

—Another lot of trans-Atlantic fliers have been lost. Again we note our utter failure to work up any feeling of sympathy for the hapless adventurers.

—We can't understand the mental attitude of the father who is more concerned in where some fellow, for whom he has no responsibility, is getting his "moonshine" than he is in where his own daughter is getting her "necking."

—Senator Capper has given Kansas to Hoover by a staggering majority. He thinks Kansas is going to stagger up to the polls and "vote er dry." It was only a few years ago, if memory fails us not, that the Senator thought that Kansas was going to put the cap on Capper, but it didn't.

—It must be all over fellows. Within the last week the Philadelphia Public Ledger has reported every State in the Union—except six—as being "safe for Hoover." Now that the Ledger has completed that brilliant bit of political Sherlock Holmesing we would suggest that it devote its talents to finding out who murdered Hughey McLoon.

—Dean Steidle, of the department of mines and metallurgy at the Pennsylvania State College, is of the opinion that seventy-five per cent of the oil originally in the sands underlying Pennsylvania is still there. Just because Doc Tom Glenn, a cousin, who has a pint well in his back yard up in Bradford, might see the dean's announcement and be encouraged we want to remind him that Dr. "San Josie" Surface, once a dean of something or other up at State, told the world that cabbage worms are good to eat. We fell for his dope and bit into a cabbage worm, but never again.

—We have given considerable space on page 2 of this issue to an article by Prescott C. White. We try to let nothing get into the Watchman that isn't worth reading. But in this instance we call special attention because we believe it to be a notable contribution to current literature and think all will find much food for thought in its dispassionate discussion of two matters that are uppermost in the public mind today. Won't you please turn to page 2 and read it. We know that, no matter what your belief may be, you will be interested and, possibly helped to a clearer vision of a complex problem.

—Talking about the problem in agriculture a prominent business man assured us, the other day, that local business would "pick up shortly because farmers will start selling their grain." The gentleman's knowledge of farm conditions in Centre county having all been acquired behind the counter of his own place of business it was not surprising that he did not know that probably half the farmers in the county will have to buy their seed before they can sow this fall. The wheat crop is next to a complete failure and as it constitutes the major item in the farmer's sale of grain we are of the opinion that our friend will be sadly disappointed if he expects business to pick up because the farmers will start selling their grain.

—In as much as the advisability of putting meyers on all water consumers has been preliminarily discussed in council we want to get in early with a word of protest against any such a plan. The cost of installation would be fifteen or twenty thousand dollars, there would have to be another paid official, more likely two, to read and keep them in order and while there might be a saving in cost of pumping such a saving could only follow the consumption of less water and that would mean less income. There is no doubt that the meter system is the most equitable way of charging for water, but whatever disparity there might be in the present system, in Bellefonte, charges here are so low that no one pays half as much for all the water he or she wishes to use as people in most other towns do. God has blessed this community with an abundance of water and for God's sake don't let any councilmanic Volstead put prohibition of any kind on the Big Spring.

—Foreseeing that they can't make an intelligent electorate believe that Al Smith has horns and a tail because he is a Catholic; being unable to show that the Vane administration in Philadelphia and the Thompson regime in Chicago even approaches in decency the awful (?) Tammany domination of New York City, and hopeless of ever convincing any sane person that Mr. Hoover didn't lock up the four cent Cuban sugar during the war so that we were forced to pay eighteen for that necessary of life, the managers of Harbert's campaign are about to abandon all other issues and attempt to make it a straight wet and dry fight. What a joke! A party that has been in power for eight years, aiding and abetting the infant industry of the moonshiners and boot leggers, reduced to the extremity of making it a wet and dry fight. Al Smith couldn't make it a n wetter than it is. Hoover certainly won't make it any drier than it is. He might say that he will but the proof of the puddin' is the eating thereof and why didn't he make some attempt to do that all the years he was sitting in the Harding and Coolidge cabinets.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Governor Smith's Reply to White.

