

OLD STUFF.

—Reports of the Memorial day observances in Centre county brought to our mind more forcibly than ever, it seems, the passing of the Grand Army of the Republic. Here and there a few of them turned out to see those who are taking up the torch they have thrown down go through the ceremonial that once was a great annual event in the lives of "the boys in blue." There were so few anywhere, however, that one can scarcely refer to the "thinning lines." There were no lines. The marching days of the Grand Army are over.

Tonight, forty years ago seems only yesterday to us. It is natural that as time gallops on memories of events in our youthful years become most vivid. We are thinking of the three special days that the veterans of the Civil war claimed for their own each year and celebrated in a way that made them features in the calendar for every individual of Centre county. They were Washington's Birthday, when always every Post in the county served a turkey and oyster dinner. Memorial day, when the little folks gathered honeysuckles, peonies and flowers of any sort they could get to take to the Post room where women gathered to weave bouquets for the soldiers graves. Then the parade and the speeches and the longing for the next issue of the county papers in which was published the names of everyone who had contributed a flower. The third great day was the one on which the veterans held their annual reunion. It was usually in August or September and, as we recall it, the big picnic of the year, even surpassing in point of attendance the Granger's picnic that was then holding forth on the top of Nittany mountain.

Always, the last reunion that the veterans held at Spring Mills will stand out in our memory. It was the last of the big ones, for reunions and public picnics were just then beginning to have their genesis and picnic crowds were being split up. Today the county has hundreds of such gatherings whereas forty years ago they were very few and far between.

We drove to Spring Mills in a buggy drawn by a spirited pair of bays. As an over-all we wore the linen duster that had been the crowning achievement of our preparation for the family visit to the centennial in Philadelphia—it was a trifle small but we wore it just the same—owning a linen duster then was more consequential than owning silk pajamas now—Dust was anywhere from two to six inches deep and by the time we reached the metropolis of Gregg township our eyes, nose, ears and throat were secreting much of the granulated acreage of Spring and Potter townships.

Arrived at the scene of great doings, we, as most little boys are, were left to amuse our self about the Spring Mills hotel where the team was "put up" and dinner was an expectancy. The picnic was over on the hill behind the Bibby house, but we "wouldn't be interested in that" because, in those days there were no merry-go-rounds, ice cream cones or lolly-pops,—nothing but a speaker's stand, a lot of people wandering 'round trying to discover what they had come for, and politicians ready to answer that quandary by telling them where fences had to be built.

Well, being a good little boy, we restricted our peripatations to circling the four posts that held up the roof of the porch in front of the hotel. Many came to the hostelry, but not all of them left, because there were the days when a licensed hotel had to stretch its bar all over the map in order to give everybody dust-down. In front of the door that led to the bar was a woman, rocking in the only comfortable chair on the porch. If she is alive today she ought to have Wayne Wheeler's job. We always have thought she must have moved to Kansas and later taken the name of Carrie Nation, for what she told every pilgrim from the arid woods beyond the Bibby house was plenty. There the lady sat and rocked in the only comfortable chair on the porch, all the while berating the proprietor who had provided the rocker and was paying rent for the porch she was reigning over. Though she blocked the door to the bar and declared that the "hell-hole ought to be burned down" she wouldn't budge an inch because it was "a public house and she had as much right there as anybody else."

The incident made a lasting impression on our mind. Often we think of it and wonder how much the non-drinking patrons of the hotels of the old days owed those who patronized the bars for the comforts they enjoyed. Then three to five dollars a day for a room and board was the prevailing price in the better hotels. Today one finds difficulty in getting merely a room at such figures.

The wets no longer make up the deficits that hotels incurred by entertaining the dries and many of the dries were just as vehement in their denunciation of the hotels that were serving them at the expense of others as was the lady of the rocker on the porch of the Spring Mills hotel on the day the annual reunion of the Centre County Veteran's Association sang its swan song as the big picnic of the year in the county.

