

—They say that all signs fall in dry weather and that is probably the reason that the Granger's picnic hasn't brought rain.

—Canadian scenery is just the same as it was prior to 1918, hence our amazement at the number of tourists from the States who are flocking there under the guise of enjoying it.

—Philadelphia papers are making a great ado over Vare's determination to put an end to the career of Judge Renshaw. The papers are right and Vare is all that they brand him as, but Judge Renshaw is down and out because Vare has more to say about what is done in that city than all the rest of its inhabitants put together.

—Babe Ruth, like all the others who have been catapulted into notoriety by a sycophantic public, has fallen down when the acid test began to be applied. The people just must have heroes to worship and they are not as fickle as some think. They raise up many idols, but it's up to the idol after that.

—Down in Tulsa, on Monday, federal dry agents made a raid on the rooms of the overseas veterans who were in convention there. They found some liquor in the room of a bootlegger and haled all of the veterans, with their luggage, into court because they happened to be guests of the hotel that was raided. Not one of the officious officials was out of the country when it was in peril. Every one of the men they insulted was.

—The only advice we have to give those who expect to go to the primaries on the 15th is to vote for the candidate who you think will be the most creditable representative of the party with which you are affiliated. A good citizen—and there are very few of them—doesn't permit social or business relations, or personalities, to guide his hand when marking his ballot. If you are a believer in Democracy, Republicanism, Prohibition or Socialism vote for the man who would best uphold such principles, whether you like him or not.

—We can't recall just when it was, but some time last fall we came near going into ecstasies over the composition and press work on the Tyrone Times. Tuesday evening we picked up the Philadelphia Ledger of August 28th. The Ledger is always interesting, of course, but because we discovered nothing in it inspired by its vice president—a gentleman whom it is always worth while to watch—we were about to throw it down when the appearance of the sheet compelled attention. Then we looked it over with a mechanical eye that has been scanning country newspapers for forty years and concluded that the men who are setting and pressing the Tyrone Times haven't all the finesse that there is in the craft in Central Pennsylvania.

—Talking about signs; we have always believed that those who set their onions and shingle their buildings in the up or down sign of the moon, and those who boast a pot because they have a "hunch" have some leg to stand on that we have never seen. Two weeks ago we glanced over our left shoulder, and glimpsed a new moon through limbs of an intervening tree. If anything could have been worse than that tell it to us. What happened. We came down to the desk to find invitations to see State open the new stadium at Morgantown, W. Va., to be a guest "as long as you will stay" while Cambria county is pulling off its big fair, and to "bring three friends and their wives and yours and be my guests while touring around Buffalo and over into Canada to see the Toronto Exposition." Isn't it wonderful what seeing the new moon over your left shoulder does. We'd accept that Buffalo invitation if we hadn't written the paragraph above, directing suspicion to those who tour Canada.

—Here let us record our belief that the John Ashley Dennis Post, American Legion, of Philipsburg, is composed of men whose bigness and real public service transcends that of any other organization that we have knowledge of. When the towns of Philipsburg and Chester Hill and the counties of Clearfield and Centre thought themselves too poor to contribute much to the erection of an inter-county bridge connecting Philipsburg and Chester Hill, via Pine street, the John Ashley Dennis boys volunteered their services and, on Tuesday, completed the concrete structure, having asked for and received no compensation for their services. We read much in Philipsburg papers of Rotary and Kiwanis luncheons at the Philips. Of the inspiring addresses that are made. Of course we don't believe that Rotarian or Kiwanian is in physical fettle to work on concrete bridges, but we'll bet that they have spent enough on their weekly luncheons to have paid for three bridges over the Moshannon. In great cities where men don't know one another or what is going on a mile distant from their home or business environment it is well that they get together for exchange of ideas, but in small towns where the first fellow you meet on the way to your business in the morning can tell you just what hour you rolled in the night before it seems to us that it is a mighty flickering flame of civic responsibility that has to be fanned with weekly luncheons, jazz music and slap-stick comedy.