No thinking observer of events was surprised at the crushing force with which Governor Smith squelched William Allen White who had charged him with moral delinquencies as a member of the New York legislature some twenty years ago. Without knowledge or understanding of the subject the Kansas scavenger alleged that the record shows that Mr. Smith had consistently supported legislation in the interest of saloons, gambling and prostitution. The Governor's reply completely refutes the slander. It shows that in every instance he voted in accord with a large majority of his colleagues of both parties and in perfect agreement with the sentiments of his constituents. It is a difficult matter for a man conspicuous in public life to answer scandalous charges made wantonly by an irresponsible and slovenly minded adventurer. In the first place Mr. White declared that Governor Smith, in his early service in the legislature, had supported every measure considered in the interest of saloons, gamblers and prostitutes. After this slander had been spread upon the records throughout the country he retracted so far as gamblers and prostitutes were concerned and sailed for Europe. On arriving on the other side of the water he cabled to the publicity head of the Republican National committee a denial that he had retracted anything.

Governor Smith's reply to these slanders is not a reply to William Allen White of Kansas. It is a refutation of scandalous charges made by the Republican National committee through Mr. White. It is an exposure of the fact that the Republican National organization is the fountain from which flows the "whispering calumnies" that have been spread abroad to the disgust of fair-minded men and women of all parties. For this reason Governor Smith was justified in taking notice of and replying to so unimportant a creature as William Allen White. And he performed the service in so masterly a manner that no further attention need be paid to the scandal mongers.

—Tammany may have been bad enough in its time, but gunmen never ran the streets of New York deluging the highways with blood as they do in Philadelphia and Chicago.

Vote for Voting Machines.

Honest men and women may differ widely upon questions of prohibition without being either fanatic or wicked. They may differ upon questions of economic policy without being selfish or prejudiced. But they can't disagree upon the question of honest elections. That is a subject upon which honest people are unanimous. Fraudulent voting ought to be rated as the highest crime in the calendar. Its purpose is to subvert the basic principles upon which a "government of the people, for the people and by the people" is founded. It is treason against the State and larceny of the most valuable and highly cherished right of the people. This crime can be condoned by no process of reasoning. There are various ways of committing election frauds. In cities it can be done by padding registration lists, by violating the poll tax law, by repeating, by stuffing ballot boxes before or after the polls are closed, by buying votes and by fraudulent returns. Recent investigations have shown that in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and other cities in Pennsylvania all these methods are employed. In the smaller towns, and even in strictly rural communities, some of them are practiced, the expense fund being supplied by wealthy leaders in the business life of the Commonwealth, some of whom aspire to leadership in the social life of their communities. This is the burning shame of it.

It has been found impossible to secure legislation to prevent ballot frauds in this State. Those who profit by election frauds control the legislation. During the last session of the General Assembly Governor Fisher submitted a series of bills which might have accomplished much. But Chairman Mellon interposed and upon his demand the measures were so emasculated as to make them practically worthless. But there is still left one ground for hope. Voting machines will make it difficult, if not impossible, to corrupt the ballot, and the people of Pennsylvania have an opportunity to apply this remedy by adopting, at the coming election, the constitutional amendment authorizing voting machines.

—Greek politicians seem to have adopted the Chicago system of campaigning. The supporters of one candidate are using guns against the adherents of another.

Reaction to Hoover's Relief Plan.