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Trying to Work the Hero.

It is openly charged, and apparently with good reason, that the Washington reception to the heroic young aviator, Captain Lindbergh, to be held on the plaza fronting the Washington monument, is the beginning of an effort to attach him to the third term enterprise. In other words it is the purpose of the shrewd politicians directing this undertaking to capitalize the deserved popularity of the young airman and entice him to enlist under the Coolidge banner in the contest to destroy the most cherished tradition of the country. The plan seems to be to induce him to be the Republican candidate for Congress in the district represented by his father for ten years, and thus make Minnesota safe for the machine.

Bascom Slem, of Virginia, is said to be the originator of this idea. The President had arranged to leave Washington on Monday, June 13th, for his summer vacation in the Black Hills. A programme for the few days preceding that event had also been mapped out, and what is known as the "semi-annual business meeting of the government" was scheduled for Saturday evening, June 11th. That was about the time Captain Lindbergh was expected to arrive in New York and be received with elaborate ceremonies by the Governor of that State and the Mayor of the city. Mr. Slem conceived the notion that such an arrangement might redound to the advantage of the Democratic party and induced the President to abandon his programme and invite Mr. Lindbergh to land in Washington.

The elder Lindbergh, during all his service in Congress, was affiliated with the Progressive party and was twice the nominee of that party for Governor of Minnesota. His most industrious opponent in these campaigns was Frank B. Kellogg, now Secretary of State. Commenting on this fact one of the Washington correspondents says "old Lindbergh got back at Kellogg for he had considerable part in knocking the Senator out and sending Henrik Shipstead here in his place." It would be unsafe to assume that because of the attitude of his father with respect to politics the son will entertain an aversion to the Republican machine, and it is certain that Mr. Slem hopes he will yield to temptation and fall in line with the Coolidge cohorts.

—One of the latest developments of the prohibition amendment is an increased activity in the search for antidotes for snake-bites. In the good, or bad, old times we all knew what to do in such emergencies.

Charlie Snyder's Retirement.

The retirement from the public service of the State of Mr. Charles A. Snyder, of Pottsville, under what is known as "the Retirement Act," has provoked a good deal of comment. Some of the comments are jocular and some censorious, but in whichever class they may be placed they are interesting. Charlie Snyder has been so long in public life that he has become an institution rather than an individual and whatever concerns him is "news." This accounts for the wide publicity that has attended his withdrawal from the State service but not from the State pay roll, to quote his own language on the subject.

There is some difference of opinion as to the amount of money Mr. Snyder will draw from the State Treasury, in the form of pension, from the date of his retirement to the end of his somewhat picturesque life. There is also a lamentable absence of information as to the cause of his retirement. As we understand it, the law provides for retirement of employees on account of time of service, physical disability or superannuation. If it was on account of time of service it would be necessary to calculate from the date of his first service in the General Assembly, and Senator or Representative in that body is not classified as a State officer.

It would be absurd to say that the debonair Senator or General, whichever title he prefers, has been retired on account of mental or physical disability. He enjoys the best of health and his mind is as keen and clear as his person is appropriately adorned. The only other reason under the law is superannuation and his youthful appearance and agile movements forbid the imputation that he is an old man. A more exact and comprehensive statement of his case would have helped the average citizen to appraise his claim to the pension he will get, whether it be \$1800 a year, or more or less. But that is left to conjecture.

—A convention of social organizations which will assemble in Buffalo, in October, proposes to analyze families. It is not clear what that means, but it may prove of great value.

Coolidge Not Entitled to Credit.

The other day a brief Associated Press dispatch from Washington informed the reading public that "settlement of the receiver's account in the Doheny oil case, under which more than \$11,000,000 in cash and Liberty bonds accruing from the sale of oil from the Elk Hills, California, naval reserve, is turned into the Federal treasury, was announced by Secretary Wilbur." It will hardly be claimed that this vast gain to the public funds is ascribable either to the economy or the efficiency of the President. It would be more accurate to say that it has been acquired in spite of President Coolidge. He would gladly have had it go in another direction.

