

—Well, the excitement is all over and may we now remind you that it is only forty-eight days until Christmas.

—The Shah of Persia having been deposed we presume the shoe shine union will be issuing a car to another inefficient.

—Anyway you've got to admit that Mr. W. Harrison Walker and Judge Arthur C. Dale threw a terrible scare into the machine organization in Centre county.

—From the face of the returns it would appear that candidates Dale and Keller drew 1985 Democrats away from Walker, while he was purloining just 113 Republicans from them. They say figures don't lie. Maybe they don't, but these certainly must.

—The Tile and Mantel Contractors' Association has been told by some New York authority that only the very rich should have colors in their bath rooms. The gentleman was probably referring to the nouveau rich, who fall for such things because they don't know any better.

—The wallop Penn got last Saturday wasn't so surprising at that. Philadelphia sports' writers have been putting paper champion teams on Franklin field for years without much success. They were near getting away with it this season until Red Grange demonstrated that the ice tongs are mightier than the type-writer.

—We've got to give it to Arthur. Just started in law, a novice in politics, catapulted into a distinguished position, he made a surprising contest. He was true to his colors and rode in the race, whether he knew it or not, weighted with opportunists who cost him hundreds of votes. On his own, Judge Dale might be sitting very pretty ten years from now.

—Poor George Pepper. He is shedding tears big as horse chestnuts over the fate that will befall President Coolidge if he doesn't get back to the Senate. Why unnecessarily overwork the lacrimal glands, Senator? If the President keeps on edging his way into the League of Nations and lecturing Sunday schools and Y. M. C. A.'s on fundamental Democratic doctrines he'll be over with us before you get back for a regular term and probably he won't want you there at all.

—We told the truth all through the campaign. We declared that the Democrats had the opportunity of a decade to put a man of their own party on the bench. The Republican strength was split and hundreds of that party were ready to help Mr. Walker. All that was needed was for the Democrats to stick to their candidate and let their rivals do the fighting. It was our chance, but we're the gillies who don't grab when the grabbin's good. If Mr. Walker had gotten eighty per cent. of the Democratic vote cast on Tuesday he would have been elected.

—Manassa, Col., wants to call her new high school building "The Jack Dempsey school." Jack, you know, won the war wearing patent leather shoes in a Philadelphia ship building yard. Wouldn't it be just too grand for Manassa to thus honor the champion pug of the world and champion slacker of the U. S. A. Some may marvel at the actions of American school boards. We never do, for we'll carry to the grave memories of one in Centre county that for years had a member who couldn't write his own name, but he always marked an X in the Republican column.

—In the seven reliable Democratic precincts, Centre Hall, Potter, Gregg, Penn, Millheim Boro, Miles and Haines there are 3851 voters registered. 2405 of them were at the polls Tuesday. That's about 68 per cent. of them and an encouraging outlook in Pennsylvania where many women are so timid about the franchise that they have not yet exercised it. Of course it is ridiculous to think that all the stay-at-homes are Democrats or that they would have voted for Mr. Walker, or that it was humanly possible to get them all out, but with 1446 of them at home and Mr. Keller winning by 1337 it makes us think, at least, of what might have been.

—It's all in a day's work, but few people realize what a day's work means to a worker on a country newspaper where readers are regarded as members of a big family. We have just gotten off five gallons of Centre county apple-butter to a "Watchman" devotee in Bradford, two bushels of walnuts to another up in Manchester, Vt., a string of the first run of the Bill Lyon mix of sausage to Pittsburgh, and are waiting for a twenty-five pound can of lard to ship down in West Virginia. All the while letters from Denver, Col., Cumberland, Md.; Bloomfield, Penna., and where not, are piled up on the desk awaiting answers. They have been accumulating and some day every last one of them will be answered because they mean to the "Watchman" all that it has ever striven to be: An anchor to the homeland for those who have drifted far from old Centre county. A deluge means nothing to us. We have one every day and night here in the shop, so we keep on piling things up against the day when no one drops in to ask us when the last bus leaves for Howard and we can settle down to answering correspondence and getting enough money in the bank to make the pay check good on Saturday. It's all in the day's work, and we love it.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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President's Policy Wrong.