The reaction of the corn belt to Mr. Hoover's proposition to seek farm relief by tariff taxation has been indicated by discussion of the subject in the Institute of Politics at Williamstown, Massachusetts, and the Institute of Public Affairs at Charlottesville, Virginia, last week. At Williamstown Professor Charles R. Fay, of the University of Toronto, "a specialist in farm cooperatives," called attention to the fact that in recent years a considerable trade has been created in shipping "dairy cows, breeding stock and 'stockers and feeders' to be fattened in the corn belt," thus enabling the corn growers to make profitable use of their crops. The Hoover plan to exclude these products of Canada from the corn growers of Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and other middle western States would work infinitely greater harm in those States than in Canada. In fact it would deprive the middle west farmers of the only practical means of disposing of their surpluses. A prohibitive tariff tax against Canadian products would inevitably lead to reprisals on that side of the line, and the corn used now to fatten imported Canadian cattle would rot in the bins. Professor Fay adds that "the standard of living is as high in the Canadian west as that of the American northwest and north," and therefore it is folly "to denounce this trade in the name of a higher American standard of living."

In the Charlottesville Institute "round table" the opinion was practically unanimous in "deploring the lack of a concrete and vigorous policy of farm relief" in Mr. Hoover's speech of acceptance. Among those participating in the discussion was Dr. Victor Rosewater, a former chairman of the Republican National committee, and the consensus of opinion was that Mr. Hoover's statements were "unsatisfactory and colorless." In view of these facts it is small wonder that the farmers in that section of the country are organizing clubs with the slogan "Al Smith, the Farmers' Friend," as reported by an editorial correspondent of the New York Times, writing from Omaha.

—The Mayor of Southampton, England, arrived on our shores, Monday, in the person of Mrs. Lucia Marion Foster-Welch. She is the only woman in England officially called "Mr." Her picture reveals that her skirts are down to her ankles and she wears a hat of Napoleonic vintage. Probably they call her "Mrs." because she is man enough to dress like she thinks a woman should dress herself.

Opposition on False Pretense.

By a strange process of reasoning Mr. Hoover and other Republican spokesmen interpret Governor Smith's statement that he favors the modification of the Volstead law as a "nullification of the constitution." Governor Smith has not at any time, by act or influence, expressed a purpose to alter or change the Eighteenth amendment or any other feature of the constitution. He has noticed, as all other intelligent observers have noticed, that the expensive and crime-breeding Volstead law has not proved an efficient instrument for enforcing the Eighteenth amendment, and proposes to suggest, and if possible in a legal and orderly manner procure, legislation which will accomplish that result.

There is a vast difference between nullification of the constitution and modifying an Act of Congress. Nullification means, according to Webster's dictionary, "to render void or of no effect." Any legislation which fails to achieve the purpose for which it has been enacted is nullification, and the Volstead law having failed of its purpose to enforce the provisions of the Eighteenth amendment to the constitution is a nullifier. Governor Smith believes that he can suggest legislation which will eliminate the evils that have multiplied in the attempt to enforce the Volstead law and accomplish the purpose for which it was enacted. This would be supporting rather than nullifying the constitution.

The fact is that the opposition to Governor Smith on the ground that he proposes to nullify the constitution is a false pretense. The actual reason for that attitude was expressed by the Rev. Albert C. Diefenbach, of Boston, in the Charlottesville, Va., Institute of Public Affairs the other day. He said, "A Roman Catholic should not be elected President of the United States, and voters should face the issue squarely instead of hiding behind a prohibition controversy." He was properly hooted for his expression of bigotry and might have been justly censured for proposing to nullify the first amendment to the constitution, which guarantees the free exercise of religious worship.

Senator Walsh Praises Smith.

Senator Thomas J. Walsh, of Montana, after a conference with Governor Smith, in New York, the other day, issued a statement in which he said that he and the Governor "do not agree on some questions widely considered, but it were vain to look for a candidate with convictions representing millions of voters who likewise have convictions and agreeing with them all on all questions." This statement expresses the true spirit of democracy. It is the recognition of the right of honest and sincere men and women to conscientiously entertain opinions on given subjects. It is the spirit of tolerance and compromise which influenced "the fathers" in adopting the constitution.

