of metropolitan papers that the masses want details of the ugly things laid bare in their news purveyors the "Watchman" will continue its attempt to be clean. If you want the yellow stuff don't look for it in these columns.

—And now it has come to light that William Jennings Bryan is a millionaire. It would appear that the job of being walking delegate for the Democratic party has been profitable to the great Commoner. It was ever thus. Always the fellow who sets out to fight the battles of the poor succeeds in making himself rich.

—The story of "So Big," that the "Watchman" is now running serially, has just been awarded the Pulitzer prize of a thousand dollars as being the best one written within a year in America. We mention this because it is another clincher to our oft repeated assertion that only worth while reading is found in the columns of this paper.

—With the death of Dr. J. George Becht the public schools of the State are without even a titular head and the Pinchots are going to have some well merited trouble in finding a man fit to be Superintendent of Public Instruction for Pennsylvania who needs the money bad enough to accept the position with the strings they have tied to it.

—Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, is the first member of the upper house of Congress to resent the upstart animadversions of "Hell 'n Maria" Dawes on the rules of the Senate. Being the first time Moses ever said or did anything that met with our approval we hasten to admit it. We're for the Moses view. We expressed it on this page last week when we stated that the records won't reveal that unlimited debate in the Senate ever killed a meritorious measure.

—The Governor has approved the Buckman bill which effects many changes in the motor laws of Pennsylvania. We shall publish a digest of it next week. So far as we have been able to interpret it the measure is a very good one in every respect but one and in that it is rotten. We refer to the addition of six inches that is made permissible in the maximum width of a motor vehicle. Get behind an eight foot wide van or truck on almost any road in the Commonwealth and you're going to stay there until a cross-road comes to your rescue, or it will monopolize the entire road while its driver is excusing his hoggishness under the pretext that his machine "makes so much noise that I couldn't hear your horn." Instead of making the maximum permissible width ninety-six inches they ought to have reduced it to eighty-four inches.

—This is May day. In our childhood days always we had a picnic in "Alexander's woods" to celebrate its advent. We carried our own food, usually some cakes and a bucket of lemonade, we put up a rope swing, crowned one of the girls "Queen of the May," then sneaked down into Reasner's meadow for a swim in Buffalo run and when that was over we climbed back up the hill, gathered up the baskets and toted them home, a tired and happy lot. What would the youth of today do if you suggested such an outing for them? The boys wouldn't go unless they were hauled in a closed car. The girls wouldn't think of anything necessary to take but vanity boxes and when they all arrived they would look around helplessly and ask: What's the big idea? There's nothing doing here, let's go back to town where we can spend some money and get a kick out of something. It is well that May Day has lately been designated as a proper one to devote to child life, for child life needs some attention or we'll have none of it in another decade. All the kids will be born with teeth and thoroughly dry behind the ears.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 70. BELLEFONTE, PA., MAY 1, 1925. NO. 18.

Packing Official Bodies.

Packing a jury is a serious offense against the law usually punished by a jail sentence. But packing official bodies by executive order seems to be growing in favor. In Washington the Tariff Commission has been made a subject of that operation and in Harrisburg it is being tried out on the Public Service Commission. In Washington about a year ago the Tariff Commission after a searching investigation recommended a decrease of a cent a pound on the tariff tax on sugar. The President returned the recommendation with an implied suggestion that it be revised. The suggestion failing to "take" plans have been made to change the personnel of the Commission. In other words it will be packed.

The Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania, a quasi-judicial body, recently made a decision that was contrary to the wishes of the Governor. By coincidence or otherwise the terms of several members of the Commission expired the other day, just a short time before the date set for a rehearing of the case in question. The Governor summoned the members and according to rumor questioned them upon their present attitude on the subject. At least two of them declined to reverse themselves and he refused to reappoint them. He proposes to pack the Commission so as to get a decision in accordance with his personal views. With two new members he believes a majority will come to his way of thinking.

This is a new development in Washington. No President in the past has ever attempted to coerce judicial or administrative bodies. But it is not entirely new in Harrisburg. Two years ago Dr. Finegan, head of the Department of Education, declined to adopt some absurd proposition of Mrs. Pinchot and he was refused a reappointment though the educational interests of the State were practically unanimously in favor of his reappointment. Since that the Governor has expressed great concern about the prosperity of the schools and shed copious tears over the misfortunes of the children of the Commonwealth. But it was a bogus sympathy. The Governor cares more for himself than the schools.