The policies of President Coolidge, as they will be expressed in his annual message to Congress next month, are already known to those in his confidence in Washington. On the question of taxation he will recommend a big cut in the levy on large incomes and a pat stand on tariff taxation. That is precisely what the generous contributors to the campaign slush fund desire. They demand reimbursement of the money they gave so freely to buy votes and cutting the rates on big incomes and retaining the exorbitant tariff schedules will work both ways in the accomplishment of their purpose. The ultimate consumer and the wage earner is the victim of both processes.

As we have already shown the proposed cut in the big income tax will save Secretary Mellon about a million dollars on his annual tax bill and will benefit four or five thousand other campaign contributors in the same ratio. That will convert their campaign contributions into investments yielding a profit of probably one hundred per cent. or more. But it will afford no relief to the earner whose income is less than five thousand dollars though he may, in his mistaken loyalty to party, have contributed more in proportion to his means than Mr. Mellon gave. His comparatively trifling help to the campaign fund may have helped to fill in here and there but the larger sums turned the trick.

If the purpose of tax revision were to equalize the burden of government or benefit the general public the plain duty of the President would be to reverse his policy and recommend alteration of the tariff rates rather than those on incomes. Those enjoying big incomes can well afford to pay the amounts levied against them but the consumers of tariff taxed commodities are sorely oppressed by the vast charges which in the aggregate are taken from them. The income tax is the fairest method of meeting the expenses of government ever devised. It takes from those who pay in proportion to their ability to pay. The tariff tax is the worst for it is a sneaking method of robbing the poor.

—This is the season to caution hunters to be careful but there are so many hunters who know no such thing as caution that it's hardly worth while.

Locarno Pact Effective.

Any doubts which may have been entertained in the past with respect to the efficacy of the League of Nations in fulfilling the purposes for which it was created have been dispelled by the result of the Locarno mandate to Greece and Bulgaria. Both these turbulent nations have promptly yielded to the demands of the League and their differences are now in process of peaceful adjustment. A previous mandate had influenced Italy to a peaceful frame of mind but there still remained a sentiment of uncertainty as to its force in such disagreement as that which had developed in the Balkans.

But such doubts are now dissolved. The League of Nations has completely established not only its power but its capability to act and accomplish. Possibly both the contenders in the trouble were willing to be pacified. Probably neither of them knew clearly what the real cause of the trouble was. But their attitude toward each other was a grave menace to the peace of the world and the adjustment of their differences is a subject of worldwide congratulation. The people of that section of the world are wild and warlike and of little consequence comparatively speaking. But they are capable of starting a conflagration which might involve more important countries.

But after all the greatest value of the successful Locarno enterprise lies in the strengthening of world confidence in the efficiency as well as the wisdom of the League of Nations. It is humiliating to thoughtful Americans that our government had no part in the peaceful proceedings at Locarno or in the readjustment of the world on a peaceful basis. But the recent activities of the League will stimulate the friends of world peace throughout the country to increased effort to put the government of the United States into its rightful place as an influential member of the body.

—Mr. Walker carried twenty-one districts in the county. Judge Dale carried six and tied Mr. Keller for Patton. His six were Snow Shoe borough, north and west Boggs, north Curtin, north Gregg and north Potter. He ran stronger than Mr. Walker in nineteen precincts.

—Automobile accidents are increasing in number and will continue to do so until stricter requirements are fixed for drivers.

Pepper Paints a Sad Picture.