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Pinchot's Real Purpose.

Information comes from the middle west that the object of Governor Pinchot's present activities is the Presidential chair. According to a writing man in Minneapolis, the effort to acquire the Senatorial seat of Mr. George Wharton Pepper is simply a preliminary gesture. "The Pinchot program," he writes, "takes into consideration the possibility either of victory over or defeat by Senator George Wharton Pepper in the Pennsylvania Senatorial fight. If Pinchot wins he will be in better position than before and if he loses he will be in no worse place than formerly to attack the third term ambitions of Calvin Coolidge. This is certainly a comforting view of the situation for the friends of Pinchot.

The news value of this statement is contained in the information that the Governor has organized "a letter writing program" in which he appeals to the followers of the late Colonel Roosevelt. "He has the names and addresses of men who might sympathize with his views," this writer states, "and is sending them personal letters on the letter-head of the Governor of Pennsylvania." He tells the farmers in this confidential way that his giant-power plan "means a solution of many farm difficulties by bringing cheap power to the farmer and small consumer." In another paragraph of his letter he says: "The time has come when the public must be taken into consideration by the nation-wide electric monopoly that is being formed."

This is an appealing proposition and is to a considerable extent based on fact. The menace of the monopoly is apparent to all thoughtful observers. Whether the Pinchot plan is the surest remedy is problematical. The Governor may feel certain enough of it but he directs his arguments more to prejudice than reason. That is, he appeals to the Roosevelt followers by laudation of that energetic conservationist instead of exposing a material difference between his "giant-power" plan and the "super-power" system which has been endorsed by President Coolidge. There may be a wide difference and there may be no difference. In any event it is up to the Governor to clarify the question.

—Young Mr. Rockefeller pays the largest income tax of any American citizen. His last contribution to Uncle Sam was something in excess of six million dollars. John D., Jr., probably didn't feel that as much, however, as the person who had to give up thirty.

Why?

The second leg of Governor Pinchot's "tour of observation" will end in Juniata county to-night. It began in Lancaster county on Wednesday of last week, where two speeches were made. Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, Somerset and Fayette counties were visited in the order named and the Governor spent Sunday on a peak of the Allegheny mountains near Uniontown. His addresses, all on the theme of reform, varied somewhat to fit the audience addressed. In Somerset, with Judge Berkey who recently escaped an impeachment, most people believe by favor, within hearsay, he spoke of the delinquencies of the courts. In Uniontown where Public Service Commissioner Shelby lives, he discussed the faults of public service boards.

It is gratifying to learn that the Governor finds all the public institutions in splendid condition. With the close of his week's work to-night he will have visited nearly three-fourths of the charitable, penal, and corrective institutions of the State and has not found a single fault. Of course there were plenty of faults three years ago but they have all been removed and the Governor is confident that he can lay his hand on the author of the improvements without moving an inch. But the fact is none the less satisfactory on that account. Whoever is responsible for betterments is entitled to just reward. It is the proper recompense for fidelity to public duty.

But there is an insistent vein of disappointment in all the reports of the Governor's travels and talks. He hasn't said a word against the gravest of all crimes against the State. He denounces the bossism of Vare and Max Leslie and the delinquencies of judges and the faults of public service boards. But he utters not a word of condemnation of the source of these great evils. Without fraudulent voting and false counting neither Vare nor Leslie could endure for a season and the corrupt judges and dishonest public service boards would disappear in a twinkling. Yet Governor Pinchot utters no word of condemnation of ballot frauds and false returns of elections. Why?

—We have a strong suspicion that Babe Ruth has struck out.

Three of a Kind.

The recent events by which Congressman Vare acquired absolute control of the public life of Philadelphia have aroused suspicions as well as fears that in the near future he will annex the rest of the State to his political dominion. A year ago it was known that he had aspirations for a seat in the United States Senate. But his bungling control of the General Assembly during the last session of the Legislature destroyed his expectations in that direction and it was believed that he had taken himself out of the running. His late triumphs have put a new face upon the political situation, however, and Senator Pepper is seriously afraid that Mr. Vare will do with him as he did with district attorney Rotan.

