

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION

VOL. 73.

BELLEFONTE, PA., MARCH 9, 1928.

NO. 10.

INK SLINGS.

The Soviets have asked Henry Ford to build a plant in Russia...

Poor Lindy! To get a respite from nerve-racking hero worshippers he has been compelled to enter a hospital for rest...

A head line in a Sunday Philadelphia paper announced, "Smith's Col. House Bared as Woman..."

Why jump at the conclusion that the story that a horned toad lived in the corner stone of a church down in Eastland, Texas, for thirty-one years is a hoax?

The blonde hammer slayer of Painesville, Ohio, is said to have sobbed when she was sentenced to life imprisonment...

Congressman Morin, of Pittsburgh, has withdrawn as a contestant for the seat of Senator Dave Reed...

Always there's reduction in prices of the things we never have prospect of having use for...

Writing from Berkeley, California, Charles Potter Miller expresses wonderment that the Kluxers have not taken our scalp...

What if Herbert Hoover should be the Republican nominee for President? What will the several farmer gentlemen in Centre county who turned Republican during the war because they couldn't get six dollars a bushel for their wheat going to do about it?

Scientists are divided in opinion as to whether the radio is responsible for the more or less vagarious weather we seem to be having...

If you would only mind your own business" wrote a correspondent the other day. Yes, what if we did? What a pale and anemic life ours would be, and, besides, the Watchman would become just as mealy-mouthed and inane as all the rest of the papers of the country that haven't an idea to express or, having one, are afraid to emit it for fear of losing a subscriber...

For the past four years we have been intermittently pointing out the folly of having a candidate for the Legislature from State College. We have endeavored to make clear the possible reaction on the institution located at that place in the event that an unfriendly Governor were in office and the member couldn't conscientiously support his program...

—Glen Frank is trying to "tell the world" that there is such an animal as a "sensible radical."

Vare Heeler Thrown Out.

The Senate Committee on Elections, engaged in recounting the votes cast for the Senatorial candidates in this State in 1926, found it necessary, on Thursday last, to expel from the room in which the work was proceeding, one Ben Fields, a Vare heeler, for creating a disturbance...

The trouble is that the committee wants to be fair to both sides in the contest and the Vare managers not only expected but are demanding favors which it would be impossible to give. In rage at their disappointment they create disturbances that not only delay the count but disgust all fair-minded men in attendance...

The Senate committee is charged with the performance of an arduous and unpleasant duty. In meeting its obligations to the Senate and the public it is entitled to the respect of all who are permitted to be in attendance. The Vare heelers of Philadelphia assume that the rules or lack of rules which govern their ward meetings in "the neck" are in order in Washington...

—With the Republicans of the country endorsing Harry Sinclair's contribution of \$160,000 in tainted currency it is small wonder that the Vare-Mellon machine hopes to justify the \$3,000,000 slush fund in this State in 1926.

Italy Talking of Tariff Taxation.

The Fascist government of Italy is preparing to levy a tariff tax upon imports from this country. The low priced automobiles, movie picture films and iron products shipped from this country have driven the manufacturers to despair and they can see hope only in taxing imports in those lines. The high price of labor in this country affords no help. Our mass production, superior skill and greater selling capacity are too much for them and they reason, justly or unjustly, that their government is in duty bound to intervene in their behalf by taxing us out of the market...

Of course, this view of the question is limited to the manufacturers of Italy who are in direct contact with the question. The economists and statesmen there, as everywhere else except the United States, realize that tariff taxation puts a burden on the many for the benefit of the few and hesitate to countenance such an injustice. But Mussolini is neither an economist nor statesman and shows signs of yielding to the importunities of the capital class. They can help him as the manufacturers of this country help the Republican machine and the burdened public can "go hang" and pay the increased prices for domestic commodities as the same element is compelled to do here.

A few months ago our government had a tilt with France on this subject and emerged from the scuffle with a more or less damaged reputation for diplomatic finesse. More recently the subject caused a good deal of friction in the Pan-American Congress, at Havana, which had the effect of practically defeating the excellent purposes of that conference and inclinations have recently been revealed to introduce the system in England, the reasons invariably assigned being that we have set the example, which is true. If eventually the system is generally adopted, in the spirit of reprisals, our manufactured products will be limited to domestic markets, which will soon mean over-production.