When Senator Walsh, of Montana, was investigating the conspiracy by which the Secretary of the Interior, under the Harding administration, with the approval of the Attorney General, had sacrificed this valuable "oil pocket" to the Doheny organization, the Coolidge administration which had succeeded the Harding administration offered no help in the difficult work, but on the contrary interposed every available barrier to shield the perpetrators of this great crime against the country. Secretary Fall, having secured his share of the spoils, had resigned but Attorney General Daugherty and Secretary of the Navy Denby were still in office and full enjoyment of the friendship and support of President Coolidge.

The effect of this official relationship between the President and the culpable officials was to make the work of exposure more difficult. If Senator Walsh had abandoned the investigation on this account, as the late Senator LaFollette, who originated it, had done previously, the Doheny corporation would have continued the drain of the naval oil reserve until it was exhausted and the \$11,000,000 paid into the National treasury, the other day, would have gone into the pockets of Doheny and his associates. Besides, if President Coolidge had militantly taken the side of the people at the crucial time all the conspirators would have been sent to jail instead of being acquitted by the district court.

—Airman Chamberlin didn't reach Berlin but he got into Germany and beat Lindbergh's distance record, and that is something worth-while.

Safety in Industrial Life.

Mr. Charles A. Waters, Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry, has set out to make the industrial life of the Commonwealth as safe as possible. In an address before a convention of the various trades in Philadelphia, the other evening, he said: "One of the aims of the Department will be safety in industry. We want to maintain health and safety in Pennsylvania industry because we know how essential are such measures to the welfare of the State. If we cannot get 100 per cent. safety we will get the maximum permissible under modern conditions." That is certainly a worthy aspiration if approached in proper spirit.

Of course this purpose of the Secretary will involve additional expense. His plan is to increase the number of inspectors and compensation refunds and have them classified in the interest of efficiency. "By increasing the appropriation," he said, "I will be permitted to reorganize the inspection bureau and thereby cure some of the ills complained of due to inaccurate inspection. I shall be enabled to increase the number of inspectors." In other words, Mr. Waters is persuaded that accidents in industrial life are mainly due to delinquencies in the inspection service and that increasing the number of inspectors will remedy the evil.

Incidentally the increase in the number of inspectors in the Department of Labor and Industry as well as the increase in the forces of other departments augments the already large force of party workers throughout the State. With thousands of men and women in the Highway Department, other thousands in the Health Department and still other thousands in various other departments, the dominant party in Pennsylvania has command of an active army equal to the majority returned for it at every election. Mr. Waters may be an exception to the rule but most of the department heads are more concerned for party success than for industrial safety and efficiency.

—Now that the President, after a review of the warships, expressed full satisfaction, it may be assumed that "the country is safe."

—Aviation may be said to have arrived. Mussolini manifested interest in the prospect that Chamberlin might fly to Rome.

Reasons for the President's Choice.

An esteemed contemporary expresses an opinion that President Coolidge selected the Black Hills of South Dakota as the seat of the summer capitol because of his desire "to rub the evidence of his eastern origin somewhat off his exterior." There seems to be a superstition in some sections of New England that people of the west are prejudiced against easterners for no other reason than that they live east of, say the Ohio river. Mr. Coolidge, who is somewhat provincial, may share in this foolish notion of many of his neighbors, but as a matter of fact there is no such feeling in the "wide open" spaces of the west, and if there were it could not be removed by such an expedient.

President Coolidge had a much more subtle reason for locating the summer capitol in the Black Hills. The four or five States contiguous to the point chosen for the vacation residence of the President will send a considerable number of delegates to the Republican National convention, and the crafty politicians who are underwriting the third term adventure are anxious to corral that bunch. The friends of Governor Lowden have been confidently counting on these delegates to form a nucleus around which to gather a force sufficient to defeat the nomination of Mr. Coolidge. If a brief period in the Black Hills will lure the mountaineers to allegiance the President's action is wise.

