

If Mexico survives the shock incident to the assassination of President-elect Obregon there is a basis for hope of a stable government in the future.

Bank resources in Pennsylvania show fine increases, but it is not certain whether greater profits or diminished enterprise in business is responsible.

John Sharp Williams, "the Grand Old Man" of Mississippi, is enthusiastic for Smith and Robinson, and the people of the South listen when he speaks.

Mayor Walker, of New York, is home from an extended tour of the West loaded with confidence that Governor Smith will be elected. And Jimmy Walker is a famous guesser.

The craze for trans-Atlantic flying received a serious setback on Monday. New York didn't make any fuss over the Courtney crew that they would want to write back home about.

It's amazing how clearly a number of Republican Senators see the necessity for a revision of the tariff. They see it only because they can't see so clearly the election of Mr. Hoover.

With the thermometer hanging around the nineties for the last two or three weeks, we are wondering what has become of those scientists who were so busy trying to convince us that the world is gradually cooling off.

More power to the arm of the law in New York. At least enough power to give "Tex" Guinan the legal spanking she so richly deserves. A long trip to Atlanta for that female would, we should say, eliminate some of the pestilence that walketh in the darkness.

We are genuinely glad to note that Senator-elect William S. Vare is recovering from the stroke of paralysis that a few days ago was feared would prove fatal. As the head of a rotten political machine Senator Vare is one thing. As a private citizen possessed of a pleasing personality and many estimable qualities he is quite another. We are sincere when we say that we hope he may survive his present serious illness, because we have always felt that Bill Vare would see the glory that would be his if his political life were patterned more after his private life.

In the August issue of "The Kourier Magazine," published by the K. K. K., at Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. H. W. Evans, Emperor and Imperial Wizard of the Klan, arrogates to himself the right to tell klanmen how to vote. A lot of the Bishops of the Methodist and other churches are assuming the same prerogative. It seems to us that if the electorate of the United States has sunk to the level that it doesn't know how or what to vote for, from its own conception of what would be best for it, the whole works ought to be disfranchised and the klanmen and the clergy called upon to pitch pennies to select a dictator.

Harrisburg is after Bellefonte again, but we do hope Council will have back-bone enough not to be scared into saddling another salaried official onto us. All milk, no matter how sanitarily it is handled, contains a few thousand—maybe its millions—bacteria per c. c. It's been making fat babies around here as long as we can remember anything and there ought to be enough officials on the pay rolls now to see that the dealers are reasonably careful about their community without appointing a milk inspector who will either have to be paid through advanced milk prices or higher taxes. The financial knees of the community are wobbling now with the load they have to carry and what it needs most is a government at Harrisburg that will concentrate more on reducing the number of public officials than on increasing them.

Mr. Hoover ought to thank the Secretary of War. Mr. Davis told Herb the truth on Monday. He told him that the way isn't easy and that the sleddin' isn't good. Up to that moment there doesn't seem to have been a Republican observer with the courage to frankly tell his candidate that at the present state of the game the fight for President is anybody's fight. Mr. Secretary Davis has made a tour of the country. Naturally, he came in contact mostly with Republican lieutenants, but he is convinced that Hoover "is facing a battle" and we believe Davis has absorbed the right dose. They can give the Owens, the Simmons, the McCormicks, the McSparrans and all the rest of the flunking Democrats as many scare-heads as they please in Republican papers, but that is only whistling to keep up courage. For every one that we have seen named we can name ten Republicans, right here in Centre county who won't touch Hoover. Centre county, of course, will not count in the final vote, but human nature is human nature, the country over and it's a pretty darned good sign that there's a lot more Republicans who think Al Smith would make a good President than there are Democrats who think he could annihil prohibition or persuade the Pope to step out of the Vatican into a kitchen cabinet in this country.

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The Vance C. McCormick Bolt.

Some of our esteemed contemporaries are taking the "bolt" of Mr. Vance C. McCormick, the Harrisburg publisher, much too seriously. Mr. McCormick is simply "running true to form." He is a born bolter. Previous to 1912 his political activities were restricted to local affairs and though professing to be a Democrat, he never voted the full ticket. In 1910 he bolted the nomination of Webster Grim; in 1918 and 1926 he bolted the candidate, Judge Bonniwell. In 1914 he was the nominee of the party for Governor and urged all Democrats to be faithful to party obligations. But it was an open secret among his friends that if his opponent for the nomination had been successful, he would have bolted.