But this danger is more imaginary than real. The people of Pennsylvania will not tamely submit to the autocratic rule of any man of such limited moral and mental resources as contractor Vare. One of the press correspondents with the Governor on his State-wide tour writes: "Governor Pinchot was quick to realize it and in his speeches is striking a popular chord by attacking the Vare organization. Nothing that he has done so far has enhanced his prestige quite so much as his tirades against the Vare machine." The Governor has been crystallizing sentiment for himself by his attacks on the Philadelphia machine." This statement expresses an increasingly obvious fact.

It is encouraging to feel that even among Republicans the reputation of a flagrant corruptionist aspiring to high office excites a feeling of disgust. The pity is that in an organization so strong there is no outstanding leader to assume the direction of the party. The present situation presents a choice of Vare, Pepper or Pinchot. Vare is condemned by his record, Pepper by his support of the corruptionist Newberry in the face of a court record of venality, and Pinchot by his consistent aid to the corruptionists in refusing to denounce ballot reform. Maybe the spirit of righteousness will some time assert itself in Pennsylvania by turning all the rascals out and electing an honest Democrat.

—The price of diamonds takes a shoot up just as the coal strike begins and the public stands to lose whether it takes the white or black variety.

Babe Ruth in Trouble.

"Babe" Ruth has long been the "stormy petrel" of the baseball world. The highest salaried player and the "hardest hitter" in all the leagues, he has won the favor of the fans in fuller measure than any of his colleagues or competitors. That this popular laudation, covering a period of years, may have "gone to his head" is quite probable. In any event he has not yielded gracefully to the discipline essential in such employment and has in consequence been the victim of penalties imposed from time to time, more or less drastic.

The last flare up in which "Babe" was involved resulted in a fine of \$5,000 and the "bench" for a period. His offences were, according to newspaper reports, various. One charge is that he remained out "among the boys" longer than the rules allow and another that he refused to obey the orders of the field manager with respect to play. For these violations of discipline he was fined by his manager to an amount that to the average player would be excessive but to a \$50,000 a year man is a mere trifle. He appealed to the head of the organization and was "turned down."

Under ordinary circumstances and in usual employment Mr. Ruth might quit his job. But it seems that he is under contract for another year and if he breaks the contract he is outlawed and will not be able to get a job with any other league. He should be made pay the fine but it is doubtful if he ever will, for the president of the New York team is a rather weak-kneed plutocrat and has already shown that by announcing that if "the Bambino" apologizes to manager Huggins everything will be all right.

—Former Governor Tener may not be the favorite of the machine for that office next year but his press agents are doing their best for him.

—An esteemed contemporary lauds the automobile as an educational agent. It certainly is developing new forms of profanity.

—We may miss Germany when she joins the League of Nations but we will still have Turkey and Mexico with us on the outside.

—If we could be granted the wish that is uppermost the county would have a gentle rain of about three days' duration.

Reasons for Reducing Tariff Taxes.

The new president of the American Federation of Labor will have public sympathy behind him in his effort to influence Congress to abolish or greatly reduce the tariff tax on commodities the producers of which are cutting the wages of employees. The only appealing reason for protective tariff tax has been that it guarantees a high rate of wages. In reducing the wages of labor in the New England cotton factories this claim is refuted for the employers of those laborers are at present in enjoyment of the highest rate of tariff taxation in the history of the country. If under such a rate of tariff taxation the employers are unable to pay fair wages protection fails to protect labor.

Reducing the tax levy on incomes affords comparatively little benefit to the average citizen and practically none to the ordinary wage earner. Under the Mellon plan it would save \$20,000 a year to the man with an income of \$100,000 and a family of say five. The man with an income of \$5,000 and a wife and three children would save \$26. But the tariff tax on necessities of life for his family under the existing law amounts to more than \$150. A cut in the tariff tax equivalent to the proposed decrease in the income tax would afford a vastly greater advantage to the individual and to a vastly greater number of individuals. But the Republican administration is pledged to help the few.

