

—Almost we would have forgotten that the Hon. Holmes is running for his third term in the Legislature had not a friend called attention to the fact that we have been neglecting him of late. Cheer up, Honorable, but don't be discouraged! We'll get around to you in a week or two.

—Another one of the reasons why Smith should not be elected President is "because he'll fill all the offices with Catholics and then we can never get him out." That's the "Sheriff" Shearer line of reasoning. Smith has been Governor of New York for four terms and Catholics have found out that there is no plum tree in that State that creed can shake. But aren't all the offices filled with Republicans now? And how many of them, do you suppose, are going to vote against Mr. Hoover?

—Florence Knapp, former Secretary of State of New York, is in jail in Albany because she was convicted of appropriating public funds to her own use. Florence had probably been in the habit of rifling the "old man's" trousers without being "called" for it so she probably thought she could do the same with the public pants. She is a Republican, too. One doesn't often hear of a Democrat being caught for crookedness in office. It's always Republicans. And yet there are those who think that the minute some poor Democrat happens to get himself elected to something dooms day is at hand.

—A project is on to give the county a library. How much need there might be for such a public service is a matter of opinion, of course. If the books were going to keep themselves in order and walk about over the county to those who want to read them the tax payers might be cajoled into voting a little millage for the purpose of founding such a library. But since there will have to be a librarian and a book distributor that would mean two more on the payroll in Centre county. Once on we never are able to pry them off and it is our belief that the tax payers will take to this proposal about as fast as an oyster would climb a tree.

—A woman of our acquaintance, a Republican by the way, is going to vote for Smith for a reason that might sound very funny to some of you. She is curious to "see just what will happen if he is elected." Her idea, we should say, is a very good one. She is a woman of more than average intellectuality, gets about a lot and knows why, how and what government is. She is not opposed to Mr. Hoover but she does admire the candor of Al Smith. And she's going to vote for Al because she wants "to see just what will happen." In other words, she believes that the only way to find what a man of such apparent force as Smith possesses will do is to give him a chance. She knows that if he doesn't deliver he can be turned out four years hence.

We're not kidding ourselves into hoping so strongly that Pennsylvania will go for Smith that we're going to be disappointed if it doesn't. Stranger things than that have happened, however. Last Saturday we motored to Pittsburgh via the Wm. Penn highway and returned on the Lincoln route. We made frequent stops at filling stations for man and motor. At every one of them we asked this question: "Whom do the folks around here seem to be for President?" Notwithstanding the fact that every bit of the territory traversed is normally, solidly Republican we got the same answer, in substance, to every inquiry. It was this, "Most of the people round here seem to be for Smith." We know that we made more than a dozen inquiries and not one of them resulted in the mention of Hoover's name. Such casual feeling of the public pulse might not reveal that there is anything fundamentally wrong, but it does indicate that the political heart of Pennsylvania is getting a bit nervous.

—Dr. Millikan, physicist of the California Institute of Technology, assures us that the Earth is "fool proof" and will be tearing around in space, a usual, a billion years from now. The learned gentleman is a comforter. Night before last, after a dinner largely composed of green corn, cucumbers and apple pie, alamoed, we had a horrible dream. Vivid as if he had actually been there we saw the Angel Gabriel standing tootin' his horn on the promontory at Grand View on the Lincoln Highway. Away off to the south and east the glow of a fire illumined the horizon. Entranced and quaking we watched it come nearer, nearer, until we could discern the outlines of men and beasts fleeing in panic before it. We tried to turn and run but we couldn't and our bewilderment became agony when we caught "The End of the World Has Come" out of the Babel of sounds that rose like the roar of a tornado. Gosh! How relieved we felt when we woke up. Not especially because we think our chance isn't as good as a lot who think there's better, but because this old world isn't so bad and we hope it lasts long enough for Republicans to discover that the chief aim of Democrats isn't to wreck it. Incidentally, we hate to name a lot of saints we recognized in the panic stricken mob that looked more terrified than we felt.

# Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 73. BELLEFONTE, PA., SEPTEMBER 7, 1928. NO. 35.