Besides there will be a number of United States Senators elected in that "neck of the woods" this year and it is hoped that the summer capitol in the Black Hills will help the President's party in this important respect. It is a fragile basis for expectation but "a drowning man will clutch a straw" and the interests which imagine that another term for Mr. Coolidge is essential to their prosperity are in a desperate frame of mind. Moreover, if the purpose is "to rub the evidence of his eastern origin off his exterior," it will fail. The leopard can't change its spots and a Vermont Yankee will have no greater success in an effort to look like a modern cowboy.

—A recent ruling of the Attorney General of the State has affected several of Governor Fisher's recent appointments. It is held that members of the General Assembly and Senate may not serve as trustees of state institutions. This has affected Sen. Harry B. Scott's relations with the cottage state hospital at Philipsburg with which he has been so helpfully connected for years. While the Governor appointed Senator Scott to the board the commission will not be issued because of the Attorney General's finding. There are some who think that the recently discovered legal inhibition was dug up for the purpose of punishing certain party men who had not been for the Governor. We are not of that opinion. However Senator Scott's party affiliations in Centre county might be he has been too useful to the Philipsburg institution for any enemy, however blundering, to venture punishment of him by such means.

—A box car off the track at the sharp curve on the Lewisburg and Tyrone railroad, at Axe Mann, on Tuesday morning, held up the Lewisburg passenger train so that it was two hours late in reaching Bellefonte. Passengers, the mail and Philadelphia papers were brought to Bellefonte by automobile.

—A new acquisition at Rockview penitentiary is seven bloodhounds, purchased at Winchester, Va., at a cost of \$500. The bloodhounds were tried out, last Friday, for the purpose of trailing two gasoline thieves at Spring Mills, and trailed the men direct to their homes.

—When the American marines reached Tientsin they sang, "Hail, hail, the gang's all here," but the Chinamen probably didn't understand the significance of that salute.

—South Dakota has sent President Coolidge a license to catch trout in the streams of that State. What he really wants is a licence to catch votes for a third term.

—We are doing our best to develop real sympathy for Mrs. Widener in her loss of \$50,000 worth of jewelry. We never carry that much jewelry.

—The Hahnemann medical college has held out a long time against the co-ed system, and the yielding the other day is a triumph for women.

—The "Watchman" is the most readable paper published. Try it.

Game as a Crop.

From the Pittsburgh Post.

With a view to assisting sportsmen's associations, owners of country estates, and others who may be interested, to stock their land with the birds and mammals sought by hunters, the United States Department of Agriculture has issued a treatise on the subject of "game farming." Instruction is given concerning the methods that should be followed if there is to be a new crop of animals every year to replace those that have fallen before the gunners the previous season. The information should be of considerable value in States in which the game resources have been seriously depleted and where hunters depend on their own efforts to restore the supply. But in Pennsylvania there is little need for such activities on the part of private individuals because the Commonwealth itself is doing the work so well.

As is well known by sportsmen, more than half a million hunters go gunning in Pennsylvania every autumn and take prodigious toll of game. Not even in the wildest and most unsettled States are so many deer and bears killed as in Pennsylvania. Yet, notwithstanding the enormous slaughter, the supply of game continues so large that it has become necessary to kill some of the creatures out of season to protect farmers from their ravages. Within the past month, for example, six deer were killed in the neighborhood of Cook Forest because they were damaging crops.

Pennsylvania's resources of wild life have been restored and are being maintained by a form of the very "game farming" which the Federal authorities are advocating, and they might well have derived some of their information from our experience. The State has been stocked with animals brought from other parts of the country and released in sanctuaries or preserves, where hunting is forbidden at all times but from which the game has easy egress to the surrounding territory. The increase in the hunting license fee, authorized by the Legislature at its last session, is expected to yield the Game Commission \$375,000 additional each year, and the money is to be devoted to the purchase of more land to serve for game propagation and as public hunting grounds.

