

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 72. BELLEFONTE, PA., JULY 1, 1927. NO. 26.

INK SLINGS.

Anent the commencement of work of remodeling the Moose theatre our mind runs back to the time when the late Daniel Garman built the play house.

Some weeks ago we were wondering what had become of the silver sugar bowl that the late Anthony Gatens always insisted he had snatched from Robert E. Lee's mess tent at Appomattox.

You might be wondering what we are writing all this old stuff for anyway. Truth is we have such an accumulation of it on the desk that we want to reduce the pile a bit before starting on our annual fishing pilgrimage.

Here's a Linn street antique: Do you know that the present Green home was the first building started on Linn street. The foundation for it was broken before Judge Linn started to build the second house which occupied the western half of the present Reynolds property and the late F. Potts Green lived sixty two years in that house and was continuously in the drug business here for sixty-five years.

Strange, but immediately under the memo slip from which the above was written we find a copy of a handsome brochure commemorating the semi-centennial of the First Presbyterian church of Bradford, Pa.

How many of you recall the McCafferty building that stood just west of the rail-road tracks, on west High street; the rambling, one-story frame structure that housed seven stores and two tenements and the "Holly Tree Inn" that occupied one of the rooms.

May Be in Extra Session.

Senator Wesley L. Jones, of Washington State, Republican whip of the Senate, is precisely correct in his conjecture that "until the Vane and Smith cases are out of the way purely legislative business confronting Congress will be jammed-up hopelessly."

The Republicans of the Senate have themselves to blame for the embarrassment which this question imposes upon them. In order to prevent completion of the inquiry into the right of Mr. Vane and Mr. Smith to qualify as Senators under their purchased and fraudulent claims, Senator David A. Reed, of Pennsylvania, organized a filibuster, presumably with the assent of Mr. Jones, the party whip.

Whatever else the political schemers in Washington may make of "Lindie" he failed to make him a militarist. He refused to wear the colonel's uniform provided for the reception.

Attorney General Sargeant Speaks.

The principal speaker at the first day's session of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, held at Bedford Springs, last week, was United States Attorney General, John G. Sargeant, of Vermont. His theme was prohibition enforcement and he threw some "hot shot" into the ears of the considerable number of lawyers who indulge themselves in the luxury of quietly consuming the products of moonshine stills.

When intelligent, educated men hold up to ridicule the rules for its conduct which society has made; intimate and by innuendo and suggestion advise that such rules ought to be violated; ridicule and revile as undesirable members of the community, men sworn to defend and enforce its rules, devote their intelligence, wit and resources to making crime and criminals interesting and attractive," the Attorney General observed.

Of course lawyers must defend their clients charged with offences, whether guilty or innocent. There may be lawyers who will refuse to accept a retainer for a client who is guilty, but they are few and far between, and even the highest standard of professional ethics places no such obligation on practitioners at the bar.

It is rumored that Mr. Coolidge doesn't want "Hel'n Maria" for a running mate next year.

Trouble in the Geneva Conference.

There is no just cause of complaint against the appeal of the delegates to the conference in session at Geneva for the purpose of decreasing the naval strength of Great Britain, the United States and Japan. Every man or woman engaged in any enterprise that drags along at a disappointing rate of speed urges patience on the part of all concerned, and that is precisely what the American, British and Japanese delegates have done.

The trouble seems to be that Great Britain asks for a revision of the action of the Washington conference. The representatives of the United States objected to this for the very good reason that five powers participated in that agreement and three have no right to alter or annul it. At first Japan was inclined to concur in the objection but subsequently, under instructions from Tokio, switched to the other side and dead-locked the proceedings.

One of the troubles which this situation brings to mind grows out of a suspicion that neither of the parties in controversy is exactly sincere. The American delegates probably feel that it is their duty to maintain the agreements of the Washington conference because it is the one achievement of the Harding-Coolidge administrations that commanded wide approval. But even that achievement is belittled because there is a deep-seated belief that it was a political gesture to embarrass the organization of the League of Nations, and that the present conference is more to confuse the League than to promote economy.