It is conservatively estimated that ninety-five per cent of the revenue produced by the income tax goes into the public treasury and is available to meet the expenses of the government. An equally dependable estimate indicates that only about twenty-five per cent of the tariff tax reaches the public treasury, the rest being divided among the producers of the taxed commodities. No good citizen objects to paying his just share of the expenses of just government. But no good citizen will tamely submit to excessive taxation to provide unearned bounties to men whose only claim is that they contributed freely to a campaign slush fund. For that reason the public demands tariff tax reduction.

—The Governor is winning all sorts of popular approval now but it's a far cry to primary election day next year.

Women Voters Picnic at Oak Hall.

On Thursday of last week the League of Women Voters held a meeting on the lawn of Mrs. W. A. Ferree, at Oak Hall. From forty to fifty persons were present, among them being several of the candidates seeking the nomination at the coming primaries, Mr. J. Kennedy Johnston, Mr. Harry Keller, Mr. W. Harrison Walker and Mr. John G. Love.

At 12:30 o'clock a box luncheon was spread upon the tables provided for the occasion, the hostess adding delicious baked beans and excellent coffee. Every one present appreciated and enjoyed this part of the program.

After lunch, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Keller and Mr. Love addressed the League, commending them for the work being done by the organization, especially in trying to get out the vote. Later in the afternoon Mr. Walker added his bit by making a short, spicy address.

After the addresses by candidates Mrs. Robert M. Beach, chairman, urged the League to more active work. Following this was a wide-awake discussion on the tax question.

Thanking the hostess for her part in making the day a great success, the meeting adjourned. Members of the League present included the following:

Mrs. J. Kennedy Johnston, Mrs. John G. Love, Mrs. Robert Mills Beach, Mrs. W. Harrison Walker, Mrs. Wilson Norris, Mrs. D. R. Foreman, Mrs. John S. Walker, Mrs. Harry Keller, Dr. Eloise Meek, Miss Rebecca N. Rhoads, Miss Mary Blanchard, Miss Elizabeth B. Meek, Mrs. John Porter Lyon, Mrs. Gregg Curtin, Mrs. John G. Love Jr. and Mrs. Roy Wilkinson, of Bellefonte; Mrs. George C. Hall and Mrs. Pitts, of Boalsburg; Mrs. Hogan and Mrs. Fisher, of State College; Mrs. Frank Wieland and Miss Wieland, of Linden Hall, and Mrs. Charles Thompson, of Lemont.

—Nobody has tried to swim the English channel within a week and we are beginning to think that foolish ambition is waning.

—Now that the oyster's vacation is ended it may be predicted that it will soon be "in the soup."

—Sauerkraut has been eliminated but "shredded cabbage" will smell as strong and taste as good.

—Anyway we see no reason for predicting a war over the French loan settlement.

War Debts and Peace Payments.

From the Philadelphia Record. It is in the interest of the world's peace that the United States insists on repayment of the war debts. Chemistry and metallurgy and other sciences have done a great deal to increase the destructiveness of war, but finance has done much more. If the nations can be relieved of a part of the cost of war they will be more apt to indulge in it. If they have to pay all the costs, no matter how long it takes, they will be a little less ready to invoke force.

Jeremiah S. Black, the great Pennsylvania lawyer and statesman, in litigation attacking some of the carpet-bag legislation of Louisiana, described public credit in predatory hands taken from the citizen by taxation everything he had above his subsistence and then reaching its long arm and its greedy claws into the distant future and grasping wealth not yet in existence, but to be credited by the labor of generations not yet born. Primitive war destroyed the simple wealth of primitive men, the food or weapons or shelter that had cost a few hours' labor. In a more advanced society war destroyed the accumulations of society. With all the resources of modern finance at its disposal war can reach far into the future and destroy the wealth that has not yet been created. The grand-sons of the Englishmen of today will be giving up their earnings to meet the cost of the world war.