## Two Very Important Amendments. Smith and Hoover Methods Compared.

In the anxiety of voters to elect their favorite candidates for President other matters of great importance should not be overlooked. For example, the constitutional amendment providing for the voluntary adoption of voting machines is a matter of great significance. Recent investigations have shown that ballot frauds have become so common in the large cities of Pennsylvania that an honest expression of public opinion through the ballot box is an exception. This is a menacing situation. No popular government can endure if the popular will is habitually defeated by fraud, as it has been in recent elections. The voting machine affords the only reasonable hope of correcting this vital evil.

However much men and women differ on political principles and party policies all honest voters agree that elections should be conducted honestly, in complete conformity with the law, and that the returns should be accurate and just. In case these expectations are fulfilled there will be disappointments with the result but no animosities or resentments. Good citizens are fair-minded and "majority rule" is a fundamental principle of good citizenship. If voting machines will promote this result, and it is fully and widely believed they will, they will be worth all they cost many times over. And as a matter of fact they will materially decrease rather than add to the expense of elections.

It appears, and has been publicly announced, that upward of two thousand applications for admission to State College had to be turned away this year because of inadequacy of equipment of that splendid institution to accommodate them. If this condition continues it will be an ineffaceable shame to the honor and an indelible insult to the intelligence of the people of the State. Approval of the constitutional amendment providing for eight million dollars for State College will avert this disgraceful danger. Joint Resolution No. 13 refers to the voting machines and Joint Resolution No. 3 to the State College equipment. Both should receive the cordial approval of the voters of the State.

—Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, calls the whispering scandal mongers "political serpents hissing in the dark," and it would be hard to find a more appropriate name for them.

## Coolidge Fiction Exposed.

In his speech at the Grangers' picnic at Williams' Grove, Cumberland county, last week, Thomas Pryor Gore, formerly Senator in Congress from Oklahoma, totally blind but wonderfully eloquent, presented some interesting facts and figures on the subject of Coolidge prosperity. Mr. Gore served fourteen years in the Senate and during six years of that period was chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture. Because of this service he is peculiarly fitted to discuss agricultural problems with farmers. He very clearly proved that the farmers of the country have received no part of the prosperity and showed exactly why they got none. "Prosperity based on special privileges," he said, "can never be universal. Apart from the limited sort of prosperity for the special classes there has been no prosperity under the Republican regime." The banks, except those favored, have not prospered. During the eight years of the Wilson administration there were 678 bank failures in the United States. During the seven years covered by the administrations of Harding and Coolidge there were 4890 bank failures. Commercial and industrial failures have increased in nearly the same ratio since the Republican party assumed control. But farmers suffered in even greater ratio. Bankruptcy among farmers has increased 1000 per cent.

The figures quoted to prove these statements are not guesses or estimates. They are statistics taken from the records of the government at Washington. They expose the falsity of the claim of prosperity as completely as Governor Smith revealed the falsity of the Coolidge pretense of economy. As Senator Gore says, "Coolidge is the greatest novelist we have ever had in the White House. His prosperity and his economy are alike fiction." A few industries like the automobiles and a few banks of very large capital have been prosperous, but at the expense of others less favored, as the four or five million army of unemployed plainly shows.

—Rev. John Roach Straton continues to vilify Governor Smith though decent people everywhere have condemned him as a "clerical mountebank."

## Traitor John O'Donnell Elucidated.

In summarily dismissing John O'Donnell from leadership of the Democratic party in Philadelphia State chairman Collins not only expressed good judgment but high courage. For many years this political traitor has "held up" the State organization against the wishes of the real party leaders and the welfare of the party and the public. At the recent session of the Democratic State committee an attempt was made to unload him. But for the reason that many regarded the time inauspicious and others were influenced by timidity, it failed. After chairman Collins entered upon his duties he diplomatically urged O'Donnell to resign. After some equivocation he refused.

As chairman of the Philadelphia City committee O'Donnell has been operating a political "trading post" for many years. In consideration of certain patronage he has been making it possible for the Vare machine to disfranchise thousands of Democratic voters and create zero returns whenever it was deemed desirable to do so. Because of his perfidy thousands of earnest Democrats in Philadelphia have refrained from participation in political activities. And his malign influence has extended beyond the limits of that city. Thousands of up-State Democrats have become discouraged for the reason that the frauds in Philadelphia nullified the efforts for party success elsewhere.