Chairman Greene, of the House Ways and Means committee, declares that the revenue cut to be made at the next session of Congress will not exceed \$200,000,000. What does he want to do with a \$600,000,000 treasury surplus?

Corporation Control Continued.

The reappointment of W. D. B. Ainey to the important office of chairman of the Public Service Commission clearly signifies that the utility corporations will continue their stranglehold on the throats of the people of Pennsylvania for "four years more."

During the administration of Governor Sprull the Public Service Commission was organized with the purpose of developing public service or utility corporations. Members of the body who had revealed symptoms for the people were carefully "weeded out" and others commissioned who favored the corporations in all matters of dispute. Under the auspices of these corporation agents utility corporations were given license to loot every community in which they operated.

Governor Pinchot, who had made a searching investigation of these outrageous decisions, tried to protect the people against these violations of the principles of justice but was defeated by prejudiced and partisan courts. Mr. Ainey, as chairman of the Commission, was largely responsible for the injustice to the public and it was hoped that with the expiration of his term of office he would be retired. It may even be surmised that if Governor Fisher had been allowed to exercise his own judgment he would have been retired. But the hidden force, the "power behind the throne," responsible to nobody and concerned only in party success, decided to reward him for "services rendered."

Judge Gary, head of the Steel trust, says he could have prevented the World war but the government wouldn't let him do it.

Judge Furst's Ruling a Disappointment to Many in Spring Township.

The finding of the Hon. James C. Furst in the much discussed Spring township school case, which was published in full in this paper last week, has been a bitter disappointment to many who are interested in solving the rather serious problem that confronts that district.

The matter has been in controversy for over two years and from what we have been able to glean is not so much a difference of opinion among the taxpayers as to the actual need of a better school building, with more commodious and modern facilities for the rapidly growing section about Pleasant Gap, as it has been one of petty differences as to where such a building should be located.

Since it is the fact that some of the schools are now being conducted in an old factory building, part of which has been condemned, it would seem that the children of the district are not properly housed and that a new building is to be desired. The squabbling over its location, however, grew to such proportions that all else has been forgotten and the district is facing considerable financial loss as well as serious delay in getting adequate facilities for the education of its children.

The turning down on a technicality, which to us seems insignificant as compared with the real merits in the case, has caused much indignation to some of the people of our community, who have listened to the entire court proceedings and are thoroughly convinced that the school board have acted according to their best judgment and within their rights.

Hence the directors called a meeting of the electors of Spring township, which was held in the court house the fall of 1925 and told them that a school building at Pleasant Gap must be built, and that the meeting was called for the purpose of working out a plan to finance it. This resulted in asking the electors to vote for or against a bond issue at November 3, 1925 general election. The bond issue carried by a large majority. After which a site to build upon was carefully looked over by the directors and members of the Department of Public Instruction at Harrisburg.

After selection of location, an architect was employed to draw plans and specifications, which were taken to Harrisburg for approval of Department of Public Instruction. Our directors were anxious to put up a plain, substantial building at the lowest possible cost. Their plans when submitted to the Department were turned down, and new plans with many alterations had to be made to meet state requirements. After approval of plans, letting for the building was advertised and bids for the building received; but as bids were in excess of what the directors thought it should cost, all bids were rejected. Everything that could be eliminated was cut out, and new lettings held, which finally resulted in awarding the contract to the lowest bidder.

Mr. James Longwill, contractor, who the putting up of building was

accorded, then shipped in a car or two of lumber and commenced to break ground for the building. Immediately after this, a few citizens of this place, who claimed they were not satisfied with the central location selected, insisting it should be built at the extreme north end of our town (which would have caused the children of the central and especially of the south end of town a much greater distance to walk to school) agitated injunction proceedings.

