

We greet you in this first issue of the New Year with an edition so bulging with news that we are more proud than ever about the Watchman.

We are told that at the opening of the Senate Senator Harry B. Scott's desk was "piled so high with posies that he couldn't see the speaker." The Senator must have been very happy in the midst of his flower garden. Strange how much better politics arranges some things than society does. One never sends flowers to "a dead one" in politics.

J. L. King, of the United States Department of Agriculture, has found an oriental wasp that will prey on and destroy the Japanese beetle that has recently been threatening destruction of our vegetation. More power to the wasp, but who is to find the exterminator for it, after it has completed its job of exterminating the pestiferous beetle?

The Cleveland, Ohio, Plain Dealer, in an editorial in its issue of Christmas day, expresses the thought that there will be objection in the Senate to the confirmation of the Hon. Cyrus E. Woods as a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Our Ohio contemporary pretends to see smudges on Cyrus because of his connection with the scandalous "slush fund" primary in Pennsylvania last spring. Very often a man is known by the company he keeps, but there are exceptions and Cyrus E. Woods is one of them. Because of his high character he was called into the campaign to do things through his personality and ability that couldn't have been accomplished had the "slush fund" been twice as big as it was.

The local clergyman who recently summed up the short comings of his congregation by deploring the fact that none of them would go to "an old fashioned church sociable," seems to have lost sight of the fact that all things are relative. "The old fashioned church sociable" has gone the way of the grab bag, the fish pond and the bean board. The few "old fashioned" church goers who are left to live in the past rave about them while their modern sisters and brethren listen tolerantly and plan for a dance at a road house or long for an invitation to sit in at a quiet little game some where.

Times were when the really good people devoted two, and often three, solid months of the winter to revival meetings. They followed that up with nightly attendance at singing school for from four to eight weeks. Those were the days when a boy who whistled on the Sabbath was "headed straight for perdition" and even the meals to be eaten on Sunday were prepared, all but the cooking, on the Saturday before.

Folks were doing that in Centre county, everywhere, only three generations ago. Then they began to move in from the farms and there was so much hub-bub in town that two weeks—sometimes a month—were long enough for revivals and "old fashioned sociables" came into vogue so that everybody could get acquainted with everybody else. However it cost money to keep the basement of the church warm enough to make a sociable sociable and there's where the catch-penny schemes of the church—the grab bag, the oysterless stew and the chicken-and-awful supper came to aid and abet the simple minded souls who can't understand that if "Salvation is Free" anything should be paid for it.

Now they've all gotten acquainted. Everybody has found out just who and what everybody else is and the revelation has been disastrous to the "old fashioned church sociable." The saintly old men and women, "the pallid praying virgins" of the last generation are gone. Neither simple goodness, intellectuality, nor gentility counts. It's who's got the most dollars? No matter how crude and rude, no matter how many peas he or she can balance on a knife, no matter that they "done it" or "have saw it" or that it "should have been did," no matter whether they are mixed up as to the relationship of the fatted and the golden calf, no matter how they got it, those who have the money today are those whom those who don't have it worship.

The "old fashioned church socials" are gone. Gone beyond recall and Rev. Thompson might as well know it right now, for he is the clergyman who raised the question.

A third generation is in the saddle, it has an entirely different and perfectly logical view point. It can't see through his glasses because it didn't have the same oculist. He need have little concern about it, however, because it will all work out in the end. The mothers and fathers of today who have been too busy with their own pleasures to attempt guidance of the mothers and fathers of tomorrow, are part and parcel of the cyclic evolution that is casting off the husks of a civilization that was nurtured in a period so benighted that it never dreamed of present day developments.

Yes, "the old fashioned church sociable" is gone. Gone for the same reason that so many who attended it are lying in the cemeteries today. It's course is run.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Repeating the Panama Outrage.

Since Theodore Roosevelt organized the rebellion in the province of Panama against the Republic of Colombia and supported it with a force of American marines, a quarter of a century ago, there has occurred no such disgraceful episode in this country as the recent intervention in Nicaragua. In palliation of the Panama outrage it may be said that it was not incited by selfish considerations. President Roosevelt wanted the Panama canal built for purely patriotic reasons and believed there was no other way of achieving the result. Therefore, as he admitted before a Congressional committee, he usurped authority, violated international law, and "passed the question to Congress for consideration."

But there is no such excuse for the recent intervention in Nicaragua. It was a purely selfish and sordid enterprise to put tainted money into the pockets of administration favorites. Under a treaty previously signed and ratified, the government of the United States stood pledged to refrain from just what has happened. But for the reason that a pretender named Chamorro, who bases his claim to the Presidency on a revolution not yet successful, hopes to sell Nicaragua's railroads to a group of New York capitalists, the administration has recognized his alleged government, landed marines on the soil of Nicaragua and occupied the seat of government, to promote his purpose, thus supplying substantial though sinister support to a usurper.