—Probably Governor Pinchot threatened to veto the Sesquicentennial appropriation with the idea of scaring Vane out of the Senatorial race.

Prostituting Public Service.

The verdict of the Federal court in Montana, acquitting Senator Burton K. Wheeler of charges trumped up against him by the Republican administration and the Republican National committee is not to be a final disposition of that case. It is announced on semi-official authority that Mr. Wheeler will be tried again in Washington where it is hoped that official influence will be more potent. Senator Wheeler has gravely offended the administration. He persisted in exposing the rottenness of the public service under Harding and Coolidge after having been warned against such action. He must be taught and others admonished through him that corruption must be protected.

The prosecution of Senator Wheeler was devised by Harry M. Daugherty and conducted by the Republican National Committee. Secret service agents of the government were sent to Montana to "get something" on Wheeler and after weeks of effort involving perjury, subornation of perjury and various other crimes, presumably with the sanction of the President and certainly with the help of the government officials, he was indicted on a charge of having acted as attorney in one of the Departments of the government. An investigation by a Senate Committee with a Republican Chairman promptly exonerated him from blame and when it seemed likely that he would be acquitted in Montana he was indicted in Washington.

This is easily the most disgraceful episode in the judicial history of the country. The government is maintained to protect the people from injustice and wrong. But in this case the full power of the government was employed in an effort to punish a distinguished and courageous citizen not of a crime but for exposing a crime and forcing the criminal to justice. If the agencies of the government are thus to be prostituted to the uses of criminals and the protection of crime there is small hope for the future of this form of lawlessness to the more dangerous agencies of revolution and ultimate anarchy.

—Half a loaf is better than no bread and as the Sesquicentennial got three-quarters of its appropriation it ought to be correspondingly happy.

May Day---Child Day.

On this, the first day of May, dedicated to the study of child life, we have found nothing more impressive for your reading than the following article by William Frederick Bigelow, editor of Good House-keeping. For years, it seems, the great concern of the nation has been the conservation of fish, forests, waters, natural resources and what not. Little attention has been given to our greatest resource, the one upon which the country of tomorrow will have to stand, and if it is to stand as our forefathers built it the time is here when the child-life of today must have more of our serious thought if the man of tomorrow is to be the sturdy, sterling American we would have him.

A message has gone forth asking that on May Day the nation turn aside for a little while from its every-day affairs to that first of all concerns—its children. May Day marks the joyous celebration of a new season. Fity it has been chosen as a day to celebrate a new hope, which shall carry on from season to season, from year to year, in a steady chain of progress—the hope of insuring to all the children of this country their birthday of health.

The shock and devastation of war welded the people of the United States in a spontaneous, sympathetic unity of effort for the protection of the children of Europe, and the effects of that constructive, organized sympathy have been written into history, an unforgettable chapter of the war. They reached in a great forward urge toward the protection of our own children. A torch was lighted within us which has not died down—which, please God, never shall die down. That outpouring of effort during four years of war was an involuntary mobilization: on May Day we ask for a voluntary mobilization—of all our forces, for our own children. Not that they may be saved from hunger, for few of them are hungry, but that they may be relieved from unnecessary disease, and so safeguarded that they will start life at the high level of normal health.

From 1914 to 1924 great progress was made in reducing the physical handicaps and the disease hazards of children, in establishing, through a large number of channels—the schools, health centers, playgrounds—the hope and promise of positive health. Science has made brilliant discoveries which, if applied, will sweep back the enemies of life. The proof of the progress that is possible is evidenced in the saving of the lives of approximately twenty-three more babies under one year out of every thousand born in 1924 over those saved in 1914. In twenty years our infant mortality has been reduced by half.