With the prospect that in a comparatively few years hundreds of thousands, possibly millions of acres in Pennsylvania will be utilized exclusively for the promotion of hunting, there is little incentive for private efforts along that line.

Peace with France.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

President Coolidge is said to be deeply interested in Briand's suggestion for a pact of eternal peace between this country and France. It is right that he should be. There is nothing impractical in the Briand proposal. Of course, there might come a time when such a treaty would be brushed aside. The people of America or France, although it is highly improbable, might become the victims of ambitious governments, or vicious propaganda or mistaken patriotism, and take up arms one against the other. But the existence of such a treaty of peace as is proposed would be a strong deterrent. Also, it would be a fine example for other nations, and no doubt would be followed by other such pacts.

Whether either the American Foundation Treaty or that proposed by Columbia University be accepted is not important. Probably the Senate would desire to do its own treaty framing, and France, too, would have to be consulted. The exact form is not a matter for popular debate at this time. The thing is for the people to show such interest in the proposal that it will be a very live issue when Congress convenes.

Captain Lindbergh has done much to restore America to favor in France. Our search for Nungesser and Gollé, whether successful or not, will do much more to further that good feeling. A friendly acceptance of the Briand proposal would clinch the thing. It is not a matter to be treated lightly. There is no reason why France and America should not pledge eternal good will. We have many things in common. Each has sacrificed for the other. The differences over debts were largely those of misunderstanding. The political marplots of France have had their day. It is true that statesmen of both countries gave attention to cementing the restoration of good feeling now so evident.

It Was High Time.

From the Washington Post.

The safety of the British Empire requires that the British Government should check the inroads of the destroyers. It is astounding that a government so well equipped for gathering accurate information should permit an enemy to establish himself in the heart of London, where he can co-operate with Moscow headquarters and all communist outposts throughout the British Empire in the ceaseless work of undermining the British Government. A break between Great Britain and Russia is inevitable. The wonder is that the British Government should allow itself to be hoodwinked so long.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYTSONE.

—During a heavy storm on Saturday night, lightning set fire to a building at the Woodland mine, near Mahaffey, Clearfield county, and while attempting to extinguish the blaze, Fred Patterson stepped on a live wire and was electrocuted.

—Stricken with a heart attack while canoeing on Perkiomen creek, at Springmount, Montgomery county, William Maurer, 21, of Oreland, toppled from the frail craft and drowned before help could reach him. James Smith, of Springmount, recovered the body with a grappling hook.

—While the Glen Rock High school baseball nine were practising, Russell Sterner, left fielder, hit a ball, which struck a sparrow which was flying across the infield. Most of the players thought the cover had dropped off the ball, but the dead bird was picked up to prove that the almost impossible had happened.

—M. A. Walbeck, 66, road supervisor of West Wheatfield township, Indiana county, hanged himself to a rafter in a wagon shed at his home, after telling his wife he was leaving for court at Indiana. He was one of the best known residents of South-eastern Indiana county. He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

—Appointment of Dr. George P. Donehoe, of Harrisburg, former State librarian, as historian in charge of the compilation of Pennsylvania's activities in the World war, was announced last week by Governor Fisher. Much of the data has been gathered and it is proposed to assemble the record of all Pennsylvania participants in the war.

—Five hundred and fifty loaves of bread, 90 pounds of butter, 150 pounds of picnic ham and 3,000 pickles, to say nothing of plenty of other eatables, will be served when the Besene Mission picnic of E. J. Berquist is held at Cascade Park, Beaver county, June 23. The food will be served by 30 men and 225 women under the supervision of Berquist.