Senator Borah, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, has issued a protest against the proceeding and may be able to avert serious consequences. Secretary of State Kellogg states that the movement was a measure of neutrality, but after a conference with him the Idaho Senator declared that "the revolution in Nicaragua is being instigated and directed by eight or ten persons in Washington who are not Nicaraguans." In other words, a lobby representing a New York syndicate which desires to acquire control of a national railway system is organizing and directing a revolution in that friendly but feeble country and the administration is supporting them in the vicious enterprise.

Governor Pinchot's swan song was characteristic. Defiant and vitriolic to the last against special privilege in government he told the world what he thinks of those who are gathering to take up the reins he will lay down on the eighteenth of January. And, withal, we believe that most of the message was truth.

Senator Blease Hits the Bull's Eye.

Sane minds rarely have opportunity to concur in the opinion of Senator Cole Blease, of South Carolina. That somewhat erratic fire-eater appears to be possessed of a slovenly mind that gives expression to absurdities nearly always repugnant to reason. But candor compels the admission that his solution of the slush fund problem is not only wise but just. Mr. Blease insists that if the excessive and corrupt use of money to buy a Senatorial nomination disqualifies the purchaser of the prize from entering the Senate an equal or greater profrugacy in expenditure on the part of a man already in, seeking a renomination, should be punished by expulsion from the Senate.

The idea of Senator Blease was expressed during a discussion of the Vane slush fund in the primary of Pennsylvania in May of this year. He offered no defense of Vane, for there is none possible. But he cited the fact that while Mr. Vane and his friends, palpably for a sinister purpose, spent \$800,000 for the nomination, Mr. George Wharton Pepper, and his friends, for an equally evil purpose, spent \$1,800,000. If the disqualifying element in the equation is the excessive and corrupt use of money, and presumably it is, Senator Pepper is as culpable as Mr. Vane, and the fact that he is already in affords him neither absolute nor exemption from a just penalty.

Secretary of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon didn't acquire his vast wealth by broadcasting gold coins or practicing philanthropy among ambitious political friends. When he and other members of his family contributed so liberally to the Pepper slush fund it may be assumed that some influence other than patriotic emotion or fraternal impulses was responsible. An understanding, expressed or implied, that reimbursement might come through friendly legislation, as seems to have been the case between Mr. Grundy and Senator Pepper's associate on the Primary ticket, there would be involved a measure of turpitude that would certainly unfit him to represent a State in Congress.

Grundy Getting in His Work.

The impress of the heavy hand of Joe Grundy is already discernible in the proceedings of the Legislature, which assembled in Harrisburg on Tuesday. The State Tax Commission, continued from last session, had tentatively agreed on a report. Meetings have been held sundry times and various places since the adjournment of the 1925 session, mainly under the auspices of the Department of Commerce. The last of these meetings was held in the Manufacturers' club, in Philadelphia, at which the proposed report, was outlined and the first recommendation was a tax of two per cent. on the net profits of all manufacturing corporations. This proposition was promptly objected to and another meeting called.

This meeting, for the purpose of "revising and completing the report," was held yesterday but the result has not been officially announced as yet. Those on the inside say, however, that the revision is drastic and the first alteration consists in the striking out of the provision for the two per cent. tax on profits of manufacturing corporations. No doubt the members of the Commission imagined they were kind enough to the Grundy interests in fixing the tax at so low a figure and placing the levy on net profits. The proposition two years ago was a tax of four per cent. on manufacturing corporation capital. That would have placed a considerable expense on such corporations, but most men think not an inequitable share of the burdens of government.

Of course the report of the Commission will not become a law unless a majority of the Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly give it approval, and equally of course eighty per cent. of the people of the State feel that a tax either on capital or profits of manufacturing corporations is both expedient and just. But Mr. Grundy is a close bargainer and when he gave up \$400,000 to the slush fund used for the nomination and election of Mr. Fisher he probably bound up the entire Republican machine to conditions which will serve his purpose. In fact the speedy action of the Tax Commission in yielding to his demands on the corporation tax matter indicates that he is safe.

Nobody in Bellefonte is worrying much over Governor-elect Fisher's cabinet appointments, for the reason that no one here is claiming title to a seat.

Chairman Mellon as a Humorist.

