

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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INK SLINGS.

Mellon consents to Beidleman as National delegate for the Dauphin district, but it was a case of "Hobson's choice."

By way of advice—entirely gratuitous—to a Republican friend who is offering to immolate himself on the sacrificial altar in Centre county we want to say: Keep out of it.

We don't quite get the reason why the Vane watchers of the Senate's recount of the Pennsylvania vote for United States Senator should have quit their job "in a huff."

We note that the highways in Pennsylvania are to be renumbered. We presume that the change is one of necessity.

A case of miscengenation is rocking the Nutmeg State to the point of riot. You ask what miscengenation means?

The New York meeting of Pennsylvania's Republican potentates apparently resulted in giving Eddie Beidleman back a seat at the political pie counter.

It must be admitted that Eddie Cantor, who was taking down forty-five hundred a week, let Flo Zeigfeld down rather hard when he quit the Follies and the show had to close in consequence of his departure.

Who's going to succeed the Hon. Holmes in the Legislature? The Hon. Holmes wants to Jim Heverly, former County Treasurer, wants to Frank Mayes, former County Treasurer, wants to...

Well, Paal Whiteman and his band have been back to State College and we presume there are those who are expecting us to pay our respects to him, as we did following the occasion of his first visit there.

In our "Talks With the Editor" column this week we suspect that a correspondent is trying to inveigle us into an academic discussion of the proper use of the prepositions "with" and "to."

Grave Charges Against Pennsylvania.

In response to a letter from former Governor Pinchot, Senator Hiram Johnson, of California, last week addressed the Senate on his resolution providing for a thorough investigation of labor conditions in the bituminous coal fields of Pennsylvania.

As might have been expected the Senator representing Pennsylvania promptly entered a plea of confession and avoidance. "No one could exaggerate conditions in Pennsylvania," he said, "and all I ask is that any inquiry to be made be a fair and thorough one."

Senator Johnson's resolution was introduced a year ago and Senator Reed promised cordial support and sympathy with its purpose. His limping alibi now is that Governor Fisher is making an investigation of the subject.

Next Tuesday will be Valentine day.

Vicious Deal in Offices.

On Monday of last week W. L. Mellon, chairman of the Republican State committee; John S. Fisher, Governor of Pennsylvania, and William S. Vare, discredited United States Senator-elect, met in conference in New York and completed the most vicious political deal ever perpetrated in the country.

David A. Reed, who now represents the Mellon banks, the Gulf Oil company, the Steel trust, the Aluminum trust and other corporate interests in the Senate, aspires to re-election. His fidelity to his corporate clients and indifference to public interests has aroused such opposition that it has been believed that any opponent would defeat him.

Thus the political agencies in authority are contributing to the corruption of public life. One faction has offices to sell and another has what serves as currency to buy and both are influenced by sinister purposes.

Another Oil Magnate Defiant.

The oil millionaires continue their defiant attitude respecting the investigation of the Teapot Dome lease to Sinclair. Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the board of the Standard Oil company of Indiana, was before the Senate committee on Public Lands, last week, and refused to answer pertinent questions concerning the operations of the mushroom Canadian corporation which is said to have made vast profits out of the transaction.

While negotiations for the lease of the oil reserve were pending this Canadian corporation was organized. It purchased from oil corporations controlled by Stewart and Sinclair upward of three million barrels of oil at \$1.50 a barrel and before any money had been paid or oil moved sold it back to the corporations controlled by Stewart and Sinclair for \$1.75 a barrel.

Harry Sinclair, associated with Stewart in the transaction, has already been convicted of contempt of the Senate for refusal to answer similar inquiries more than two years ago, but thus far he has escaped the penalty. Stewart is now threatened with prosecution for the same offense but doesn't seem to mind it.

Republican Chairman Butler is threatening to take his National convention away from Kansas City. Probably they gave him a bad check.

Mr. Beck's Absurd Claim.

It may be safely predicted that the House Committee on Elections will report in favor of seating James M. Beck as a Representative for the First district of Pennsylvania. It has been clearly shown that he was not an "inhabitant" of Pennsylvania, as expressed in the constitution at the time of his election.

Mr. Beck set up the claim that his residence in Washington did not make him an "inhabitant" for the reason that it began in pursuance of his duty as an officer of the government. So long as he remained in the employment of the government at Washington that is true.

All these facts were clearly presented to the House Committee on Elections by Representative Everett Kent. It was admitted by Mr. Beck that since his separation from official life in Washington he has lived in New York and voted in New Jersey and that he was registered in Philadelphia club, until very recently, as a non-resident member.

Lindbergh at an altitude of 7,600 feet writes "I have just come out of the clouds." How Herbert Hoover must envy him.

Trouble in Pan-American Congress.

The Pan-American Congress, in Havana, is not moving in the manner desired by the administration in Washington or as smoothly as the royal welcome to the President indicated. Mr. Coolidge's glittering speech made little impression on the Southern delegates and the Hughes' oration, redolent with sympathy and profuse in promise, was accepted at a considerable discount from its face value.