An opportunity was offered to Mr. O'Donnell to retire gracefully and he apparently assented to that course. But, presumably after conference with the leaders of the Vare machine, he concluded that he could work greater harm to the Democratic party by making a fight and refused to resign. This aroused the spirit of national chairman Raskob, national committeeman Kistler and State chairman Collins and they set about to reform the Philadelphia organization with O'Donnell eliminated. It was a bold move and may cause litigation but it was right and just and will have the cordial support of Democrats throughout the State. There is no room for traitors in the ranks this year.

—When Senator Curtis spoke at Williams' Grove last week, every employee of the State at Harrisburg, willing to hear him, was given a holiday.

## Different View of Issue.

Both the major party candidates for Vice President delivered addresses on Thursday of last week. Mr. Curtis, the Republican nominee, spoke at the Grangers' picnic, Cumberland county, and Mr. Robinson at Hot Springs, Arkansas. Mr. Curtis stressed the tariff as the paramount issue of the campaign. He said the Democrats want "to let down the bars protecting American agricultural products." Eggs are his pet farm product. Out in Kansas, he says, "they call him Egg Charlie." Anyway he aspires to be the champion of the egg and he is immeasurably elated because there were only 30,000,000 dozen of eggs imported last year against 53,000,000 during a Democratic tariff period.

On the other hand Mr. Robinson appraises farm relief as the biggest issue of the campaign though prohibition, merchant marine and political corruption are matters of importance. Both party platforms recognize the urgency of farm relief, but after eight years of effort to solve the problem the Republican party has failed. It offers to renew the promise made four years ago and presents Herbert Hoover as surety. In 1925 Mr. Hoover promulgated the theory "that agricultural production should be limited to the demands of our domestic markets." In other words, this expert mining engineer would forbid the selling of agricultural products in foreign markets as a remedy for domestic surpluses.

Most folks like eggs for breakfast. They are no longer needed for egg-nog, but as a matter of fact the production of eggs has become a work of specialists and is no longer a feature of farm activity. Maybe that is the reason Senator Curtis takes so deep an interest in eggs. He is a hard-boiled partisan and his party has become so completely committed to specialties that he imagines protecting eggs is a personal obligation. Besides if he could shift public attention from the delinquencies of his party in other directions and the corruption in office during the administrations of Harding and Coolidge by pleading for protection for eggs, he would be performing a great service to Hoover.

—The Kellogg peace pact is gaining force every day and the preparation for war is moving forward in about the same ratio.

## Women's Clubs of County Backing a County Library.

The Centre county federation of Women's clubs are backing the movement for a county library and bespeak the thoughtful interest and consideration of every citizen in the undertaking. To establish a county library will naturally mean the accumulation of money in some way to bear the expense.

Under the law the county commissioners can assess a tax for this purpose, not to exceed two mills, providing the question be submitted to the voters of the county and approved by them. Consequently the matter will be up for consideration at the November election, as the county commissioners have agreed to have it printed on the ballots.

As the women now figure it will require about a one mill tax to establish the library and keep it in proper circulation. The headquarters would be in Bellefonte. One good sized storage room would be needed, and one person to handle the books. There will also have to be an experienced librarian and a man with a truck to put the books in circulation throughout the county, and also gather them up after they have been read. No charge would be made for the use of the books.

In this connection it might be stated that a library is no longer necessarily an imposing building with marble columns housing books. Rather it is a service through which people are furnished books. The organization of this service varies. In Pittsburgh there is a main library located way out from the center of the city available to only the few who have the time to make the long trip out through the crowded city. So the city has taken the library to the people. There are branches in all parts of the city. Some are in large reading rooms, many in play centers, while in the summer time stores are the repositories. The readers apply for the books in advance and three times a week a truck arrives bringing the case of books required at the particular station.

A county library is organized in the same way. The job is not more difficult than in the city, for many cities are spread over an area equal to a county, while the population served would be greater.

There must be, in organizing a county library, one large center or clearing house. This clearing house would not be open to the public but merely the ware room where books are kept. The books would be taken out to the various stations or repositories by means of a truck. The stations would vary in size with the number of readers served. The large boroughs might have reading rooms, other sections might use the rural schools, the Sunday school rooms, the Grange hall, and even the corner grocery might be called upon to furnish room.