Whatever others think Senator Pepper is certain that his antagonist for nomination next year will be "Dear Gifford" Pinchot. In a speech delivered at Norristown last Saturday he said "the voters should make sure that the man they back in the primaries is a Coolidge Republican." This statement came after he had presented a gloomy picture of political conditions in the near future. "Coolidge is Republicanism at its best. It is to elect such a President that keeps our party organization in State and nation intact. The world needs America, America needs Coolidge and Calvin Coolidge needs you" he said by way of premise and then dilated upon the dangers of an opposition Senate after the next election.

And however gloomy his picture it was not overdrawn. The terms of twenty-seven Republican Senators expire with the end of the present session and to make the body safe for Coolidge every one of the twenty-seven to be elected must be a "Coolidge Republican." The seven Democrats whose terms expire will be succeeded by Democrats and the Coolidge policies formulated in Wall street are not popular with Democrats. The present Senate is Republican by a narrow margin and exceedingly doubtful on the Coolidge policies. Even a Republican Senator for Pennsylvania who is not entirely servile to Coolidge might easily "burn the roast" and everybody knows that Governor Pinchot is not enamored of the President.

"If you send a man to the Senate who is opposed to the President and hostile to Secretary of the Treasury Mellon," he continued, "it will make tax reform difficult; it will obstruct every administration policy and it will waste the great victory won at the polls last year." This would certainly be a sad situation for the campaign contributors who were promised reimbursement and for Senator Pepper who would be again relegated to private life, for whether his successor should be Pinchot or a Democrat the result would be the same. In either event the beloved Coolidge would be without a sycophant in the Senate from Pennsylvania and the Republican machine of the State might be headed to "the bow-wows."

—London girls complain of "ankle agony" as the result of short skirts. In this country there is danger of eye trouble on the same account.

Limit the Subject of Legislation.

There is one way that Governor Pinchot may disappoint the machine managers who are deprecating an extra session of the Legislature on account of the expense. It may be accepted as a foregone conclusion that in the event of an extra session the machine managers will make it as expensive as possible. They will prolong the session to the last moment, though as a matter of fact the compensation of Senators and Representatives is limited to \$500.00. But the wages of certain employees go on and other incidental expenses continue until adjournment, whether at the end of a week or at the expiration of the terms of Representatives which will be on December 1st, 1926.

If the Governor, as some of his statements indicate, will include in his call a considerable number of subjects, the opportunity for a prolonged session is presented. Members may wrangle for days and weeks over each of the subjects of proposed legislation, thus creating a mountain of expense, and turning the tide of popular opinion against the enterprise. But if the Governor will limit the subjects to say two paramount questions it will be practically impossible to continue the session for a period longer than a month. The two urgent questions are ballot reform and bank improvement measures. Holding consideration down to these subjects it will be impossible to prolong the session beyond a month.

It is understood that at present the Governor's pet measure is the giant-power legislation, which failed at the regular session. That it is an important matter goes without saying. The danger of an electric monopoly is increasing every day. But even at that it is a slow process and remedial legislation may be delayed a few months. The prohibition legislation the Governor has in mind may also seem to him vastly important, but it can wait until the regular session. But the ballot reform and bank improvement legislation ought to be "railroaded" through, and may be if complications with other interests are avoided. For these reasons the Governor ought to set the limit in his call.

—Some of the political dopsters have gone so far as to fix the date of the call for an extra session of the General assembly on the 14th of November.

President Coolidge Changes His Mind.

We are beginning to suspect that President Coolidge is basing his hopes of a "third term" upon the action of the Democratic National convention of 1928. In all his recent public speeches he has generously praised the wisdom of the good old Democratic doctrine of home rule. In a speech before the Y. M. C. A. conference in Washington, recently, he said: "The home is the cornerstone of the nation and any 'better-homes' movement must begin with the training of the youth for these responsibilities. What the youth of the country need is not more public control through government action but more home control through parental action."