It will be seen by this record that Mr. McCormick is an habitual bolter, a sort of chronic kicker. But his bolting doesn't amount to much. His newspapers enjoy a considerable clientele within a limited area but few of the readers of them place much confidence either in his political integrity or judgment. While a contest is in progress he predicts victory for his side and continues to predict to the end in the face of conditions which make his predictions absurd. In the recent contest for the Democratic Presidential nomination his morning paper, on the day the ballot was taken, declared that Governor Smith would not be nominated, and until his bolt, the other day, if they had no other source of information, his readers never would have known that he was nominated.

Like most other selfish politicians Mr. McCormick's principal aim is to control the organization of the party. By profligate use of money he has succeeded in this respect in Dauphin county, and until this year held Cumberland county fairly well in hand. Thus far the party organization of Dauphin county has taken no action in the matter of the endorsement of the ticket, and it is whispered about that it will take none. But the vote in the county will show a considerable increase over that of recent years, notwithstanding the attitude of Mr. McCormick and his newspapers, according to estimates of well informed observers residing there who have made a careful survey of conditions.

Watch Connie Mack's Athletics climbing the pennant staff.

Status of the Senatorial Contest.

Every fair-minded person in Pennsylvania will sincerely sympathize with Mr. William S. Vare and his family in his recent affliction, but it doesn't in the least measure alter the status of the dispute over the seat in the Senate which he claims. It is charged first that he is disqualified because of the excessive and fraudulent use of money in the campaign for the nomination. That question has been under consideration by the Slush Fund committee of the Senate, of which Senator Reed, of Missouri, is chairman, for nearly two years, and while no report has been made a precisely parallel case from Illinois was decided against the claimant with less evidence to justify the finding.

But if the Slush Fund committee should declare that because of frauds and the excessive use of money Mr. Vare was not legally elected, as it did in the Illinois case, there would be no vacancy in the office that might be filled by executive appointment. William B. Wilson is contesting the claim of Mr. Vare and the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections considering that question. Mr. Wilson had upward of 50,000 majority in the State outside of Philadelphia and nearly 100,000 majority outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. A recount of the votes in Philadelphia has shown vast frauds and a recount in Pittsburgh is certain to reveal a similar condition. If the fraudulent votes in those cities are thrown out Wilson will be entitled to the seat.

It has been suggested in some of the newspapers of the State that because of Mr. Vare's infirmity, in the event he survives, both the investigations be abandoned and he be permitted to qualify and assume the seat. This would simply be an inexcusable condonation of ballot crimes. It is all right to sympathize with Mr. Vare, but it is quite as certainly all wrong to condone crimes that are the outstanding menace to just and orderly government in the United States. If William B. Wilson was legally elected he is entitled to the seat, no matter what the Reed committee reports. If the Reed committee reports adversely to Vare and the Elections committee reports adversely to Wilson there will be a vacancy to fill by the Governor, but not otherwise.

Prominent Agriculturist for Smith.

After a full and frank conference with Governor Smith, the other day, Mr. George M. Peek, of Illinois, prominent leader of the farm relief movement, and heretofore an equally prominent Republican, publicly announced his intention to support the Democratic candidate for President. Mr. Peek was an ardent supporter of Governor Lowden, of Illinois, for the Republican nomination, and an advocate of the McNary-Haugen Farm Relief bill. The Kansas City convention disappointed him alike in the candidate and the platform and since the Houston convention he has been actively sounding public sentiment in the corn belt with the result that he has determined to sever his relations with the Republican party.

After the conference with Mr. Peek Governor Smith issued a statement in which he said, "the Democratic platform soundly declares the fundamental basis for the relief of the appalling agricultural distress which not only threatens the farmer, himself, but is also destroying the farm market of ten billions of dollars, for the industries of the country. Control of the sale of agricultural surplus is recognized by our platform as an essential need, its cost to be imposed on the unit to be benefited. That principle is fixed upon our platform on which I stand, only the details of its accomplishment remains." In solving the problem of details Governor Smith will consult friends rather than foes of agriculture.

The policy of the Republican party has been to foster manufacturing and commercial interests at the expense of agriculture. The last Congress enacted two measures of legislation of precisely the same import. One provided a subsidy for ship builders and the other relief to farmers. President Coolidge approved the ship subsidy and vetoed the farm relief in bitter invective. The tariff law benefits the manufacturers and robs the farmers. Yet it is admitted on all sides that agriculture is the basic industry of the country, and if Governor Smith is elected President he will strive for legislation that will guarantee agriculture equal advantages with other industries of the country.

If President Coolidge is as successful at other sports as he is reported to be at trap-shooting he won't have to whittle his life away.

Tariff Tax and Textile Prosperity.