—Glen Frank is trying to "tell the world" that there is such an animal as a "sensible radical."

Republican Committee Got Sinclair Loot.

The trail of the Sinclair corruption fund is leading directly to the Republican National committee, though the movement is as sinuous as that of a venomous serpent. Four years ago Will Hays, who was chairman of the committee, testified before the Senate committee investigating the Teapot Dome oil lease that Sinclair had contributed \$75,000, in Liberty bonds, to a fund to liquidate the debts of the 1920 campaign. It was proved that these bonds were part of the lot acquired from the Continental Trading company in a villainous transaction participated in by Sinclair, Blackmer, O'Neil and Stewart. Thus tainted it served the evil purposes of electing Warren G. Harding President.

The other day Mr. Hays testified before the Senate committee on Public Lands and raised the Sinclair contribution from \$75,000 to \$160,000. The bonds were distributed among prominent Republican politicians and paid in in smaller amounts so as to conceal the real source of supply, thus revealing full knowledge on the part of Hays, Upham, treasurer of the committee; John W. Weeks, Secretary of War in the Harding administration; John W. Pratt, of the Standard Oil company, and T. Coleman DuPont, of Delaware, president of a bank which had loaned the committee a large sum of money. The only other big contributor to the fund was Daniel G. Reid, head of the Tinplate trust, who gave \$100,000.

This large sum of money, literally stolen from the people of the United States, with the taint of corruption plainly written on the face of each bond, was accepted by these eminent respectable gentlemen, some of them church officials, and employed in the corruption of voters and polluting the ballot. It is through this method of controlling elections that the perpetuity of our government is imperiled. No institution, however meritorious, thus based on fraud can endure, and it is the first duty of every good citizen to put his or her stamp of condemnation upon it. Preparations are now in progress to control the election of this year by the same method. Will the people permit it to succeed?

—Now that the richest diamond mine of record has been discovered owners of precious stones are afraid they will become too common.

Monkey Wrench in the Machinery.

Congressman Robert Grey Bushong, Republican of the Berks-Lehigh district, has thrown a monkey wrench into the Vare-Mellon machine that is certain to do much damage. In a statement, issued the other day, he says: "Although I have been a fairly consistent Republican since I first voted in 1904, I am not willing to be a member of that party in Pennsylvania with the present organization in control. I am unwilling to co-operate with the Vare organization in Philadelphia or with any leadership which deals or confers with them. I regret exceedingly that Senator Reed saw fit, in the last session of Congress, to lead a filibuster which prevented much legislation merely to save Mr. Vare."

This expression of Congressman Bushong is simply an early symptom of an aroused public conscience in Pennsylvania. The excessive use of money in the Republican primary campaign of 1926, when nearly three million dollars were expended by and for three candidates for the office of Senator in Congress, shocked the fair minded men of all parties and admonished all clear thinking voters of an impending danger that important party favors are bestowed, not upon merit, but upon the ability and willingness to pay. The source of the corruption fund is a subject of equal concern. The largest amount came from predatory corporations and the next from criminal combinations in and about Philadelphia.

If the Republican party leaders had shown a spirit of regret at the exposure of these crimes against the public morals, there might have arisen a hope of improvement, and under the guidance of men of character and conscience like Congressman Bushong an organization based on justice and patriotism created. But the opposite result happened. The Republican administration and the Republican organization not only justified the crimes but approved the culprits. Under those conditions there is nothing for men and women of character and conscience to do except what Mr. Bushong has done. That is to separate from a group of self-appointed leaders with whom he does not care to associate.

—It begins to look as if the Democrats are preparing for another fiasco like that held in New York four years ago.

An Important but Misplaced Investigation.