The ware room or main center would be in charge of a trained librarian whose job it would be to select the books wanted, distribute them and keep the records.

Walking out south Water street, on Monday morning, the writer was accosted by a gentleman who was looking at the trout and asked if he would be permitted to take a handful of the water moss growing on the bed of the stream above the falls. On being assured that no one would interfere with him taking what he wanted the man climbed down over the wall, gathered a handful of the moss, then climbed back to the pavement.

In explanation he stated that he lived in Pittsburgh and wanted the moss for his goldfish aquarium. He stated that he could buy it out there but they charged 25 cents for a root of the moss about the size of a man's thumb, and the handful he gathered would cost from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

And to think that only about three weeks ago the borough paid out good money to clean the moss out of the creek and carted away to a dump some five or six tons of it. At the price they charge in Pittsburgh it would probably have been worth several hundred dollars wholesale. So why not sell the moss in the future.

—The Anti-Saloon League seems to be afraid that a plan will be devised to enforce the Eighteenth amendment, thus cutting them off the

—Mr. Hoover spoke eloquently in favor of tolerance but the National committee of his party seems to be a fountain of whispering intolerance.

—Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, resented the charge that he had lied, which put his accuser under the necessity of proving it.

## More Foreign Than Home Hunters After Doe Licenses.

Up to Monday of this week county treasurer Lyman L. Smith had received approximately five times as many requests for the special doe licenses from hunters outside of Centre county as he had from hunters within the county. The special doe licenses were only received last week and to be exact up to Monday about one thousand had been issued to hunters within the county while in the neighborhood of five thousand applications from hunters outside the county were on file and waiting to be filled.

And right here we want to add that on the way out of the court house after obtaining the above information we passed two hunters discussing the license question. Both of them were evidently opposed to the killing of doe but they decided to go back to the treasurer's office and buy a doe license just to keep hunters from out of the county getting them.

If the Game Commission, in its ruling permitting the killing of antlerless deer only, had proclaimed that licenses to kill doe could be obtained only by hunters resident in the county, it is quite possible that the demand would not have been as great in Centre county as for the regular license in former years. But under the ruling as it now stands Centre county woodlands will be overrun by a horde of hunters from all parts of the State and the probability is that deer hunting will be spoiled for years to come.

Many private landowners on the various mountains are threatening to post no trespass signs, but whether this will have any restraint on the foreign hunters who invade Centre county remains to be seen.

—We quote no less authority than the New York Times when we state that Republican managers in New York rushed to Washington and protested against the raids of federal officers on the night clubs of that city. Mr. Hoover was in Washington at the time. Strange as it may seem the raids either stopped at once or became mere perfunctory visitations of officers who did nothing. It doesn't look good to us. And it convinces us all the more that the dry element is leaning on a weak reed when it places reliance on Herbert. When the word gets out to Hollywood that night clubs in New York will be safe until after the election, and maybe then some, Tex Guinan will probably come back and announce for Hoover.

—The Watchman gives all the news while it is news.

## SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Walter Leathers, aged 26 years, of Salona, an employee of the Bellefonte Limestone company there, suffered a compound fracture of the right leg when a rock rolled against a truck. He was using an iron bar to pry the large pieces of rock loose for loading on the truck when the accident occurred.

—Ralph Rupert, 19, of Beech creek, an employee of the Horne Construction company on the State highway west of Lock Haven, narrowly escaped serious injury when the truck he was driving went over a forty foot embankment. He injured his left knee and suffered numerous bruises and contusions over the entire body.

—Ten thousand acres of cut over forest land in Cherry, Colley, and Laporte townships, Sullivan county, have been acquired by Mrs. Emma C. Bergdoll, of Philadelphia, who has had plans and specifications prepared for a \$40,000 summer home to be erected at a point of eminence on the tract. An elaborate landscaping project to provide a fitting setting for the mansion also is planned.

—Henry A. Dapper, of Carriick, has offered \$1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of his son, Dr. Harry R. Dapper. Dr. Dapper, youthful physician, was taken on a mysterious call in his own car two weeks ago and shot to death by a stranger. His father rode in the back seat of the car at the time of the slaying, and was beaten severely in his attempt to overpower the slayer.