In an elaborate survey of the textile industry of Philadelphia the esteemed Philadelphia Record has conclusively proved that protective tariff taxation exercises little influence upon the prosperity of that industry. Thousands of skilled operatives in that line of enterprise in that city are idle, and other thousands are working on half time or less, and the mill owners invariably lay the blame to inadequate tariff protection. If the tariff schedules were prohibitive of importations, the employers assure the suffering wage earners, there would be abundance of work at high rate of wages, and the Republican party at Kansas City obligingly made a platform promise to increase the tariff rates.

Mr. Andrew McClean Parker, who has made the survey for the Record, gives various reasons for the existing depression in the textile industry in Philadelphia and cites inadequate tariff protection as among the least. He quotes a Republican politician who describes the condition as an "industrial calamity," and declares that "the sole cause of the depression is our present tariff which has been demonstrated to be wholly inadequate to afford the protection it was designed to give to American industry," but that is hardly convincing. In any event, he shows that under the elastic provision of the present law the President might have raised the rate to the prohibitory level.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Parker proves that the real cause of stagnation in the textile industry in Philadelphia is "stupid management, obsolete machinery, intellectual lethargy and political strabismus." He might have added that most of the mill owners of that city spend more time and invest more energy in collecting slush funds for the Republican machine than in taking care of their own business. This may be advance payment for prohibitory tariff protection which is not realized, for partisan reasons, but they have no right to squeal because of disappointment. The textile manufacturers in the South and some of them in New England are prosperous for the reason that they depend on intelligent effort.

Those who predicted a "cool summer" may be entitled to another guess.

Governor Smith and Temperance.

A Washington correspondent of one of the several press news services pretending to have advance information concerning Governor Smith's acceptance speech, ventures the assertion that the Democratic candidate "will declare for a modification of the Volstead act in order to permit the sale of liquors containing in excess of the one-half of one per cent. limit now provided in the law." The obvious purpose of this prediction is to enlist prohibitionists against Governor Smith. It is based entirely on conjecture but justified, in the mind of the correspondent, by the well known fact that Governor Smith has repeatedly said that the Volstead law has failed to accomplish the purpose for which it was enacted.

The Volstead law has been in operation more than six years and expensive raids recently made in New York city have clearly shown its inadequacy for the purpose of suppressing the liquor traffic there. It has proved equally futile in every other city, and town of considerable population. Governor Smith believes that more effective legislation might be enacted, and that opinion is concurred in by a vast number of intelligent and law-abiding people. Governor Smith is in favor of enforcing the Eighteenth amendment and the Volstead law so long as it is a law. But in its present form that law has not achieved that result and his purpose in modification is to correct the faults which have made it ineffective.

In the event of Governor Smith's election to the office of President his first act would be to assume an obligation to obey the constitution and the laws. So long as the Volstead law stands in its present form he would be obliged to obey it, and if Congress refused to alter or amend it at the suggestion of the President or otherwise he will enforce it to the full extent of his power. Unless his recommendations for modification appeal to the judgment of Congress they will not be enacted into law, and it will be the duty of the President to do his best for prohibition with the instruments at his command and it is a safe bet that Alfred E. Smith will do better than his predecessor.

The Philadelphia husband who lost his wife out of the car on his way home the other evening has no cause of complaint against back seat driving.

Judge Fleming Files Two Opinions in Spring Twp. School Case.

On Wednesday evening Judge M. Ward Fleming filed two opinions and decrees in the famous Spring township school case. One was in the injunction proceedings instituted by Thomas Beaver and others against the township school board to restrain them from issuing bonds, levying higher taxes or otherwise increasing the school indebtedness in which the court decreed in favor of the petitioners by making the injunction perpetual.

The other decision was in the case of Anna Zelesnick vs. the Spring township school board, in which the plaintiff had instituted injunction proceedings to restrain the board from taking her property for school purposes. In this case the injunction was dismissed and the school board granted the right to take the property subject, of course, to the usual condemnation proceedings and payment of damages as assessed by a competent board of assessors.

It will be recalled that two years ago the Spring township voters authorized a bond issue for the purpose of erecting a new consolidated building at Pleasant Gap. Contracts were let for a two story, twelve room building but because of a fight over the location of same the legality of the proceedings was attacked in the courts. The bonds were never issued and the plans for the consolidated building were cancelled.

Last summer, however, the board erected a four room, one story building on the old site. Last winter the new building was overcrowded and some of the primary schools had to be shifted to the Horntown school. This, of course, is not satisfactory, and many patrons are kicking. But the board claims it has done the best possible with the funds at its command.

Senator Underwood, of Alabama, knows the South as well as any man living, and he "tells the world" that it will be solid for Smith.