Senator Walsh is an avowed prohibitionist in a literal sense. That is he uses no intoxicants himself and encourages no one else to indulge in intoxicants. Probably he believes in legislation prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicants and possibly he may favor legislation such as the Volstead law. But he recognizes the right of others to hold other opinions on that subject and is willing to support a candidate for President who coincides with him on other questions of greater importance and more immediate public concern, notwithstanding his different opinion on the prohibition question. In other words he favors the fittest candidate, in his estimation, regardless of his attitude on the Volstead law.

Senator Walsh was instrumental in exposing the fraudulent lease of the Teapot Dome oil reserve, the cancellation of the lease and the recovery by the government of several millions of dollars which had been practically stolen by the lease. Speaking of Mr. Hoover he said, "he sat in the cabinet with Fall and Daugherty without ever raising his hand to thwart their villainies or raising his voice in condemnation of them after they were exposed. The shocking iniquities of other official associates, like Forbes, escaped his notice if they were not shielded by his tolerance." In the circumstances he prefers Smith with his views on prohibition to Hoover with his record on criminals.

—Colonel George Harvey is dead. He was the gentleman who sold his political birthright for a mess of pottage and said in London that we only joined the great war to save our own hides. The Colonel is credited with being somewhat of a publicist. Perhaps he was, but after he appeared in silk breeches and silver buckled slippers as our Ambassador to the Court of St. James, we became inoculated with contempt for his sort of publicism.

—To Mary M. Williams, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who writes to us to say that "if your father and mine were living today I am sure they would not support Al Smith," we make this reply: My dear, good woman. Of course you know your own father, but you evidently didn't know P. Gray Meek very well.

—While talking with a friend who knows Dr. John Roach Straton very well we had our suspicion confirmed that the Brooklyn divine is somewhat of a publicity seeker. Al Smith is too smart, however, to help a parson peddler of scurrility onto the front pages.

—Another woman has swum the English channel and a New Jersey girl swam twenty-one miles down the Schuylkill river the other day. Thus it is revealed that the female heart still hankers to be "in the swim."

—One of the correspondents traveling with Herbert Hoover notices "a great slump of interest in the outcome of the election" while another describes his trip as a series of ovations. Take your choice.

—Lloyd George's heart bleeds when he recalls how badly Viscount Haldane was treated by his country at the beginning of the world war yet Lloyd George was largely responsible for the treatment.

—A straw vote of Episcopal clergymen shows a majority favor modification of the Volstead law. Dr. John Roach Straton will be outraged by this "falling from grace."

—Philadelphia policeman cordially greet gangsters and the Mayor of the city attended the funeral of one of them. "Still we wonder at crime."

—Radio reports of accidents or death of Colonel Lindbergh are becoming frequent but nobody knows what malign purpose inspires them.

—Get your job work done here.

A HOME.

Inspired by a recent visit to the Presbyterian Home at Hollidaysburg. Indeed, it did just seem

Like fairy land—come true: The open door, the welcome through. The atmosphere of peace and calm. The lovely bits of furniture, set here and there. As if awaiting someone's comfort and charm.

Far away from all worries of the outside strife Time for retrospection from a busy life A piece of quiet, sweet content in which To dream away one's sunset of rest Before the great passing For the final—greater quest.

W. B. MEEK-MORRIS.

JUDGE JOHNSTON SUSTAINED IN BANK CASE RULING.

On Saturday the United States Circuit Court of Appeals handed down a decision in the appeals of the receivers of the Centre County Banking Company and George R. Meek from the ruling of Judge Albert W. Johnston, federal judge for the eastern district of Pennsylvania. Judge Davis of the Circuit Court filed the opinion which affirms the ruling of Judge Johnston.

The litigation arose in consequence of a petition filed by George A. Beezer, Geo. H. Yarnell and Elizabeth Grenoble, creditors of the Centre County Banking Company, several years ago, in which they set up the contention that the appointment of Rev. Reed O. Stealy, John Ginter and John S. Dale as receivers of the defunct company, was an act of bankruptcy on the part of the company and as a result the federal Courts could again step in and take charge of its affairs.