Thus a flame of hope has been flashed across the horizon of the oncoming generation. But what has been accomplished has been in irregular areas, the results have been unequally distributed, and science has been unable to make its discoveries generally available. We have, in short, had an aristocracy of health for children. In other words, a few children have been given opportunity that all should have. The facts of this inequality should be measured, that we may enter upon a democracy of health in which each child, no matter where born or how, may have a sound start in life and adequate protection through the years of growth. In every great endeavor there is a psychological moment for the crystallization of scattered efforts on a national scale. May Day is the tocsin call for that national crystallization in the movement for child health. The day will be one for stock-taking by communities in which they will reckon the assets of protection for their children, and, examining into what other communities have done for the children, will be spurred to demand the best for their own and set in motion the machinery to make that best possible.

The impetus back of this movement has been growing and swelling over a long period. The moment has come to give it concentrated national expression and direction. The American Child Health Association, headed by Mr. Herbert Hoover, has sent forth the call for the celebration of the first day of May as Child Health Day. That Association serves in the celebration merely as a central station for all the forces concerned with the interests of children. It sits at a national switchboard and answers whatever calls come in, furnishes plans, suggestions, literature, links up forces that desire linking; but the call has been thrown out upon the air, and it may be adopted by any one that hears it—by communities, organizations, schools, individuals, and translated into their own terms if they choose. The one great need is that attention shall focus upon the rights of children to health, and upon ways and means of securing those rights. May Day is everybody's day—a rallying day for the children of the nation, rich and poor, big and little.

A widespread mobilization is under way to make this day the most significant one in history for all the children of the nation. Through cooperation between the executive head of the American Child Health Association and the public health organizations in each State, a chairman for the May Day celebration has been appointed for each State, and this chairman will cooperate with designated representatives of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and other organizations, so that as nearly as may be, all forces are linked up to develop May Day plans which will be as effective as possible in the local communities and will serve to stimulate health activities throughout the year, for May Day will mean nothing if its message is not carried on and carried out through all the year.

No one in this country who has at heart the good of children can well be spared from sharing in this celebration. Each effort, no matter how small, linked to other efforts, will help to make the chain stronger. We have many national days, but usually they have been days of backward looking, of memorializing what has been. May Day is a day of looking forward, of memorializing what is to be. It is a defense day to which no one in the land can object, the defense of the rights of children, upon whom, sound of body and clear of vision, rests the future. The tie between the child and all adult life is at once the strongest and the gentlest element in human nature. Greater sacrifices are made for children than for ourselves; greater happiness is derived from these sacrifices than from all the triumphs that personal success can bring. Our daily labors, whether in the home, or in the outside world of competition for material things, or even in the search for culture and for spiritual advancement, derive largely from the conscious or unconscious impulse to cherish the child and to hold the child's affection and respect. Let us make May Day a day that shall be memorable in accomplishments which will leave their stamp upon the future, helping to push the race onward and upward.

—A plum tree has been discovered in the East Indies the fruit of which cures leprosy. That must be where the late Senator Quay got his idea from.

—It doesn't matter much where the headquarters of the Democratic State committee are located if they are constantly and efficiently managed.

—The Johnstown Tribune cordially endorses President Coolidge's idea that "a thorough system of self-government" is the real remedy for the restraints of government and the editor of the Johnstown Tribune is trying to steal a seat in Congress to promote the proposition.

—For good, reliable news always read the "Watchman."

WHAT THEN?

When the workmen own the workshops; And the railroad men the rails, And the grocery clerk the groceries And the mail clerks own the mails. When the preachers own the pulpits, And the pressmen own the shops, And the drillers own the oil wells, And the jails are owned by cops— When the conductors own the street cars, And each driver owns his bus; Will you tell us common people, Whattin'll become of us? (Contributor in the Ft. Wayne News-Sentinel.)

Senator Wheeler's Acquittal.

From the Philadelphia Record. The triumphant acquittal of Senator Wheeler, of Montana, of the silly charges brought against him brings to a fitting close temporarily at least, for an indictment still stands against him in the District of Columbia—one of the most contemptible and vindictive political persecutions ever known in this country. The facts are too well known to require any extensive rehearsing. It was just about a year ago that the Senator was carrying on his relentless investigation of the Department of Justice, which has accomplished so much good. On March 28 President Coolidge asked Harry M. Daugherty to resign from the office which he had disgraced as Attorney General, and on April 2 Harlan F. Stone was named as his successor. Just as the American people were congratulating themselves on what seemed a good job in cleaning up a dirty mess the surprising news came from Montana on April 8 that Senator Wheeler, the leading figure in the probe of the Department of Justice, had been indicted there by a Federal Grand Jury on serious charges affecting his official integrity.