But when the real work of the Congress was taken up the atmosphere changed as rapidly as the temperature of the weather in this latitude. Committees were appointed to consider the various subjects to be treated and some of them seem to have been packed to serve the purposes of Washington. For example, the committee on international law made a report practically justifying the existing conditions in Nicaragua and when submitted to the Congress it was vehemently denounced by an overwhelming majority of the delegates.

The truth is that the people of the United States, as well as those of the several Republics of the Rio Grande, are opposed to such intervention as is now being forced upon the people of Nicaragua, and so long as this country persists in it the spirit of resistance will assert itself in the Caribbean States.

In the regular report of the business meeting of borough council, on Monday evening, mention is made of the request of Robert F. Hunter for a franchise for furnishing gas to residents of Bellefonte from a plant to be erected at or near the Pleasant Gap railroad station. The magnitude of Mr. Hunter's undertaking can be better appreciated by the fact that the estimated cost of the plant, main pipe lines to Bellefonte, Lemont and State College, as well as service lines into homes of prospective customers, is close to half a million dollars, and is more likely to exceed that sum than fall below the estimate.

Probably those Pan-American delegates remembered that Charles E. Hughes solemnly assured the American people in 1920 that the surest way to get the United States into the League of Nations was by voting for Harding for President.

The Milton girl who recently advertised for a husband with \$10,000 says she "is a good cook and does not mind washing dishes." That sort of a woman is cheap at any price.

Secretary Kellogg says he is willing to join with all other governments in the world to abolish submarines. Mr. Kellogg knows that is an entirely safe proposition.

Workmen in Barcelona are quitting their employment as a protest against the income tax. Most people will think that a poor way of meeting the issue.

President Coolidge is perfectly willing to let all newspapers praise his administration and all other administrations in power.

Grundy will go to the convention as a district delegate but there is no record of a pledge to obey the big boss in the voting.

Automobile builders and dealers are about the only people who can get folks to pay for looking at their wares.

As a neighborhood landmark "the black barn" is no more. It has turned yellow.

Another Soft Coal Inquiry in Prospect in Congress.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Reciting accounts of shocking distress and charges of alleged oppression of labor in the soft coal fields of central and western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, Senator Johnson, of California, offered three weeks ago a resolution providing for a Senate inquiry.

That the prolonged strike has led to deplorable results is nowhere disputed. Senator Reed admitted that miners in some sections "are living under conditions in which no American ought to live," and he declared that the market price of coal had fallen until neither operators nor workers could exist, with inevitable impoverishment of their communities.

Undeniably the situation is serious enough to justify a searching inquiry, and such action by the Senate might be useful in attracting public opinion to the problem. But the truth is that the underlying conditions and the causes thereof have been notorious for years, and that the proposed investigation can yield no new information or make more urgent the need for drastic remedies.

Nearly five years ago, in fact, an exhaustive survey was made by the Federal Coal Commission; but its comprehensive recommendations have been ignored by Congress, although President Coolidge in half a dozen messages has urged legislative action. The Department of Labor likewise has intervened, but the conference it held a few months ago accomplished nothing because the most powerful operating interests refused to participate in it.

The fundamental cause of all the trouble is that the soft coal industry is overdeveloped and over manned, with 3000 mines and 250,000 miners in excess of bituminous consumption requirements. Unless the proposed inquiry leads to the complete reorganization, which alone can remedy overproduction, underemployment, low wages and a profitless market, it will be just another futile investigation.

Looking Toward 1936.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Rear Admiral Hilary P. Jones says that he "gathered the impression" at Geneva last summer that the Washington naval-limitation treaty would be allowed to expire in 1936. There is much reason to believe that one or more of the Powers involved would favor such a course.

But it is the other three Powers whose adhesion to the idea of naval limitation is most vital to the peace of the world. Two of them, the United States and Japan, have expressed themselves as reasonably satisfied. Neither would be disposed to terminate the Washington treaty, despite the fact that it could not be extended and supplemented at the Geneva conference.

The British have shown plainly their dissatisfaction with the idea of equality with the United States, even though parity is confined to capital ships. They do not like it and never have liked it. Eight years from now, perhaps, they will have decided that they can't endure it any longer.

Everybody's Newspaper.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Hopwood, able editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, is right when he says the only successful newspaper is "everybody's newspaper."

He cites the fact that we all have three great instincts—the instinct of self-preservation, the instinct of race perpetuation (sex interest), and the instinct of property and home preservation.

Any newspaper which goes wild on any one of these "interest-centers" is not a good newspaper. Any newspaper which ignores any one of them is not a good newspaper.

Editor has the right or the intelligence to set himself up as the infallible judge of what the people should or should not be told.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Frederick Herman, of Sunbury, drove his truck in front of a Reading passenger train at Lewisburg last Thursday night. It was reduced to junk, and when the crew went to look for the corpse they found Herman sitting among the debris, not having suffered even a scratch.