It is now almost seven years since fighting ceased, but Englishmen will go on paying for that war for another 62 years, at least, and it is not certain whether Great Britain collectively will have paid individual Britons for their advances by that time; Englishmen and Scotchmen of the twenty-first century may be paying for the world war.

We used to be told that another great war could not occur because the bankers would not provide the money. We have found out that nations can get along without bankers; the individual population can be reached and their accumulations taken by taxes and the earnings of their posterity by the means of a national debt. When a war ends the process of paying for it begins.

Germany has practically repudiated its domestic debt, but the victors will see to it that it pays a good part of the debts they have incurred. It is no possibility can Germany pay all the costs. The United States and Great Britain have given financial assistance to all other Allied and Associated Powers, and the United States lent its credit to Great Britain itself. If the creditors were amiable and wiped the score of the states the continental nations would so much the sooner get rid of their national debts and be ready to incur new ones. Furthermore, if a good part of their expenses were defrayed by America and England war would seem to them a less costly luxury than it is. But if all Europe is collecting money from Germany for the next 45 years and paying money to the United States for 62 years there will be a universal conviction that war must be avoided; no nation can afford it.

The bonds representing international indebtedness incurred in the world war are bonds to keep the peace.

An Independent Party in Philadelphia.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Under the title of the Freeman's Party, an independent organization will take the field at the November election Judge Renshaw, marked for defeat at the primaries by the Vare-controlled political machine, will be on it. So will Coroner Patton. To what extent other positions will be involved, we do not know.

The only reason why the boss has ordered this raid upon the bench is because he wishes to control politically the Municipal Court. The only reason why he has decreed that Coroner Patton must go is because he wants to dominate that office. There is no attempt at disguise. It is a perfectly raw and brazen proposition. The Vare Dynasty, having again seized the city by the throat, must strengthen its grip at any cost.

We are just wondering if the good people of Philadelphia are content to let things go without a serious protest at the polls. There is plenty of latent independence, but whether it is interested sufficiently to take the trouble to exert itself is quite another matter. We shall see. The result of the first day's registration was anything but promising. But there are two more opportunities for advocates of good government to record themselves.

An Easy Job for Aliens.

From the Clearfield Republican.

These days when the alleged eminent alienists are so plentiful and easy to hire why not buy up a goodly bunch to pass upon the mentality of a Chief Executive of a great Commonwealth who brings himself to dispense with the valuable and efficient services of honest public servants like John W. Reed on the Public Service Commission and fill the places with Millers, Stewarts, Scattergoods and Kings. No trouble to convince the public upon a proper finding.

—The primary election is selected as a medium of the party "to elect the strongest candidate." That may have been true once but now it is an agency for ratifying the choice of the bosses.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Mrs. Vanda Hatchut and her seven-month-old daughter were killed at Pittsburg when planned under the wreckage of a chimney that fell from a house being razed.

—Bedford countians, on Tuesday celebrated the completion of the Loysburg Gap road with exercises and a parade, which will likely start a movement looking towards the completion of the improved road from where it now ends to the Huntingdon county line.

—Three armed youths held up two messengers of the East End Savings and Trust company at the entrance of the Bauer Brothers Baking company plant in Pittsburg, on Monday, and escaped with a satchel containing about \$7,000. The money was being delivered for the weekly payroll of the baking plant.

—Blind and 72 years of age, Miles Lusher, of Rockland, Franklin county, is believed to have set a record for a man of his advanced years and physical handicap, when he tied and shucked 120 bundles of oats in a period of two hours. A helper raked the grain while the blind veteran bundled and stacked it.

—James Beatty, of Dickerson Run, Fayette county, claims to have the champion snake-hunting cat of that section. Three times within the past several weeks the cat has taken to the house live snakes, which were killed by members of the family. The first was of the common garden variety, while the other two were black snakes.

—John Shadick and Paul Woodling were arrested near Karthaus, last week, for taking game fish by an illegal device. The arrests were made by wardens W. C. Kelly, W. M. J. Davis, William Delanskey and E. W. Turley. The men were given a hearing at Karthaus and pleaded guilty to the charge of taking black bass and brook trout in violation of the law. They were fined \$30 each.