If the resolution introduced by Senator Wagner, Democrat, of New York, "to investigate and report on unemployment throughout the country had been committed to a special committee of Congress instead of the Secretary of the Department of Labor, higher appraisal of its value might have been expected. As Senator Wagner stated in support of his resolution, it was provoked "by administration expressions as to prosperity." In the preamble to the resolution it is declared that "it is apparent that the United States is now suffering from a decided growth of unemployment and no nation-wide statistics of unemployment in the United States are anywhere available."

Such an investigation, to be of any value at all, must be searching, thorough and completely free of politics. For months a propaganda, directed by the President and chorused by the monopolists and six-figure income receivers, has been singing a song of prosperity for the purpose of misleading ill-informed voters. There has been no healthful prosperity in any section of the country within a period of several years. Some of the larger corporations have prospered amazingly and stock manipulators have been able to place fictitious values on speculative properties. But the activities in stock speculations and the operations in trade exchanges are not signs of prosperity.

The Secretary of Labor in the Coolidge administration is a machine politician. While the Wagner resolution was under discussion in the Senate Mr. Smoot, of Utah, handed him the official tip to make his investigation helpful to the Republican party. He said the talk of excessive unemployment is attributable "to the imminence of the Presidential campaign." The false and fraudulent claims of prosperity are due to the imminence of the Presidential campaign and the widespread and distressing unemployment is a lamentable fact, as a thorough investigation will conclusively prove. It is to be hoped that Secretary Davis will make such an investigation, but it is doubtful.

—If Orville Wright was only blabbing when he threatened to send the original Wright plane to England he "took the pot." The Smithsonian Institution is recanting.

Over-Organization.

An effort is to be made to organize a post here of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. As soldier organizations we already have a machine gun troop, the G. A. R., Spanish American War Veterans Ass'n, and the American Legion. While we have no thought of throwing cold water on the new proposal the matter of over-organization in everything is a subject worthy serious thought. It has come to such a pass that the average man and woman has joined so many lodges, auxiliaries, spiritual, social and civic organizations that we were they to give all the time their pledge obligated them for they would have none left for the duties that provide their bread and butter.

The American people seem to have a mania for organizing something and joining everything that offers membership and a different kind of button. Due to overlapping of purposes there is a colossal waste of time and energy and there is no estimating the amount of money that is frittered away in dues and contributions.

We think that we are not far from the truth when we express the belief that over-organization would end abruptly were there no provision for salaries or traveling expenses for the organizers. In fact we will go so far as to say that fifty per cent of the organizations now in existence would lapse into desuetude if those at their heads had to work for nothing more than love and loyalty to the cause.

The decision of Senator Walsh, of Montana, to permit the use of his name in the presidential primaries of our party will be pleasant news to some Democrats. To those who have been organizing against Al Smith because he is wet—when the real objection is because he is a Catholic—Senator Walsh offers the opportunity of either proving their consistency or revealing their hypocrisy. Senator Walsh is a Catholic, but notoriously dry, and one of the ablest men in the country.

—Marshall Diaz, head of the Italian army, left little property but plenty of war relics and an illustrious record in achievement.

—Will Hays made a poor spectacle in the oil investigation, the other day, and now cuts a bad figure as a church elder.

A Word for the Old Stuff.

From an Exchange.

Modern man has grown exceedingly impatient of "old stuff." It is so stale, flat, commonplace, platitudinous. Old creeds and charters and constitutions, old truths, old viewpoints, old days and ways—all so lamed and crippled by the smashing impact of the new and up-to-date.

And yet there is something to be said for the old stuff. I may be all wrong, the junk and jumble and fumble of old-time inferiorities and incompetencies. But, after all, it has come through and stood the wreck and storms of time.

And then the new has such a way of flashing in and flicking out. The curb was long ago described as the man who never learns anything new nor forgets anything old; and there is a sort of solidity and dependability about that, to say the least.

But the big fact that fortifies the "old stuff" is that all the reliables are so infinitely old and changeless. There is the sun, for example, one of the very oldest pieces of property we have—such plodding regularity, such a minute immensity of service and beneficence, and yet so tame and commonplace that no one ever gives it a second thought.