Hal Hughes, who is in charge of the Salvation Army barracks, at Hazleton has forsaken the role of an all magnate for service as a captain in the corps and he also has given up good chances of starring in baseball and basketball circles for the cause which he has made his life work.

One of the most unusual accidents reported in Shamokin for several months befell Mrs. George Shney on Monday. She was being led from her sick bed to bid good-by to a daughter who was leaving for the hospital when she fell into the arms of relatives. She fractured her right leg near the hip.

Coming in contact with a high tension electric line, while descending a steel tower in the mountain back of Seward, Chalmers Bracken, 17, of Johnstown, was killed. He was hurled forty feet to the ground and landed at the feet of eight of his companions, who had watched him climb to the top of the tower to blow a bugle. The boys were on a hiking trip.

J. Walter Sharp, aged 75, a resident of Castanea township, adjoining Lock Haven, died suddenly of heart disease when he was attacked by the malady in an acute form as he was walking near his home, Friday night. He entered a filling station nearby and asked for liniment, but died before a doctor could be summoned. He worked for the Pennsylvania and New York Central railroads and was a carpenter and marble and granite worker.

James H. Elliott, of Toledo, Ohio, was sentenced to spend from two to four years in the Clearfield county jail and pay fines totalling \$500 for passing worthless checks, when he was tried before Judge Chase at Clearfield on Monday, of last week. Elliott had located in DuBois several months ago and when he attempted to step out he essayed to pay his way with checks that had no funds back of them, which procedure brought him into the toils of the law.

Two Franklin countians, John Hammond, of Stony Point, and Cornelius Hockenberry, of Doylestown, paid fines of \$100 each to State Game Board officials for illegal collection of bounty on furs. The pair were arrested by C. B. Baum, division supervisor, and Game Protector R. O. Dunkle. It was said that both are fur dealers and took advantage of their business to collect State bounty on furs they purchased. About a dozen weasels were involved, it was said.

Mrs. Adah H. Kaufman, aged 28, former clerk for the Exchange bank, at Franklin, Pa., was convicted of embezzlement last Thursday. It was testified that she transferred \$4174 from inactive accounts to the credit of her husband, John Kaufman. She was acquitted on a charge of having taken \$8725 from a cash drawer. The husband, charged with conspiracy in connection with the transfer of the money to his account, will be tried later. He is in jail in default of \$5,000 bail.

For representing himself as a member of various churches, fire companies and several charity organizations in obtaining merchandise and funds through fraudulent check transactions, Lester McSherry, 27 years old, was sentenced at York, Pa., on Monday to serve three years on pleading guilty to charges of false pretense and passing bogus checks. He was also sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 on each of the three pleas. The swindler netted McSherry, he admitted, about \$172 in cash and a supply of merchandise and articles for which he had absolutely no use.

Six persons are being held in the Blair county jail on charges of burglary, robbery and felonious assault at the home of R. L. Wilt, at Duncansville. Mrs. Wilt, alone in the house, was bound and gagged, kerosene was poured on her hair and she was threatened with death until the burglars were told the hiding place of \$3,200 in cash, Liberty bonds and stocks. Mrs. Wilt was found unconscious some hours later. Persons familiar with the family are believed responsible, as the Wilt's only recently received the stocks and bonds, which were duplicates of others destroyed in a fire.

A search for relatives of Walter Dudley, former soldier, who was found dazed on the streets of Harrisburg some days ago and has been unable to give an account of his relatives, has been instituted by the Veterans Bureau, Red Cross, and Harrisburg Chapter of War Mothers. Major H. E. Barnhart, head of the veterans bureau, had written to two soldiers near Baltimore who were reported to have been "buddies" of the world war veteran but no definite data concerning his home has been obtained. Dudley is being cared for by the American Rescue Workers at their home in Harrisburg.

After a search that had extended over two weeks, James Rieg, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rieg, of 206 South avenue, DuBois, has been located. Young Rieg walked into a police station in East Pittsburgh Thursday night at 7:30 o'clock and asked for a night's lodging and was immediately recognized by Pittsburgh police as the missing DuBois boy. His request for lodging was granted and Pittsburgh Police R. R. Love, of DuBois, who in turn called the boy's father and advised him that his boy was safe in the Pittsburgh bastle. Mr. Rieg left early Friday morning for Pittsburgh to take charge of his son.

James Clayton McKinley, correspondence school detective and alleged fingerprint expert, of Lewistown, has presented his resignation to the courts of Mifflin county. The resignation was accepted without comment, and McKinley is no longer a private detective. Ten days ago he conceived a publicity stunt at the metropolitan of the Kishacoquillas valley, Belleville, in which he faked a note, staged a burlesque on a bank holdup and kept business men out of bed the greater part of the night. McKinley warned business men of the town that "a job" was going to be pulled by robbers in Belleville, so that scores of them remained at their places of business to lay in wait for the burglar. At two o'clock in the morning a shot was fired and McKinley says he was attacked by three men on the street. Later he confessed that it was purely a "hoax" and that he had ruined a perfectly good overcoat by firing a bullet through it to give color to his story.