Chairman Mellon of the Republican State Committee is not without a sense of humor, whatever else he may be delinquent in. In assuming control of the General Assembly at Harrisburg on Monday evening he said "it is a testimonial to the Republican party that the House should have so many Republican members." This, of course, was a joke to amuse or flatter the Senators and Representatives he was addressing. The records show that the Republican primary election in Pennsylvania last May cost Mr. Mellon and a few of his friends some \$3,000,000 and it is believed double that amount was spent. Electing the ticket in November cost Mr. Mellon and his friends half a million.

That there are so many Republican members in the Legislature may be a testimonial to the efficacy of money as an instrument in political warfare but hardly a tribute to the merits of the Republican organization as a governing agency. In fact Mr. Mellon usurped every function of the Legislature. Quay and Penrose in their time were more or less bossy at intervals, but neither of them ever assumed to take control of a legislative caucus, select the officials and dictate the policy of the bodies for the entire session as Mr. Mellon did on Monday night. Nobody else "had a look-in." Even the most boastful of the country members wilted when Mellon frowned.

The proceedings at the organization of the General Assembly prove that as a matter of fact there is no Republican party in Pennsylvania. There are overwhelming majorities in both branches of the Legislature of men who call themselves Republicans but they are nothing more or less than servile slaves of W. L. Mellon. Dozens of Senators openly declared that they would like to vote for a candidate for clerk whom they had promised to support but were afraid to do so because Mr. Mellon had ordered the election of another. This is not Republicanism or even manliness. It is simply slavish obedience to a purchased power, cowardly yielding to "invisible government."

Following two weeks of fairly nice winter weather it blew up colder yesterday, and the indications are we are due for another cold snap before the predicted January "thaw" arrives.

"Cry Baby" Politics.

The President's "Official Spokesman" complains that the newspapers of the country are too severely criticizing the foreign policy of the administration. The attitude of our government toward the contending factions in Nicaragua has not met with popular favor among the leading papers. The lame defense of the recognition of the government of Chamorro has not persuaded anybody and conditions in Mexico are not any more satisfactory. But the President thinks the newspapers ought to close their eyes and ears to these conditions in order that the people may never know what has happened. Thus in ignorance of the facts the public mind might be satisfied.

A year and a half ago an usurper named Chamorro, with a military force behind him, took control of the government of Nicaragua as director. After all members of the real government had been killed or exiled, the President resigned, Chamorro assumed governing power under the title of "First Designate." Without funds to conduct an administration he then substituted a man named Diaz as President. Presumably Diaz had money for he has been keeping up the pretense of a government ever since notwithstanding the Vice President under the administration which had been forced out of existence by the usurper returned and as legal successor became President. This bogus government has been "recognized" and is being supported by the administration at Washington.

This is a specimen of the foreign policy which the official spokesman of the President, in sobbing voice, asked the newspapers of the country to accept and approve for the reason that criticism impairs the influence of the administration abroad. When President Wilson was working his life away in efforts to establish and maintain in this country a beneficent foreign policy the Republican newspapers and the leaders of that party in and out of Congress were constantly and viciously attacking him with the very purpose of impairing the influence of his administration both abroad and at home. Now that "the shoe is on the other foot" they are acting like "cry babies" destitute of pride.

What is the Apocrypha?

The gentleman who asks himself questions and then answers them, as a department in one of the town papers, shouldn't be relied upon too implicitly by its readers.

Several weeks ago he told them that "G. H." had asked him to settle an argument as to "what is the Apocrypha." We have our doubt as to whether there is a "G. H." at all. We also have the same doubt as to whether he asked any such question. However that may be we have no doubt whatever that the editor of the "Query and Answer" column didn't know what he was talking about when he answered the "G. H." question by saying that the Apocrypha "is simply another name for the book of Revelations."

They are anything but that. So far from it that Protestants reject them both as inspired sources of doctrine and as reliable history. In general they are writings of doubtful authorship and authority and in early Bibles were given a place between the two Testaments.

We are indebted to Thomas J. Small, executive secretary of Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio, and formerly of Mackeyville, for a copy of the story how Ira Marshall won the world's championship as a corn grower in 1925 and 1926. The first year he harvested 1600.1 bushels on 10 acres. In 1926 his yield was 1686.6 on the same acreage. He plowed in March to a depth of 9 inches. Let the land lie idle a few days then double-disked and harrowed with a spike tooth. On May 8 he applied fertilizer broadcast. On the 11th he planted 4 or 5 grains to the hill, the rows being 32 inches apart. He worked his corn five times, starting just as soon as the stalks were strong enough to withstand close cultivation.

The new Legislature is all set for the coming session and "wets" have been chosen to preside over both the House and Senate. Verily, in Pennsylvania Prohibition is the paramount issue on every day in the year except the one in November that counts.