It will be recalled that the original tedious litigation in the case terminated in a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States that the entire procedure had been irregularly brought and that it was therefore thrown out of the federal court. That procedure automatically ousted the original receiver and petition was presented to the local court, former Judge Arthur C. Dale, presiding, for the appointment of someone to act in the matter. Judge Dale appointed Messrs. Stealy, Ginter and Dale, while there was no question of the competency of the gentlemen to do the work assigned the personal equation entered into the rumpus it raised and Messrs. Beezer, Yarnell and Mrs. Grenoble who had not been parties to any of the preceding legislation were prevailed upon to permit the use of their names for the institution of a new process to take it out of the hands of the local court back to the federal court again.

This could be done only on the assumption that Judge Dale's act, in appointing receivers, constituted a new act of bankruptcy.

It was argued before Judge Johnston and after mature deliberation he handed down his decision to the effect that the appointment of receivers did constitute an act of bankruptcy and that, therefore, the federal courts are in control again.

Messrs. Stealy, Ginter and Dale and George R. Meek took an appeal from this ruling to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting in Philadelphia, and the opinion of Judge Davis, referred to above, denies their appeal.

We have not seen the opinion, but the inference to be drawn is that Judge Johnston's finding stands as filed. Its effect would be to oust the present receivers and give Geo. R. Meek a stated time in which to file his schedule as an involuntary bankrupt or present any defense he might have for not doing so.

Of course an appeal can be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, exactly as was done six years ago. The highest court, however, must first grant a writ of certiorari, which is equivalent to permission to carry such an appeal up to it.

Just what action either the present receivers or Mr. Meek will take in the matter is not known at this time. According to the information at hand they have three months in which to file an appeal should they determine to do so.

Hunting Licenses Must Await Special Plates.

Treasurers of fifty-four counties in the State were instructed to cease issuing hunting licenses until they have been provided with special plates which will permit the holders to kill a doe.

The order from the State game commission here today followed the decision last night to again modify the ruling which will legalize killing of does next December.

—The adventurers who are preparing to sail around the world in a 38-foot boat have our best wishes but meager hopes of success.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The Pennsylvania Department of Highways has advertised bids during the present year for 463 miles of road construction.

—Metro Irot, 37, of Monessen, purchased a mirror but broke it shortly after he had reached home. Remarking that it was an omen of bad luck, he left to buy another. Dashing across a street in the business section, he ran into a delivery truck and suffered a fractured skull which resulted in his death.

—Benjamin Snowiss, proprietor of the Lock Haven hide house, has received approximately 38,000 hides of fur-bearing animals from within a radius of 100 miles of Lock Haven. The pelts include 12,000 skunks, 1000 grey fox, 850 red fox, 4700 muskrats, 2200 weasels, 35 wild cats, 15 mink and 2500 raccoons.

—While operating a hay hoist in a barn at home, Tuesday, Mrs. Leona Goodhart, 31, wife of Lester Goodhart, Longsdorf station, Cumberland county, was struck by an iron hook which flew off the harness of the team of horses used in raising the hoist and suffered a fractured skull. She died before medical aid could arrive. The hook was on a singletree.

—George T. Warfel, 82 years old, of Huntingdon, while gathering huckleberries at Warrior Run recently, was surprised on looking up to see a huge black bear standing up, with paws extended and jaws open. Warful, thinking quickly, dashed his well-filled bucket in the bear's face, hitting the animal on the shout. The bear made a quick getaway.

—Slipping under the wheels of a coal train from which he had just alighted, Leo Mullah, Swoyersville, aged 18, was ground to death under the wheels late on Monday. Mullah had been on an errand for his mother and climbed on a train on the Lehigh Valley West Pittston branch to ride a short distance. When he alighted his foot struck in a pile of culm and he slipped under the train.