—Robert C. Auten, of Liberty Twp., Mountour county, is entering upon his fifth year as a Justice of the peace and is believed to be the oldest Justice in point of service in the State. Commissioned May 2, 1878, by Governor Hoyt, he has been re-elected each term and has found a new commission awaiting when the previous one would expire.

—Facing charges of manslaughter in connection with an automobile accident, Charles Negel, 45, of Zelenople, Butler county, committed suicide on Saturday. Negel's car killed Victor Rice, and seriously injured Floyd Finler, on the Beaver-Zelenople road on May 28th. A week later he turned a shotgun on himself, blowing off the top of his head.

—The body of Bernard J. Naughton, 42, of Renovo, was found frozen in a cake of ice in an ice tin in which he had apparently fallen head first, while discharging his duties as night workman at the Jones ice plant at Renovo, some time early Thursday morning. Investigation disclosed the fact that the man had met death by drowning. He leaves a widow and three children.

—Four prisoners escaped from the Bradford county jail on Monday night while preparations were being made to take them to the eastern penitentiary. They are Joseph Pickett, of Towanda, and Raymond, Fred and Harvey Buck, of Elmira, sentenced for larceny. They escaped by sawing through the floor of the jail, dropping into the cellar and breaking out a window.

—Charles Williams, of New Haven, Conn., was arrested at that place by Sergeant C. E. Kauffman, of the Pennsylvania state police, charged with having assisted in robbing the Elysburg Bank January 3, when \$1200 was stolen. With Williams was arrested another man named Borill, and police say they answer the description of the two men who robbed the Conshohocken Bank of about \$15,000.

—While seated on a table with a celluloid comb, Edward, 2-year-old son of Joseph Lynch, of Georgetown, Luzerne county, thrust the comb over the top of a kerosene lamp on Saturday night and a moment later was enveloped in flames, and the comb a torch in his hands. The child's head, hands and body were so severely burned before the flames could be extinguished that he died a short time after being admitted to Mercy hospital, at Wilkes-Barre.

—Leon G. Myers, district manager of an automobile agency, at Huntingdon, is being sought on charges involving embezzlement and forgery, which may aggregate \$100,000. A warrant for his arrest was issued following his disappearance last Thursday. Cashiers of two local banks on Friday called on six of Myers' supposed victims and learned that certain notes and other papers were forgeries. These amounted, it was said, to \$40,000. Myers is reported to have lost heavily in the stock market.

—The will of Mrs. Minerva Covode Ruppel, widow of Judge William Ruppel, of Somerset, bequeaths \$10,000 to Trinity Lutheran church, the income of which is to be paid to the congregation annually and the principal at such time as it may be decided to erect a new house of worship. The sum of \$1,000 is bequeathed the Somerset volunteer fire department, \$500 to the Children's Aid Society, and \$500 to the Community hospital. These bequests are in compliance with a request of the late Judge Ruppel.

—Shaner Mock, aged 62, well-known Chester county farmer, was the victim of a peculiar accident last Friday morning. He was milking a cow when the animal kicked over the bucket. The farmer was quite peeved but contented himself with uncompilimentary remarks toward the animal. But when the bucket kicking stunt was put on a second time he doubled his right fist and gave the cow a haymaker on the hip. There was a loud crack and at the Chester county hospital, to which institution Mock hurriedly was taken, it was discovered he had sustained a compound fracture of the wrist.

—Tony Mangiola, 42, last of three brothers residing in West Scranton—two of them having died of bullet wounds within the last eleven months—is in hiding somewhere in Scranton with a bullet wound in his left lung. Mrs. Raffaella Simon, 33, who is said to have confessed to shooting him when he called at her husband's store Monday night and brandished a gun, is in custody at police headquarters on a charge of felonious wounding, while her husband is held as a material witness. Mangiola's getaway is considered remarkable in view of the fact that the bullet wound in his side is considered by physicians serious enough to prove fatal.