Quite a number of Bellefonte and Centre county people are making their plans to attend the inauguration of Governor John S. Fisher, on January 18th. The most of them will go as members of the Harry B. Scott club, of Philipsburg.

The Spokesman's Mysterious Appeal.

From the Philadelphia Record.

President Coolidge's habit of communicating with the American people through the medium of the White House Spokesman, whose utterances must not be directly quoted, but may be paraphrased by 50 or more newspaper correspondents, makes it a little difficult to understand the appeal to the press of the country issued from Washington in the closing hours of the old year.

From a careful study of the remarks of the White House Spokesman, as interpreted by various of his auditors, we draw the following inferences:

That the President is extremely apprehensive of the outcome of foreign developments, particularly on this continent;

That he contemplates the possibility of some step the taking of which will bring him open to criticism—capitulation, perhaps, but still a manifestation of dissent;

That he feels that his prospective action would be more effective in the protection of American rights and interests if foreigners should derive from American press reports the assumption that American public sentiment was unanimously behind it.

In these circumstances the White House Spokesman appeals to the press of the country for (1) correct presentation of the President's foreign policy, and (2) united support of it.

"The Record" unqualifiedly pledges itself on Point No. 1. This newspaper will correctly present the President's foreign policy whenever he sees fit to divulge it.

As to the second point, no self-respecting newspaper can sign a blank check. No representative of public opinion can join in a movement to support a policy so obscure that nobody knows what it is.

"The Record" is 100 per cent. in favor of the protection of the rights of American citizens, and of a vigorous diplomacy in that behalf, the world over. It does not imagine that there could be any division of American sentiment on such a proposition. What is the policy, or what are the policies, which suggest to the White House Spokesman the danger of injurious dissension? It is foreign to the nature of President Coolidge to take steps either drastic or rash. What is the White House Spokesman driving at?

Opposition to Woods.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Opposition to the confirmation of Cyrus E. Woods as a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission is not selfish at any point. Reconstruction of the Interstate Commerce Commission, with a view to impartial consideration of the great questions from time to time, seems to be necessary.

It is all very well for those who keep in the background to talk about factionalism and politics and all that sort of thing, but these same interests forget that they draw attention to their own peculiar and selfish interests when they point out these objections to Mr. Woods.

Great economic interests are undoubtedly in the hands of the Commission, but there is nothing in the career of Mr. Woods to justify any conclusion other than that he would bring to his duties a fair and intelligent mind and the recognition of interests of all the people, rather than those of the few.

Of course, Pennsylvania will have the usual deluge of criticism because of the envy and the political attitude of other States, but President Coolidge will not be dragged into any unfair attitude, nor will he submit to the dictation of those who would place him in a false position before the country.

Senator Capper Advocates Baseball Investigation.

From the Williamsport Sun.

The public has become accustomed to senatorial investigations but if one proposed by Senator Capper, of Kansas, is launched it will offer something entirely new in that line. The Kansas Senator has announced himself in favor of an inquiry into the charges against Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker. If this proposed Senate baseball investigation should be started it will attract more attention than a world series contest. It is probable, however, that a majority of the Senators will decide that they have enough work mapped out for a short session without getting into a baseball game.

Both are Disqualified.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Both Frank L. Smith, of Illinois, and William S. Vare, of Pennsylvania, are disqualified by the character of their campaign from sitting in the national assembly. It is no answer to say that Pennsylvania elected Vare and Illinois elected Smith, knowing in each case the influences at work in the campaign. Neither in the Smith nor the Vare case is there any need for drawing a party line. Both these Senators-elect, if rejected, will be succeeded by Republicans. The sole question is that of fitness. Politics should adjourn.

Try reading the "Watchman" regularly during the new year and we know you'll enjoy it.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Jack Burger, of Altoona, who was run over by his own automobile while he was putting on a new license plate Friday night, died from injuries on Monday. It is supposed that while working at the car he turned the starting crank. He was aged 45 and lived in Juniata.

The Collins Company, manufacturer of axes and edge tools, will move its Lower Mann plant from Yeagertown, Pa., to Collinsville, Conn., in the near future. The plant employs about 200 and its loss will make a big hole in the population of Yeagertown until some other industry takes its place.

Three unmasked bandits early last Wednesday held up the gasoline station of Peter Ritzo at Heistersburg, Fayette county, and got away with \$200. While the two men covered Ritzo with revolvers the third ransacked the place. The three men roared in a large sedan, in which they escaped.