It was quickly developed that this proceeding had been largely instigated by Daugherty, acting through employees of the Republican National committee and agents of the Department of Justice, in an effort to discredit the Senator and the investigation which he was conducting with such energy. In this the venomous move was an absolute failure. A committee of the Senate, headed by Senator Borah, after a careful examination of all the evidence obtainable, completely exonerated the Montana Senator, and his findings have been generally accepted by fair-minded persons.

It will be recalled that a few months ago Attorney General Stone (now Justice Stone, of the Supreme Court), apparently under the influence of the Daugherty element still strong in the Department of Justice, succeeded in having Senator Wheeler indicted in the District of Columbia, seemingly on the same sort of evidence that has been presented in the Montana court. If one may judge by the action taken at Great Falls, the Senator, if ever tried on these accusations, will again be fully vindicated.

Thus ends the first chapter of an extraordinary conspiracy to thwart justice, strike down investigation and vilify a man prominent in public life. So far the collapse is complete. The result will be welcomed by every honest man and woman, regardless of their personal opinion of Senator Wheeler. That stormy petrel of politics certainly has his faults, but dislike of him will not obscure the fact that an effort has been made to crush him because he was a Democrat investigating the Republican politicians. The whole proceeding has been outrageous and disgraceful. The speedy acquittal clears the air of a good deal of hypocrisy and crooked partisanship.

The Silver Tongue Now Turned to Gold.

From the Kansas City Star. A friend of W. J. Bryan's returning to Lincoln, Neb., from Florida, brings word that the Commoner has become a millionaire. We ought to rejoice over the news and congratulate Mr. Bryan. But somehow we can't. We had got to depending on the tribune of the people to stand by the alpaca coat and the black string tie; to embody the simple virtues and tastes of mankind. But will he if he has a million? Or will Mrs. Bryan let him? Somebody of distinction ought to eschew riches just to keep the rest of us in countenance and respectable. Federal judges and college professors have a useful function of that sort, though we understand they occasionally protest. But we never know when their salaries may be increased and they may be set on the road to fortune away from the common run of mankind.

So we had pinned our faith on Mr. Bryan to show the world 'tis only noble to be good, and kind hearts are more than coronets or being short on wheat in a bear market, and simple faith than Norman blood or the ownership of Florida real estate. And now he has failed us: Bryan a millionaire. Well, we might have expected it. Lincoln's son got to be head of the Pullman company.

—Mrs. Vane, the only woman Senator, says she had a delightful time in Harrisburg. Holding office appears to be congenial to the family.

—Evidently this is not to be the year for scientists to throw the old scare about the Earth cooling off.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSSTONE.

—Governor Pinchot has signed the Burke bill making it unlawful in Pennsylvania to manufacture gambling devices, including punch boards, drawing cards, and slot machines. Violation of the act is punishable by \$1,000 fine and imprisonment for one year.

—Receiving 45,000 volts of electricity on Saturday, James Kahler, 29 years of age, of Tyrone, lives to tell his experience. He was working on a pole making repairs to a transformer when he came in contact with a live wire. His safety belt prevented him from suffering burns of the right shoulder and left leg. He is a patient in the Altoona hospital.

—The Rev. C. W. Karns, of Altoona, on Friday decided to visit two men who had rented his garage. The tenants were not in, but the minister found many kegs of whiskey in his garage. He reported the case to the police and James O'Donnell and Antonia Talamante, tenants, were arrested and held for court, charged with selling liquor.

—George Hice, 32 years of age, of DuBois, accepted a ride into Harrisburg, on Monday, with alacrity, because he was carrying heavy bundles. Arriving there he was surprised to be turned over to the police. The motorist who gave him the lift had seen him leave a vacant house with the bundles and Hice was arrested for burglary on his testimony.

—John A. Beabler, 10 year old son of Mrs. Minnie Beabler, and William Lauer, aged 7 years, son of John Lauer, are both dead from eating wild parsnips in mistake for artichokes, at their home at Port Anna, a remote Snyder county hamlet, on Monday. Their bodies became badly swollen, and it was three hours before a doctor could get there. Their others are seriously ill.