This is essentially the theory of government expressed in the philosophy of Thomas Jefferson and advocated by the Democratic party from the beginning of the government. It is directly opposite to the theory that morality may be injected into a people or community by legislation and that sumptuary laws are effective agencies in the promotion of righteousness. Laws for the punishment of criminals may work as a deterrent to crime but legislation to punish criminals never has and never will inculcate the spirit of morality. That service to humanity must be performed by the parents, the churches and the schools, and the burden of the labor is on the parents.

In another speech recently delivered President Coolidge's repudiation of religious bigotry and racial prejudices indicated another departure from his previous habits of thought which was gratifying, though not entirely free from ingratitude. It was plainly a thrust at the intolerance of the Ku Klux Klan, though it may safely be estimated that a considerable part of his great majority was acquired by his silent assent to the operations of that organization. But his hope of winning the favor of Democrats by expressing such views will be disappointed. Most thoughtful persons will interpret him as a rather selfish seeker of favors under false pretense.

A Hard Fighter and a Game Loser.

As we said last week W. Harrison Walker had won the respect, even of his opponents, for the aggressive, clean campaign he made in his contest for the honor of being Judge of the Courts of Centre county. With a natural Republican majority to overcome and an impotent party organization as his only support he went into the campaign with the determination that the sheer force of his own personality and work offered the one hope of victory.

He was defeated, not nearly so badly as many predicted, and the majority against him might not have been as large as it was had it not been for the eleventh hour desertion of hosts of Judge Dale's supposed friends who went over to the support of Mr. Keller when they discovered that Mr. Walker was a real contender.

Bright and early Wednesday morning Mr. Walker was at work as usual—disappointed of course—that is human—but the same up-standing, hopeful gentleman you found him to be throughout his campaign. He had no alibis, no harsh words for any one and was just as game in defeat as he was in his campaign.

Considering the odds that were against him, the thousand and one saps that outcrop in a political campaign, we regard his vote in the county as a tremendous compliment that any man might feel proud at having received.

Mr. Walker has authorized us to say that he has nothing to apologize for. He said or did nothing to bring discredit, either to his party or himself. He is profoundly grateful to those who supported him and holds no grudge against those who did not. That is the spirit of a big man and that is why we admire him as a game fighter and a game loser.

—Judge Dale's vote on Tuesday was very impressive. When a young lawyer can step up and draw 3094 persons who think he ought to have had a position that has heretofore been given to only those of long experience in the practice of law there is something to think about. And we are convinced that if it had not been for the eleventh hour scare thrown into some of his supposedly consistent friends there might have been a different report to make today. We know numbers of the Judge's supporters who, when the acid test came, deserted him and supported Mr. Keller for fear Mr. Walker might slip through.

—The Shah of Persia now knows that absenteeism is an offence even when indulged by potentates.

—The election being over the real political campaign will begin at once.

A Melancholy Showing.

Was there ever a President so unfortunate in his appointments as the late Warren G. Harding? A most kindly man, but too trustful of his personal friends and a very poor judge of human nature, he was led into the selection for important Federal posts of some of the most monumental misfits, to put it mildly, in all American history.

Albert Bacon Fall, an ex-Cabinet officer accused of taking bribes, easily heads this list, though for sheer and unblinking betrayal of a most sacred trust it is doubtful if he was any worse than Colonel Forbes, former head of the Veterans' Bureau, now under indictment on most serious charges. Then there was Harry M. Daugherty, who turned the Department of Justice into a political machine and engine of oppression until forced out of office by indignant public opinion. The good-natured but too complaisant Denby must also be placed in this category, as the consequences of his yielding to the more forcible Fall were most serious.

And now comes the indictment of Colonel Thomas W. Miller, former Alien Property Custodian, on a most grave accusation involving his personal integrity while in office. We have no desire to pre-judge his case, but the fact that the charge has been brought by a Republican Attorney General, and that one of the leading witnesses against him is John T. King, former Republican National committeeman from Connecticut, shows at least that there is no partisan animus in the proceeding. The government is reported to be so sure of its case that it is ready for an immediate trial. Until then there will necessarily be a suspension of judgment.