Frank A. Boswell, alderman and collector of county taxes for the Fourth ward of Meadville, who killed himself Monday night, was short \$6,000 in his accounts, according to county officials. Boswell's check for \$9,402.03 for taxes was returned from the bank marked insufficient funds when presented for payment.

A lone highwayman early last Friday shot and probably fatally wounded Byron Walters, aged 32, Wilkes-Barre, and fled after robbing him of \$7. Walters, before lapsing unconscious, told police he was on his way home when the bandit held him up. As he was about to obey the latter's demands, he said, he was shot through his body.

The First National Bank of Elysburg was robbed on Monday by two men who handcuffed the cashier to a teller's cage. They scooped up all the cash in sight and fled in a closed automobile. The wife of the cashier, who lives in the second floor apartment of the bank building, heard her husband's cry for help and shot at the fleeing bandits.

A mother asked Pittsburgh police, last Thursday, to arrest her son whom she accused of the theft of \$200 which she had hidden in a stocking. The mother, Mrs. Jeannetta Rice, reported that her son, William A. Rice, came home after midnight, packed a suit case and left shortly afterwards. She discovered the money was missing after his disappearance.

A. W. Lee, Esq., of Clearfield, who had previously contributed \$50,000 to Trinity M. E. church, Clearfield, for the erection of a new parish house, remembered the Clearfield West Side Methodist church on Christmas by presenting its building committee with a check for \$16,000 to apply on the debt against the splendid new edifice now being erected.

Fire on Saturday destroyed a small barn owned by Robert Purdy, one mile south of West Chester. Three cows, one horse and Purdy's life savings, thought to amount to more than \$1000, were consumed in the blaze. Purdy, who made his home in a wagon shed attached to the barn, told firemen that he always had kept his money under the mattress of his bed, because he felt that banks were not safe.

Searching for a holdup man, officers Golls and Campbell, of New Castle, shot and wounded Frank Shervitz early last Thursday when he attempted their command to halt. The shooting occurred in the Baltimore and Ohio railroad yards where the officers went in their hunt for the robber who had obtained \$90 in a restaurant holdup a short time previously. They claimed Shervitz was stealing coal and ran at their approach. He will recover.

Roy E. Baker and Herbert Smith, stewards of the Moose Lodge of Lewisport, were held under \$1,000 bail each for the grand jury on charges of violating the prohibition laws at a hearing on Tuesday before United States Commissioner Samuel Lewin. Prohibition agent C. D. Lindley testified that 164 cases of unlabelled beer, three 30-gallon crocks of fermenting beer, and a small quantity of moonshine and bottling apparatus were seized in the raid.

Although 2300 volts of electricity passed through his body, Charles Welkert, a lineman for the Metropolitan Edison Electric company, at Gettysburg, was able to continue work on Saturday, none the worse for his experience. On Friday, in replacing a new line between Seven Stars and McNightstown, he mounted a pole and his body came in contact with the line carrying the high voltage. He was rendered unconscious, but was saved from death by his safety belt, which held him on the top of the pole until some of the other men went to his rescue.

Blythe Bullman, aged 50; Edward Sypher, aged 50, and William Aiken, aged 25, all of Brookville, suffered burns of the arms and face while at work in the pump house of the United Natural Gas company, at that place, last Wednesday, when an explosion blew out the walls of the building, causing an estimated loss of \$60,000. The victims were picked up many feet from the building and taken to the Brookville hospital. It was thought at first that the men had been burned fatally but hospital attaches say they will recover. They were changing the pressure of the gas when the explosion occurred.

Kenneth Caldwell, 20 years old, of Harmony, near Punxsutawney, had the big toe of his left foot shot off early last Friday when he interrupted the visit of a burglar in his home. Awakened by a noise, he arose to investigate. At a side window downstairs, he saw a man entering. He started for the intruder. The latter drew a pistol and fired a bullet into Caldwell's foot. The shooting was premature, or Caldwell likely would have been mortally wounded. At the Punxsutawney hospital a surgeon found the bullet lodged in the ball of the youth's foot, and the big toe mangled so that it will have to be amputated.

Squire Henry Miller, venerable justice of the peace of Swoyersville, Luzerne county, and erstwhile candidate for the Legislature, jumped into the limelight again, when, in his court, he sent Paul Benock, high constable, to Luzerne county jail in default of \$51,000 bail. It is said there has been bad blood between the justice of the peace and the high constable for some time over the settlement of a \$60 bill which Miller says is due him in settlement of a former civil suit. Benock was committed to jail in lieu of a bond. After reviewing the commitment papers and inquiring of Benock as to "how many men he had killed," warden Charles Boldt made an investigation and ordered Benock's release to appear when wanted.