And the wind. What a has-been! No one has to make an argument to prove the wind. No party or sectarian splits can be built upon the atmosphere. All any one has to do is just to breathe and live. And the rain—the very commonest and also the most troublesome item in the list of ancient and troublesome things. And yet what a perfectly marvelous system of condensation, pumpage, haulage, cloud transportation, precipitation and distribution! One can grow quite enthusiastic about the rain when it is examined closely, although one never takes the time to do it.

Sun-and-wind-rain doctrine. Old stuff enough for any one. It is the habit nowadays to say that Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence is old and faded and decrepit; and it is. But let any one propose to make a retraction and delete the Declaration of its "glittering generalities" and "iridescent dreams," and how the fur would fly! For, after all, there is something in the "old stuff."

Federal Control of Interstate Motor Traffic.

From the Philadelphia Record.

In their determined resistance to what they call unfair and confiscatory competition by motor vehicles, the railroads have appealed to the Interstate Commerce Commission. Seven of them have presented a petition urging that body to recommend control over the authorization and regulation of interstate transportation by motor bus and motor truck lines. The demand is based especially upon destructive competition from motorized traffic across the Delaware River at Philadelphia and across the Hudson between New York city and New Jersey points, among the petitioners being the Pennsylvania and Reading companies and their subsidiaries operating to seashore points.

Admitting that the problem is complex and has given rise to wide differences of opinion, the railroads assert there is general agreement upon the need for some kind of regulation of interstate motor traffic. Complaining of heavy losses in revenue due to the diversion of business, they contend that the uncontrolled competition is inequitable, since the railroads have heavy investments in rights of way and roadbeds, while the motor vehicles use facilities provided at public expense. The railroads are also required to give adequate service, and their earnings are limited by law, while their competitors are unregulated in both respects. The matter of public conveniences is likewise of vital importance; indiscriminate development of motor transportation results in damaging curtailment of rail facilities. Obviously the two systems should be developed in harmony, if not co-ordinated, and Federal regulation of commercial interstate motor traffic would seem an urgently necessary first step.

A Well-Earned Rest.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Friends of Colonel Lindbergh everywhere will hope that the long rest from public activities he plans will restore him to the full freshness and vigor of health he has constantly endangered since his momentous flight to Europe.

Unknown a year ago, the world's best known and most generally admired citizen today; poor to the point of subsisting from pay day to pay day twelve months ago, today comfortably well off; a humble private citizen last spring; a distinguished public servant now. Who has ever accomplished more for himself and his country in such a brief period?

The young man has won his rest. But we have not heard the last of him. An individual of his qualities and dynamic possibilities simply can't be kept long in the background.

—Chief Justice Von Moschzisker seems to think that the judges and district attorneys are partly responsible for the too frequent miscarriages of justice in criminal prosecutions.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—In an attempt to check the spread of scarlet fever prevalent at Erie, city health officer Dr. J. R. Smith, issued orders forbidding children under 16 years of age to attend theatres, Sunday schools and movies.

—The large bank barn on the farm of Miss Sadie Shilling, near Mackeyville, was destroyed by fire last Wednesday night, the loss approximating \$5,000. Her brother, Ellis Shilling, was on the second floor of the barn when his lantern upset and he barely escaped through the burning hay.

—Evelyn Bennett, 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey Bennett, east Church street, Lock Haven, was severely scalded about both legs, when she tipped a tea kettle of boiling water over her as she was hanging a towel on a line above the stove at her home, Thursday night. She is expected to recover.

—A swimming pool for female patients at the State hospital at Danville, is under construction for use as a part of the treatment of mental cases, and if the plan works out as expected in accord with the prevailing belief that sunshine and baths do much to aid in recovery, a similar pool will be constructed for the male patients.

—John (Shag) Hall, 63, a bricklayer, of Lewistown, is at the Lewistown hospital with three ribs torn loose from his backbone and other injuries. Hall was found in the alley in the rear of the Coleman hotel and taken to the hospital. One of the fractured ribs had punctured his left lung and his condition is critical.