—Hitting a dynamite cap with a hammer, in an attempt to find out what would happen, Ruth Lloyd, 12, and her brother, Cyrus, 10, children of Mr. and Mrs. George Lloyd, High Rock, in southern York county, were badly cut in the explosion that occurred. Ruth had her thumb and forefinger of the left hand torn off. The children had found several dynamite caps in the grist mill owned by their father. Both were cut about the face and hands.

—In order to stimulate the sale of fall coal several anthracite coal companies in the Wilkes-Barre region have announced a reduction in retail prices effective September 1. This is the first time that a reduction has been made during the late summer, the only yearly cut heretofore having been made on April 1. The Hudson Coal company announced a reduction in the price of pea coal of \$1 a ton and a sliding scale of reduction on the larger sizes.

—While at work with a power thrasher on his farm, about a mile from Salladaburg, J. Elmer Flook suffered deep and severe gashes in his side and possible internal injuries when the cylinder of the thrasher exploded. Mr. Flook had just stooped to hear what a boy with him was saying when the accident occurred. Had he been standing erect he would have been instantly killed, it is believed. Hopes are held for his recovery at the Jersey Shore hospital.

—Struck by a bolt of lightning, Edna Somers, 15 years old, daughter of her aunt Mrs. Harry Somers, of Nine Points, Lancaster county, escaped death but was severely injured. The girl was standing with her hands upon a pump handle when lightning hit a nearby tree. The bolt apparently entered the girl's body through her hands and followed to the ground through her feet. Miss Somers' toes were badly burned and a deep gash was inflicted in her right foot.

—Paul A. Siple, 19-year-old Eagle Scout, of Erie, Pa., has been selected as the Boy Scout to accompany the Byrd Antarctic expedition. He will be special assistant and orderly to Commander Richard E. Byrd. Siple stood out at the head of a list of six Scouts who had been chosen from eighty-eight recommended by local Scout Councils from thousands of Scouts eager to qualify for the position. The entire Scout field had been given an opportunity to nominate Scouts between 17 and 20 years of age, who had certain specified qualifications and experience.

—After pressing robbery charges against three men, Simon Chuck, one-legged watchman, of a Trevorton colliery, Northumberland county, is now serving a thirty day jail sentence. Chuck told yesterday of how three men bound him, removed his wooden leg and stole \$32 he had hidden in it, and then threw the leg away so that he could not pursue them. During the testimony the justice of the peace ordered Chuck to produce the article that was causing a bulge in his pocket. It was a revolver. He was sentenced for carrying concealed deadly weapons.

—Mrs. Josephine Bono, of Charleroi, aged 33 years, has exonerated her daughter, Angelina, 17, whom she accused Saturday of shooting her. Mrs. Bono is reported in a serious condition in the hospital, from the wound which police believe was self-inflicted. Police said Mrs. Bono told them she was shot by a man who entered her home and obtained a pistol from a table. An operation failed to reveal the bullet which entered the woman's abdomen. Police Sergeant Percy Gelder said he believed Mrs. Bono accused her daughter, fearing possible legal action over her alleged attempt to end her life.

—Dr. H. R. Dapper, 30, of Pittsburgh, was probably fatally shot late Monday night by a man, according to police reports, who took him into the country presumably to attend his dying wife. Dr. Dapper was accompanied on the trip by his father, H. A. Dapper, 55, and the stranger, who asked aid for his wife. The elder Dapper told police his son was shot as the three men were leaving the machine at a point near where the stranger said he lived. The father said he made an effort to hold the man, who struck him over the head with a black-jack. Although stunned, the elder Dapper said he saw the man remove his son from the car and drive away. Both men were found later and taken to a hospital, where Dr. Dapper's condition was reported as critical and the father was said to be suffering from severe lacerations. A reason for the shooting was lacking, although the father said his son had appeared afraid to accompany the stranger but gave no reason for his fears.