—When John Jordan, son of Daniel Jordan, of Musser's Valley, Northumberland county, said to be demented, became enraged on Tuesday, he grabbed his father and threw him on a chopping block in the yard. While the man lay there dazed, John secured an ax and raised it, he said, to "chop pop's head off." Ammon Walter, a neighbor, grabbed the ax and averted a tragedy.

—A room in the home of Dr. J. B. Lawrence, a Harrisburg radio fan, was completely wrecked on Monday night as the result of too much static during a concert he was giving to a number of friends. Dr. Lawrence said his radio set was not as good as usual and he had put a power amplifier on the loud speaker, bringing in the music in clear, loud tones when there was a peal of static from the instrument. The walls cracked and the ceiling fell, he said. No one was injured, but the damage was more than \$1,000.

—Entering the saloon of Thomas Cox, at Shamokin, on Monday, two bandits ordered a drink and, waiting until the proprietor turned to the cash register to make change for a \$10 bill that was offered him, one of the men reached across the bar and struck him twice with a blackjack. Instead of taking the count as the robbers expected, Cox rushed to the end of the bar for a revolver, and the bandits fled, without the ceremony of asking for their escape in an automobile.

—Five construction workmen were killed in an explosion at the Humphrey mine of the Westmoreland Coal company, near West Newton, on Saturday night. One man on the tippie when it was wrecked by the force of the blast, was blown to bits and the bodies of the four others were found early on Sunday along the slope about 600 feet inside the mine. The victims were Asher C. Dean, 40, Elkins, W. Va.; Thomas Oskovetz, 45; James Polovich, Mike Sacrevitz and Pearl Rupert, 21, the last named living at Punxsutawney. The other three victims lived at the construction camp.

—Heads of families in William H. Ludden's big confectionery factory at Reading, who will keep children over 14 years of age in school instead of putting them to work next term, will receive a bonus of \$250 for each child from Mr. Ludden. It was announced at the Ludden offices last Thursday. Many employees will get bonuses on two or three children of 14 or over. It was explained that Mr. Ludden believes most children stop school and go to work because their parents need their earnings and cannot afford to keep them at their books. The bonus will represent an income of \$5 weekly for each child per year.

—The Supreme court on Thursday handed down a decision ordering three men, now serving sentences in the western penitentiary, in Pittsburgh, for violations of the prohibition law, to be taken from the penitentiary and resentence to the Mifflin county jail. The prisoners are Harold Harber, Jesse Henry and Sherman Berryman. They were tried in the quarter sessions court of Mifflin county and each ordered to pay a fine and serve from one year to two years in the penitentiary. Attorneys appealed the sentence on the ground that violations of the liquor laws are misdemeanors, not felonies, and persons pleading guilty to bootlegging charges cannot be sentenced to a penitentiary.

—Ralph Grubb, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Grubb, of Newton, Perry county, was found dead Saturday afternoon in Sherman's Valley. He was killed by a bullet from his own gun which was accidentally discharged, an examination by Dr. L. A. Carl, disclosed. The youth in company with Eugene Shoop, 17, went to the valley for gun practice. The boys became separated and later Grubb's dog came to Shoop, who followed the animal which led him to the body of the youth. It is believed he was trailing a snake into some bushes. When he stooped down to pick up the snake the gun was discharged and the bullet penetrated his heart. The gun used was of the 22 short rifle type. The youth's parents did not ask for an inquest.

—Confession that he had stolen more than 200 crates of eggs, sent by parcel post to Towanda from many towns in that vicinity, and had reshipped them by express, was made on Saturday to postoffice inspectors by Harry Fenner, of Towanda. Fenner has been mail messenger between the Towanda postoffice and the Lehigh valley station for several years. Fenner's confession cleared up the robbery of clothing and merchandise valued at \$3,000 from the United States mail out of Towanda postoffice during the past year. He was held under \$1000 bail by Commissioner W. T. Carey, at Sayre. At Fenner's home the inspectors and a special agent of the American Express company found considerable clothing, auto accessories, rope and fishing tackle. Part of the loot was found in the furnace, where it showed evidence of having been ignited. It was packed too tightly to burn, however.