Boyd A. Spicher, H. E. Garbrick, Frank Beezer, Lloyd White and Thomas Beaver then instituted proceedings in equity to restrain the school board from erecting a new building on ground selected by them. A petition was drawn by their counsel and presented to Judge Keller, who granted them a temporary injunction. Later at the hearing before Judge Keller not one of the contemplation of statements contained in the petition was sustained, and Judge Keller told them plainly that they had no case; but on account of alleged errors their attorneys claimed existed in the minutes of the school directors' meetings, he allowed them to present a revised bill, which was strictly technical until after his death.

April 20, 1927, the case came before Judge Furst for argument. The attorneys at once commenced to argue against the resolution of the school directors, which was drawn up by their attorney, John Love, and acted upon at a meeting of the school board held August 8, 1925. (This resolution being somewhat lengthy and being published in most of the county papers last week, we will omit.) This resolution was discussed from all angles by the attorneys. Counsel favoring the injunction claiming that on account of omitting the words, "we express a desire", before making the resolution, etc., it did not comply with the law. Judge Furst finally told them from the bench that his court could not see that it was necessary to use that exact language. The fact that the school board did pass the resolution was sufficient evidence that they had a desire to do so. The argument on this technicality was immediately dropped.

Just why the Judge changed his mind on June 20, when he made the decree against the school board, making null and void everything the school board have been working so hard to do for almost two years, spending over \$2,000 of the taxes of the district to get to a point where a school building could be built, is beyond our comprehension. The court's decrees has been a body blow to our town that may take us years to recover from. People who are looking for locations to build where they can have all the modern conveniences of the modern school, are grievously disappointed about it only expressed it mildly. You will please pardon this long letter, but could not give you details in fewer words.

Respectfully, H. E. Holzworth will Stay in Fight for County Treasurer.

Howard E. Holzworth, about whom some question has been raised as to his eligibility as a candidate for county treasurer while holding the office of county commissioner, has authorized the statement that he will continue in the fight. He has consulted several of the ablest attorneys in the State and it is on their advice as to his eligibility that he will stick.

Mr. Holzworth has already made considerable progress in his campaign among the Republicans of Centre county and it is just and right that his supporters should know that he is considered entirely eligible by the best of legal advice.

For some time past there have been repeated rumors of illegal fishermen getting in their nefarious work on Spring creek. On one or more occasions fishermen on the stream have found what they believed to have been evidence of dynamiting, but so far no one has been caught in the act though game protector Thomas G. Mosier has kept a fairly good watch on the stream. Last Friday night, however, four men were seen on the stream about nine o'clock and there is every reason to believe they were there for no good purpose. The men had parked their car half a mile away and when observed each man was wearing a lighted miner's lamp on the visor of his cap. Some of them, if not all, carried tin buckets. To the men who saw them the procedure looked like an outline party.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Mrs. Frank Spunk, of Rummel, died Sunday night of a strange malady, believed to be sleeping sickness.

An all-steel train with buffet car attached will take more than 250 Elks from Shamokia to the annual State convention at Easton in August. More than a hundred members have signed up already.

Wives of Snyder county farmers who complain about traveling several hundred miles to buy their winter furs need worry no longer. T. H. Spiegelmeir, a merchant of Sealingrove, has secured a 147 acre farm to raise silver foxes.

Singing with the choir at the Rush Baptist church near Shamokia, on Sunday night, Mrs. Wellington Rothermel, 53, suffered a heart attack and died several minutes later. Her illness brought to a close the church services when Children's day exercises were being conducted.

The Rev. Dr. Jacob H. Diehl, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church, Sealingrove, has been elected executive representative of Susquehanna University by the executive committee of the board of directors to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Rev. Dr. Charles T. Aikens.

Margaret Miller, aged 15, of Johns-town, was struck on the head by a batted ball at an amateur game in that place on Saturday noon and died the same night at Mercy hospital. The girl recovered rapidly after the accident and was taken home. Later she became unconscious and a brother took her to the hospital. Death was caused by hemorrhage of the brain.