It is not unfair, however, to point out that under the Wilson Administration, when sums of unprecedented magnitude were disbursed during the war period, there was never a breath of suspicion against any important Federal official. When the Republicans came into control of Congress in March, 1919, they appointed no less than 50 committees to investigate every phase of the activities of the War and Navy Departments before, during and after the war, but they brought to light not a single scandal involving men in high positions. Contrast this with the record since March, 1921, when the nation has been shocked and astounded by charges against men of every grade, from the lowest up to those of Cabinet rank. In prohibition enforcement alone there has been more rascality than under several preceding Administrations. It is a most melancholy showing. What do the American people think of it?

The Bottom of the Coal Pile.

Stocks of hard coal all over the country are beginning to disappear as a result of the strike which began on September 1. The pinch has already been felt in the East, and in the Midwest, it is predicted, the supply will be pretty thoroughly exhausted in a few weeks. Nevertheless, the public is not alarmed. There has been a singular absence of frightened appeals to miners and operators to compose their differences.

Instead of venting its feeling in scolding and threats, the public this time has been able to act. Household-ers who are the principal consumers of anthracite hereabouts, have come to realize that they can get along comfortably without hard coal. They can use soft coal, coke, oil or gas and stay warm. Some of the substitutes cost less than anthracite and none of them is without its advantages.

The miners and operators used to employ the public as a lever to force terms from the other party to the dispute. This time the public has refused to play the game according to the old rules. The chief sufferers from this strike will not be the public, but the miners or the operators, and probably both. The public heretofore has been a passive agent to enable an economic settlement to be made in the coal industry. It furnished the battlefield and counted the cost. A coal strike settles down to wait until the pinch gets action. When the empty coal bin begins to alarm householders the strike has approached the preliminary of settlement. Now the consumers have a chance to force a real economic adjustment on some other basis.

Anthracite is a luxury coal. Where its use can be enforced in cities it produces cleanliness. If the household can afford to buy it he does so. But as a necessity it is losing value. The substitutes can take its place. Substitution is a weapon in the hands of the consumer, and a willingness to use it will take the internal troubles of the anthracite industry out of the public battlefield.

The industry has been determining its methods of organization and production by determining periodically how much punishment the consumer will stand and what he'll give to avoid it. That's about as bad as subsidizing coal, as Great Britain has done, or it is a cruder way of doing the same thing.

—Colonel Mitchell will be convicted of insubordination of course but he has the military and naval authorities "scared stiff."

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Ground was broken on Tuesday morning for an addition to the Holmes silk mill, at Ridgway, which will increase its capacity 50 per cent. The addition will be completed by January, 1926.

—While hunting near his home at Ore Hill, Blair county, on election day, Glenn Bush, 18 years old, had his right arm shattered by the accidental discharge of his gun. He was standing on a fence, when he lost his balance.

—Charles P. Gerber, warden at the York county jail has certified to the county commissioners in connection with his monthly report, that the prisoners' food costs 23 cents each day. There was an average of seventy-one prisoners in the jail during the month just ended.

—D. G. Stahl, aged 55 years, of Treverton, is a patient at a Williamsport private hospital, suffering from a broken thigh. While following the casket containing the body of his brother, Benjamin Stahl to the hearse, he fell down the steps of the porch. An X-ray photograph revealed a serious fracture.

—William McCaig, a prominent member of the Allegheny county delegation in the lower House of the State Legislature, died suddenly early on Wednesday, following a heart attack. He had been a member of the State House of Representatives since 1912, and prominent in the committee on appropriations.

—After forcing their way into a hardware store where they stole a glass cutter, chisels, and flashlights, thieves early on Tuesday robbed the postoffice at Honey Brook, Lancaster county, of \$20 and later entered a restaurant in the General Wayne Hotel, where they stole a big supply of candy and smoking materials. The hardware store is owned by Eugene C. Wright.