—Arrangements for the first commencement exercises at the Patton industrial school, Masontown, at Elizabethtown, will be made at a meeting of trustees on Saturday. Nine boys, seven of whom are studying the course in carpentry work and two bricklayers, will receive diplomas. Graduation exercises will be held April 5.

—Locomotive No. 6859 eastbound on the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad jumped the track, on Sunday, and wrecked thirteen steel hoppers at Longfellow, Mifflin county. Three of the four trucks were blocked and the tracks badly damaged. Lewistown and Altoona wrecking crews were called to clean away the debris and repair the tracks.

—Clarence Emmet, Mifflinburg forger, escaped from the Shamokin jail Saturday morning. When Sheriff Flock went to the prisoner he found a vacant cell, an instrument used for picking locks and a screen that had been removed from a corridor window. A search is being conducted. Emmet's criminal career started in January, when he found the right road to the Lewisburg jail by check forgery.

—Howard Ward, of McVeytown, 40 years old, woke up in a snow storm late Sunday night with his pockets rifled of \$20 and some change, and an ugly bruise on the back of his head. Ward drives the bus between the Viscoe plant and McVeytown, which carries employees to and from work. He had put away the bus and was making his way homeward when some one slugged him from behind and relieved him of the cash taken in on the trip, plus the change.

—Elwin Graybill, 16 years old, of Lancaster, pounded a .22 calibre rifle on the floor of his bed-room Sunday morning as a reminder that the playing of a phonograph in a room beneath was disturbing his sleep and the rifle discharged, wounding the boy in the face. The bullet lodged in his cheek after tearing four teeth from the upper jaw. Hospital attendants say his condition is favorable. The boy's father, who returned home shortly after 6 a. m., was the one playing the phonograph.

—A family of ten persons living in a one-roomed shack with seventeen goats, fifty chickens and two horses was discovered by G. Gessler, an agent of the Humane society. The almost unbelievable discovery was made in Penn township, near Grapeville, Westmoreland county, at the one-room shack of Thomas Patrick, 45. The family consisted of Patrick, his wife, Anna, 44, and eight children ranging in age from 1 to 14 years. The ten persons slept in a cot and one bed. They had little clothing or food. Patrick was arrested.

—The American Legion of Pennsylvania at a departmental meeting in Philadelphia, last Saturday, put its shoulder to the wheel to bring about establishment in every county of the State of a memorial park of from 500 to 1,000 acres, to be used by the community at large for a camping site, picnics, athletics and the holding of patriotic observances. These areas would serve the further purpose of providing opportunity for ex-service men who have left hospitals as convalescents to find wholesome outdoor occupation in reforestation work.

—His life savings swept away in the failure of the Carnegie Trust company, William Pendleton, of Carnegie, decided he in the future would bank his own money, and he did so in a feather pillow. Pendleton, a negro, employed by the borough for many years, had accumulated \$700 when fire destroyed his home. Thinking that his pillow bank had been burned, he had little hope of finding his hoarded wealth. When the embers had cooled suddenly he began a hunt and found the pillow, untouched by fire, in the ruins. The money was intact.

—Torrence G. Kechner, 38, assistant ticket seller at the Nesquehanna station of the Pennsylvania railroad, was arrested on Monday charged with robbing the mails. Police said he confessed, stating that he had been stealing parcel post and express packages for more than five years. Three truck loads of loot, including auto accessories and radio parts, were said to have been found in his home. Kechner was held for a hearing before United States Commissioner Roscoe Smith at Wilkes-Barre. The prisoner has been in the employ of the Pennsylvania railroad for 18 years. He is married and has four children.

—William Wilhelm and C. F. Boley, two defendants now in jail at Pottsville, charged with libel on Congressman Cyrus Palmer, were heard by Judge Whitehouse on Monday on an application for parole. Palmer appeared as opposing the granting of the parole at this time, and asked Wilhelm and Boley, who were placed on the witness stand, several questions as to their future conduct, if released. Petitions from nearly 1,200 citizens of Pottsville were presented, asking for immediate parole, which the Court agreed to take under consideration. Meantime, action was deferred. The defendants were sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment and have been in jail two weeks.