William F. Donovan, 52 years old, of Williamsport, shot himself to death last Friday morning rather than submit to arrest on charges of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Police summoned by a telephone call granted Donovan permission to step into another room before going to police headquarters and a minute or so later heard the shot which claimed the man's life.

A man pretending to be a physician drove to the home of Mrs. L. M. Kester, at Shickshinny. He assured the woman he could cure her of a disease which her doctors had pronounced incurable. She paid him \$100 retainer. Then he sent her for some pure spring water. When she returned she found the stranger had disappeared and \$800, concealed in a bureau was also missing.

David Bush, of Grange, near DuBois, an employe of the Penn Public Service corporation, met a tragic death on Friday. Mr. Bush, while working on a tower near Hellwood, Indiana county, came in contact with a high power line, and was knocked off the tower, falling a distance of 92 feet. He was dead when fellow workmen reached him, and it is believed that the electric current caused his death.

With a piece of fish bitten from his right arm near the elbow, William Hampton, a negro, was taken into custody at Sunbury, on Saturday, following a battle with his landlord, C. Freeman, a white man. Freeman insisted that the negro started the fight, but admitted sinking his teeth in the flesh of the negro's arm and tearing loose a sizable portion. The negro was taken to the office of a nearby physician where stitches were required to close the wound.

J. Calvin Haas is suing John DeHaas and Frank Rowe, all of Milton, for \$2,500, for the alleged barking of dogs belonging to Frank Rowe and kept at the DeHaas home, were Rowe boards. This is one of the queerest cases that ever came before the Northumberland county courts. Haas claims that the dogs, sometimes two and three in number, howl at night, thereby keeping his family awake. He claims that through their barking his wife has been made a nervous wreck, and that he has been necessitated to spend a large sum of money for doctor bills.

Four boys with red bathing suits they used for flags almost up the schedule of the whole of the Shamokia division of the Reading railroad, on Sunday, when they walked half way across the bridge over the Susquehanna river, at Sunbury, and flagged passing trains. A Philadelphia-Williamsport express and another southbound train were flagged. A freight was stopped, as were several other trains. Railroad police were notified and arrested four children from Shamokia, who were sent home in the custody of their parents.

Joseph Ippolito, of Johnstown, charged with murder and found guilty of manslaughter, was sentenced to serve sixty days and to pay the costs of prosecution in court at Ebensburg on Monday. The sentence was to date from the time of his incarceration and Ippolito has been in jail more than sixty days. Another charge of murder was nolle prossed and Ippolito was discharged Monday night. Ippolito shot and killed two men who are alleged to have called at his barber shop at Johnstown in March and who it is said threatened his life if he refused to pay a bill which was owed to a New Jersey groceryman by his brother, who was murdered at Johnstown a year ago.

The Supreme court, in an opinion handed down on Saturday, ordered the discharge from the western penitentiary of Frank Holniko, who has been serving a sentence of from seven to eight years, imposed in Armstrong county, December 31, 1921. Holniko had pleaded guilty to obtaining money by false pretenses, fraudulent conversion and conspiracy to cheat and defraud. For the first offense the punishment is a fine and imprisonment not exceeding three years; for the second imprisonment not exceeding five years, and for the third imprisonment not exceeding two years. Council for Holniko took out a writ of habeas corpus against Warden Stanley P. Asche, of the western penitentiary, contending that the sentence was illegal.

Jules Base, who lives along the state road near the village of Allport, lost a valuable horse recently in a very peculiar manner. He was plowing in the field adjacent to his residence when suddenly the horse disappeared and sank out of sight into the bowels of the earth. If the harness had not broken the horse would have dragged the plow and driver into the hole with it. The field in which Mr. Base was plowing had been underlain with a 5-foot seam of Mosshannon coal, which was mined out during the boom without breaking the surface. Mr. Harry Todd, of Phillipsburg, owns the mineral rights under the Base farm and when Mr. Base told Todd of his loss, he gave him a check for \$100, although he was under no obligations to compensate for damage to the surface in removing the mineral.