—Thieves forced an entrance into the warehouse of the Booth Tobacco company, at Columbia, Pa., early on Sunday, and stole cigars, tobaccos, cigarettes and other goods said to be valued at \$1,000. They took the loot away in an automobile bearing Pennsylvania license number 730-187, the car having been stolen from Norman H. Stevenson who had parked the machine in front of his home a half square from the scene of the robbery.

—In default of bail, three boys ranging in age from 13 to 15 years, have been put in jail, in Armstrong county, awaiting arraignment on the charge of causing malicious mischief in the granary of the Gates company, on North Grant avenue, Gallitzin. Officers say the boys have already admitted gaining entrance to the place and slashing bags of flour with a knife, and then taking a can of disinfectant and pouring it over books and papers.

Frank Penic, of Manifold, Washington county, got a holiday grouch, police say, and swung an axe threateningly. A trifle careless, however, the axe slipped and the blade almost cut off his nose and otherwise severely injured him. When his injuries had been treated, he refused to submit to arrest. Deputy Sheriff Harry Welsh charged. Welsh says Penic was joined in his resistance by his wife and a boarder, Joseph Diemetz. Welsh finally conquered the trio and all were lodged in jail.

—Conditions have reached such a stage in Windsor, York county, that sidewalks are not safe for pedestrians, it is claimed, nor can churchgoers worship in peace. Because of these conditions, chief burgess H. F. Gohn has issued a warning that all boys using "scooters" and riding on the sidewalks are an annoyance to pedestrians and that the practice must be stopped. He also requests Main street residents to refrain from washing automobiles on Sunday. This practice, it is claimed, has become an annoyance to those attending religious services.

—More than six tons of dynamite were used in a blast at the quarries of the Stone Trap Rock company in Montgomery county, on Friday. It is estimated that 85,000 tons of stone were dislodged by the blast, but so well calculated was the explosion that spectators stood at points of danger from flying fragments. When the blast was set off masses of stone were lifted in the air and then fell to the bottom of the quarry, which in places is 100 feet in depth. Sixteen holes, each containing about 750 pounds of dynamite, were exploded together.

—Clifford P. Graham has been elected a director and treasurer of the Lewistown Trust Company to succeed Karl Bergey who resigned six weeks ago, and is awaiting trial to account for a shortage of \$28,000. The shortage was largely traced to the manipulations of Thomas Ayers and his peculiar methods of financing automobiles. Ayers is now in the Altoona hospital seriously injured in an automobile accident Tuesday night of last week. He is also under \$4,000 bail charged with uttering and passing drafts in the amount of \$10,000 without funds in bank.

—Captain David B. Miller, state highway patrolman of Greensburg, has been sentenced to four months in the Butler county jail and fined \$1,200 by Judge John R. Henninger, for malfeasance in office. Miller was found guilty at the June term of court of ordering a member of the Butler patrol to change charges against an automobile driver from driving while intoxicated to driving in a reckless manner. Judge Henninger indicated that the jail sentence will be suspended, if Miller goes into court and promises not to show favoritism in the discharge of his duties. Miller will appeal the sentence, according to his attorneys.

—Members of the Pennsylvania State police have been sent to Summit Hill, Carbon county, at the request of angry citizens because of an outrage committed in St. Joseph's Catholic cemetery, where eighty-three tombstones were dabbled with black paint, and the wording of which aims at a political allusion. The larger stones were smeared in perpendicular style with the wording "Who-ver," and across the width of the crosses on many of the smaller stones is the same wording. The oily substances of the paint on the rough-faced stones make it almost impossible to have them restored. Some of the stones may have to be replaced.

—After serving seven weeks of a minimum sentence of six months in Luzerne county jail, Roger S. Williams, former treasurer of the South Side Bank, Wilkes-Barre, was paroled by Judge Fine. Williams pleaded guilty several months ago to a charge of embezzlement and threw himself on the mercy of the court. At the time of his arrest it was stated the total of his defalcations was approximately \$64,000 and that full restitution had been made by relatives. The board of directors said the bank had not suffered financially and asked clemency for Williams. When Judge Fine sentenced Williams to a term of from six months to two years imprisonment in the county jail he said that he would entertain a motion for a parole at an early date. Williams asserted the money was lost in the stock market.