A declining birth rate in Italy has aroused alarm among the Fascist leaders and they are blaming it on the doctors.

William Allen White has gone to Europe to stay until after the election. "He who fights and runs away may live to fight another day."

A Church in Politics.

From the New York Times. It would be without profit to discuss the differences between the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Apparently the majority of them sincerely believe it their duty to take sides in politics. Here we must discriminate between general approval of what are called moral issues and a specific attempt to enforce the authority of the General Conference over the political conscience of church members. This is the significant and disquieting thing in the recent manifesto of the four Bishops against the two. A parade is made of the fact that the General Conference "represents a Christian citizenship of more than 2,600,000." Southern Methodists are reminded that the utterances of the General Conference "must be accepted as the final authority." Moreover, notice is given that "the pronouncement of the Bishops should be read from every pulpit in the Church." All told, there is the most sweeping assertion of the right of the ecclesiastical authorities to dictate to Southern Methodists how they shall vote in the coming Presidential election.

Needless to say, this action by the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church South is precisely in line with what they have for years charged the Catholic Church in America with doing. If today an equal number of Catholic Bishops were to attempt to control the Catholic vote of this country, no one would be louder or fiercer in condemning them than these very Bishops. They attack in others what they permit themselves to do. Dismissed utterly purposes as they may, ungrudgingly, it is unmistakable. Their endeavor is to persuade politicians that they are able to "deliver" more than 2,000,000 votes, and that they will do it as seems to them best. Their ambitious aim reaches from the Presidency down to the minor offices, for they say that "from constable to Governor, from revenue agent to President, officials must be selected who believe in enforcement." There could hardly be a clearer case of a church urged by its leaders to go bodily into politics.

The Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church South make a great virtue of standing on the Constitution. The Eighteenth Amendment, now a part of it, is the law of the land, and as such must be enforced, "absolutely regardless of the result." It will be noted that the Bishops say nothing about that other part of the Democratic plank on law enforcement, which states that "all other provisions of the Federal Constitution" ought to be enforced. Will the Southern Bishops undertake to make a like heroic stand in calling for the enforcement of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, which would plainly result in cutting down the representation of the Southern States in the National House of Representatives? It is safe to say that they will not. On that part of the law of the land they will not do their moral thundering, for they know perfectly well that not even the smallest fraction of their Church following would give heed to them. When they declare that they stand on the Constitution they evidently mean the parts of it which they like. Their silence about the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments exposes them to the satire of Hosea Biglow against the old advocates of Southern slavery, who said that they stood on the Constitution, for otherwise they would not be able to trample it under their heels.

In violently arraying themselves against Governor Smith, the Southern Methodist Bishops may find that they are running before they are sent. One of them, Bishop Cannon, expressed himself at Houston as entirely satisfied with the Democratic law-enforcement plank. But that plank was promptly accepted by Governor Smith. This was because, as was openly avowed at Houston by Senator Glass, it left every Democrat, every candidate, free to propose modifications or repeal of the Volstead act. But without waiting to see how Governor Smith may avail himself of this freedom, the Methodist Bishops vehemently oppose his election for the Presidency. They do this in the name of religious liberty. But in the act, and under all the circumstances, they lay themselves open to the suspicion that their real motives spring from an incurable religious intolerance.

Can't be Bought.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. Nobody is astonished to learn that the Wisconsin girl who promised to wed a wealthy man in return for his generosity to her parents has decided she is sick of her bargain and is not going on with it. "I am sick of money, for I find it brings only trouble," she says.

Of course she isn't quite fair by money. It brings much more than trouble. It relieves a great deal of trouble. While it cannot buy happiness, it can make a wondrous contribution to happiness. In her bitterness the Wisconsin girl loses her perspective and misplaces her emphasis. Money is all right and properly to be desired—even in large quantities—but to help toward happiness it must be well adulterated with brains.

The Watchman gives all the news while it is news.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSSTONE.

G. I. Rodgers, 222 East Third avenue, Altoona, a fireman on the Pennsylvania railroad, died in a hospital at Harrisburg, late last Thursday night, from injuries believed to have been suffered when he was struck by a car door of a passing train. He was making a run on a freight train between Altoona and Harrisburg when he was injured.

Claude Lacomt, 22, is under arrest on a charge of felonious shooting after he is said to have fired into a crowd of men and women near his home at Patton, Cambria county. The shooting was the climax of a drinking party. Two women were seriously wounded, one of them being Lacomt's wife, while five other persons in the crowd were slightly injured.