—While the police were busy investigating a robbery in the western part of Wilkes-Barre and searching for the thief, Charles Black, 22 years old, of Danville, who later confessed to the robbery, calmly "registered" with the desk officer and secured sleeping quarters in the "bums' hole" conducted by the police for transients who have no other way of getting lodging for the night.

—Properties of the Columbia and Montour Electric Railway company, the Danville and Bloomsburg Electric Railway company and the North Branch Transit company, will be sold at auction on October 15 and 16. The North Branch Transit company will be sold in Bloomsburg on the morning of October 15, the Danville and Bloomsburg company in Danville in the afternoon, and the Columbia and Montour company, in Harrisburg the next day.

—Fayette county officers are making it so hot for bootleggers and booze runners that a most unique place for concealing liquor has been unearthed. Tipped off that moonshine was hidden in the vicinity of the White Rock cemetery, constables Walter Brown and Charles Wood found four gallons of the liquid hidden in a tombstone. A bronze monument provided sufficient room to hold the liquor. It had been moved off the grave a short distance and this aroused the suspicion of the officers.

—Lawrence E. Sands, president of the First National bank of Pittsburgh, and his son, John W. Sands, have identified Chesler B. Miley as one of the two men who held up their family at their home last January and demanded \$20,000 under threat of kidnapping the banker's wife, Miley, who was arrested last week in Amory, Miss., and taken to Pittsburgh, is said by the police to have been the man who shot and wounded the younger Sands when the latter attempted to escape and give an alarm.

—A kidnapping theory has been advanced to explain the disappearance of Laura Renner, aged 38 years, formerly of Renovo and Lock Haven, who has not been seen since she mysteriously vanished from in front of the Quarryville postoffice, in Lancaster county, several days ago. City and State police have been notified and several posses of citizens have been searching in the lower end of Lancaster county for trace of her. Miss Renner was living with her brother-in-law, William Boloque, in Quarryville.

—Four methods of self-destruction were used by Mrs. Beulah C. Kemmer, of Allentown, in killing herself on Saturday, a police investigation revealed. Using three razors, she is said to have slashed her wrists, throat and ankles; then to have taken two kinds of poison, finally placing an open gas tube in her mouth. The body was found by her husband. The act was said to have been due to despondency induced by a protracted illness. A year ago, police stated, Mrs. Kemmer attempted to end her life by shooting herself.

—Francis Xavier Wagnan, aged less than 2 years, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude E. Wagnan, of McSherrystown, York county, died as the result of burns received Friday afternoon, when he and an older brother were playing in the chicken house with matches which they had obtained and in some manner ignited, and straw. The older boy escaped, but said nothing, and it was some time before the firemen discovered that Francis was still in the chicken house. The smaller boy had hidden for protection behind a grindstone and was dead when found.

—Announcement has been made by Grand Chancellor Boyer that the Knights of Pythias of central Pennsylvania have purchased Kinkora at the Cove above Harrisburg, where a Pythian orphanage and eventually a home for aged will be established. Kinkora contains 2,700 acres with a stone mansion, with twenty-one rooms and five bath rooms. It is surrounded by a seven acre lawn. There is also a large bank barn, farm house and several other buildings. The price paid was \$55,000. The orphanage will be maintained by the lodges within 100 miles of Kinkora.

—Because, he says, a gypsy fortune teller predicted his death within five days, Frank Oprzalka, aged 54 years, of Johns town, decided it was useless to combat the inevitable and was slowly starving to death when police were notified last week and removed the man to the Memorial hospital, where he is now slightly improved. Neighbors notified a patrolman that Oprzalka had refused to eat since the gypsy predicted his death and that he was wrecking his home. The police found that he had broken furniture and some of the plumbing fixtures. He was extremely weak when removed to the hospital, where more than \$1,500 in cash was found on his person. The police are trying to locate the fortune teller.