—The death of Mrs. Mary Kaylor Krouse, of Cambria county, 83 years old, has brought to light the fact that although a resident of Conemaugh, two miles out of Johnstown, she had not been within the city limits since May 31, 1889, the date of the Johnstown flood. Mrs. Krouse lost her mother and a sister in the disaster and for 36 years absented herself from the city.

—Daniel Newman, of Mortonsville, Chester county, was drowned on Saturday when his automobile truck crashed through the guard rail of a bridge over a mill race near his home. The car overturned and he was pinned beneath it in two feet of water. Newman was employed on one of the DuPont farms, near Mortonsville. He was 45 years old and the father of eleven children.

—The man who about a year ago gave Williamsport police his overcoat for security on the payment of a fine was at police headquarters the other day and paid \$4 on an old fine. The desk captain informed the man that an overcoat owned by him was being held pending the payment of another fine. The owner of the coat stated that he did not want it and directed that the coat be given to some poor fellow.

—The Department of Welfare, at Harrisburg, has announced that information had been received from Fulton county officials that the improvements to the prison at McConnellsburg had been completed. An inspection by the State authorities will be made in about ten days, after which the prisoners will be brought back from Chambersburg where they have been quartered for the last year. The changes were made according to plans approved by the department.

—Unable to resist a sudden impulse, John Chick, 22 years of age, "carrying boy" employed by the United States Glass company, dived head first to his death into a glass furnace at the company's factory in Pittsburgh on Friday night. Before he succumbed to burns a short time later, Chick said he became dizzy while standing near the furnace and was seized with a sudden desire to plunge through the opening. The cause was reported to the coroner as suicide.

—Ehrman B. Mitchell is convinced that the meanest hunters in Dauphin county visited his farms east of Rockville on Monday. He granted everybody who came permission to hunt, but some of the hunters shot up his outbuildings and his apple trees, and one of them stole his hunting dog, a mixed black, tan and spotted beagle and fox hound, answering to the name of Sport, and wearing the license tag numbered 9890. Many rabbits were killed on the Mitchell farms.

—Announcement has been made that the Jamison City tannery will suspend operations the latter part of this week and the last hides are shipped. The tannery, operated for some years by the Elk Tanning company, will be dismantled. The industry is the only one in the town and following suspension at the plant the Bloomsburg and Sullivan railroad will annul one passenger train between Benton and Jamison City and later will petition for abandonment of that part of its line.

—William H. Hepburn, of Jersey Shore, started action last week, under the Interstate laws against the provisions of the will of his late wife. A bequest of \$25,000 was made in trust to Mr. Hepburn by the will, which was filed last month. The inventory of the entire estate, as filed at the office of the register and recorder, indicates its value at about \$350,000, and if Mr. Hepburn's action is allowed by the court he will receive one-half of the estate instead of the \$25,000 left in trust for him.

—Mrs. Lulu Mae Bressler, of Yeagerstown, was held on \$1000 bail on Friday by justice of the peace W. W. Wheeler, charged with forgery and obtaining goods under false pretense. United States postal inspectors and other federal officers have been checking up on the forgeries for more than a year and M. A. Davis, county detective, arrested the woman when she called at the Burnham postoffice to claim a parcel post package addressed to John Pederson. The victims were mailorder houses.

—Officers of the Third Corps area are endeavoring to account for the disappearance of Captain Theodore W. Sidman, inspector of the National Guard stationed at Scranton, who has been missing since he left Grove City on September 20. Captain Sidman participated in the rifle matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, in September and driving back to his post, was accompanied as far as Grove City by Lieut. C. J. Gridley, stationed there with the 12th Infantry of the National Guard. He resumed the journey alone and Lieut. Gridley says that within his knowledge nothing had been heard from Captain Sidman since that time, and that brother officers and other friends are at a loss to account for his disappearance.