When she walked into the living room of her home at Smith Valley, near Mount Union, a few days ago, Miss Lillian Dell found a large blacksnake taking possession of the room. Miss Dell ran to call her father, and while she was out, the reptile hid in the parlor organ in the room, and it was with difficulty that the snake was found and killed by the father.

Compelled to go out of business because of improved highways, the Eagles Mere railroad, historic narrow gauge road, which spanned the nine miles from Sonestown to Eagles Mere for forty years, was sold last week for virtually junk prices at the Sullivan county courthouse, at Laporte. The price was \$4500, and the equipment will be scrapped. Mark T. Milnor, a Harrisburg attorney, handled the affairs of the bond-holders in the sale.

Men with either red noses or flushed cheeks cannot buy "canned heat" in a Sunbury chain store whether it be on Sundays or week days, the management announced last Saturday. And this is understood to be a national wide order issued by this organization. So popular has this concoction become as an intoxicating beverage it was explained that it is feared that prohibition agents will get busy and make raids. So the red nose ukase was issued.

While rocking on a swing at a picnic last Thursday, at Springwood park, near Dallastown, Harriet Swartz, six years old, of Spring Grove, was killed and Charles Hawkins, a youth, was injured by a shot from a rifle used in a shooting gallery on the picnic grounds. The shot came from a rifle used by Jesse W. Stambaugh, former postmaster at Spring Grove. He laid the rifle on the counter of the gallery when he had shot what he believed to be a complete round and a final shot killed the child.

Charged with obtaining \$2500 from a finance company on a fictitious name, Thomas J. Ayres, 48, Lewistown auto dealer, was arrested in Harrisburg last Thursday, and has been held for a court trial. Ayres is charged with giving the name of a Lewistown resident as the purchaser of an automobile and explained he had signed a lease for the loan. When the company asked the man for the first payment, the Lewistown resident explained he never bought a new car and did not sign a lease.

Two hundred gallons or one-fourth of the confiscated moonshine liquor seized in two recent raids by State police in Sugar valley, was stolen from the court house in Lock Haven, last Thursday night. A man living near the court house was aroused by the noise made by the three men who were loading the liquor on a truck and inquired why they were moving the liquor. They immediately jumped on their truck and escaped. The local police and sheriff were notified but were unable to block the escape of the thieves.

Donald Carlos, 41, a music teacher with a studio in Scranton, lost his speech Sunday afternoon when a bolt of lightning, evidently following the wires, struck the telephone in a booth in a cigar store while he was talking to his wife at Oenonta, New York. The booth was illuminated by the flash and Carlos dropped to the floor. He was revived in a short time, but was unable to talk. Patrolmen took him to headquarters, and three hours afterwards his speech began to return, although at night he still spoke with great effort.

Police at Trenton, N. J., last Friday, delivered John Lucas to Detective Duhan, of Braddock, Pa., where he is alleged to have swindled John Schraffa out of \$8,000. Lucas gave Homestead, Pa., as his residence. It is alleged that Lucas and two other men obtained the cash by the sale of a machine for "making money." When he realized he had been victimized, Schraffa obtained a warrant for his arrest. The arrest was made after Michael Pollack, a nephew of Schraffa, had trailed Lucas through Pennsylvania and as far west as Detroit. Lucas went to Trenton about two weeks ago.

Tudor Alex, of 158 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, N. Y., has been granted permission to roll a barrel through the State of Pennsylvania, enroute from Buffalo, N. Y., to Miami, Fla., the only restrictions imposed upon him being the requirement that the said barrel must contain no intoxicating beverage and must be manipulated in a way which will not interfere with traffic in municipalities. Alex sought a permit from the State Department of Internal Affairs, but was informed that no permit would be required in this State as long as the restrictions mentioned were observed.

The 1929 encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held at Gettysburg as the result of the action taken by the executive committee of the organization and its affiliated bodies at a meeting in Philadelphia last week. Veterans, while at their last encampment at Scranton, in June, selected Philadelphia as the convention city for next year. The executive committee, however, announced that a large number of the members of the G. A. R. had expressed a desire to meet once more at the historic Gettysburg battlefield, and for that reason the convention city was changed.

John Oudett, 60-year-old watchman in the C. H. Smith Sons company store at Oil City, met two robbers on the main floor of the store one night last week, and put them to rout with four revolver shots, wounding one of the men. At the sound of the shots, a third man, posted in front of the store as a lookout, ran in and carried out the wounded robber. The trio fled in a waiting automobile. Police were unable to find any trace of the robbers. All physicians in that region were asked by police to be on the lookout for any wounded man who might have been involved in the attempted robbery. Three years ago three men obtained \$1,700 in cash by forcing open the company safe.