

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., October 26, 1928.

P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

To Correspondents.—No communications published unless accompanied by the real name of the writer.

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## DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL TICKET

FOR PRESIDENT

ALFRED E. SMITH, of New York

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

JOSEPH B. ROBINSON, of Arkansas.

## DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET

For Congress

T. E. COSTELLO, of Bradford

For Representative in General Assembly

ANDREW CURTIN THOMPSON, of Phillipsburg

## Mr. Holmes and the Gasoline Tax.

As important as trunk line highways may be to the people of this State they are not one whit more important, nor even as important as rural roads, township and county, which furnish the principal means of communication for the vast majority of the people of the State outside of a few large cities. Centre county is a particular example of the importance of rural roads. As important as these roads may be, they have for the past several years been consistently pushed to one side with all favors still going to the through highways.

In 1921 when a tax on gasoline was first enacted in this State, it was provided in the Act that fifty per cent. of the revenue derived from this tax should be returned to the counties in which the tax was collected. This provision of the gasoline tax Act remained substantially unchanged by succeeding Legislatures until the session of 1927. In that year by Act No. 160 the Legislature imposed a permanent tax of two cents a gallon, and what is called an emergency tax, of one cent a gallon on gasoline. By the same Act, the share of the county in which the tax was collected is limited to twenty five per cent. of the permanent tax, and no share of the emergency tax. In other words by the 1921 Act the counties got fifty per cent. of the tax collected, by the 1927 Act they get sixteen and two-thirds per cent. of the tax collected, or just one-third of what they received under the former Act.

Do not the rural roads of our community need repairing? Would it not be a benefit to the people of Centre county if as many of our county roads as possible were permanently improved by making them hard surfaced roads? How many of our county roads are conveniently traversable in the dead of winter, and why should they not be year around roads if the county could finance their improvement?

Do the people of Centre county believe that the Hon. J. L. Holmes had their interest at heart when he voted to take away from them two-thirds of their share of the gasoline tax? In the face of an organized opposition to this bill on the part of the representatives of both parties from rural counties, he voted for poorer county roads that a "machine" bill could pass. The finances available for the upkeep and improvement of our rural roads are little enough without having a citizen of the county vote to have them reduced.

Because the people of Centre county want a man in the General Assembly who will fill that position with dignity, prestige and ability, together with an eye single to the best interests of the constituency he serves, they should elect Andrew Curtin Thompson to the Legislature.

The Right Reverend James H. Darlington, Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg, will make his annual visitation to St. John's Episcopal church, Bellefonte, on Sunday. He will arrive in Bellefonte some time on Saturday afternoon and will be the guest of the rector, Rev. Stuart F. Gast. A parish reception will be given in the parish house on Saturday evening, at 8:15 o'clock, with the Bishop as the guest of honor. At the eleven o'clock service, on Sunday morning, the Bishop will confirm a class presented by the rector and will also be the preacher. Through the courtesy of the press Rev. Gast extends a general invitation to the public to attend this service.

Malcolm Pifer, ten year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Pifer, of Howard, was kicked in the face by one of his father's horses, last Saturday morning, and is now undergoing treatment in the Centre County hospital. The horse had not been worked for several days and when taken out of the barn, on Saturday morning, was somewhat frisky. Malcolm got too close to the horse and when it threw up its heels one of them caught the boy in the face, inflicting a gash on the bridge of the nose. His condition is not considered serious.

## Clown of This Campaign.

The clown of the campaign is William E. Borah, Senator in Congress from Idaho. Posing as a pious champion of righteousness chairman Raskob, of the Democratic National committee, has exhibited him to the public as a miserable pettyfogger, distorting facts, misrepresenting records and perverting history. In every speech he has made since the opening of the campaign he has stultified himself and in most of them maligned others. In Minneapolis, referring to the charge that Hoover had held down the price of wheat after the close of the war, he said, "there is not one iota of history that does not contradict this falsehood." Mr. Borah, himself, originated the charge.

In January, 1919, there was pending in the Senate a resolution appropriating \$100,000,000 to the food control commission. Discussing it Mr. Borah said "three of the vast monopolies which control the food supply of the country have directed and controlled the food administration since its organization. He (Mr. Hoover) permits these people to, in effect, fix their own prices, and their profits under Mr. Hoover, amounted all the way from 25 per cent. to 40 per cent. for the last two years," and added that "no man who has such perverted views of decency ought to be trusted with unlimited power to deal with \$100,000,000." That statement was the beginning of the charge against Hoover.

But now with the fond expectation of reward from Hoover in the event of his election, or favors from the party in case the vision of the portfolio of the State Department vanishes, he is fulsome in his praise of the Republican candidate for President. Then he declared that Hoover went to Europe as the emissary of the American packing houses to sell their products at inflated prices. Now he says it was a "desperate fight to sustain the price of farm products," and that it was "the most magnificent exhibition of charity and humanity in the history of the world." Apparently he imagines that the people of the country, generally, and those of the city of Minneapolis in particular, are idiots.

One of Herbert Hoover's associates in war work in Belgium says Mr. Hoover was a Democrat then. That was before the Presidential ben got into his bonnet.

## The Constitutional Amendments.

The Republican leaders of the State are divided on the merits of the constitutional amendments to be voted on at the coming election. State Treasurer Lewis seems to be opposed to all the amendments and Governor Fisher has expressed approval of only one, that providing for \$50,000,000 for the Highway Department, which also has the support of Highway Commissioner Stuart. Some of the Automobile organizations of the State have declared against this amendment on the ground that the revenues of the department are ample to meet necessary expenditures, and a good many of the leading newspapers concur in this opinion. There is a suspicion, moreover, that this proposition is tainted.

Some of the amendments have a purely local interest but there are others of State-wide interest and obvious merit which should receive the earnest support of all voters. Among these is No. 2, which provides for the issue of \$8,000,000 in bonds "for the erection and equipment of the Pennsylvania State College of buildings necessary for the uses and purposes of the institution." This splendid institution has been shamefully crippled in its work through neglect of the Legislature and it is high time that the people of the State should voice a protest by adopting this amendment. Number 6, and number 10 are also propositions of the highest merit and should receive the cordial support of the people of the State.

Resolution No. 3 provides for the issue of bonds for the purpose of acquiring land for reforestation. This is really a proposition to invest money in an enterprise which is certain to be profitable. Numbers 6 and 13 provide for the adoption and use of voting machines when desired by the people. If adopted by the people, and the necessary legislation is enacted by the Legislature, election frauds may be prevented in future, and all honest voters desire that result. Number 10 provides for funds to buy lands and construct and equip buildings "for the care and maintenance of penal offenders, delinquents, mental defectives, epileptics and persons mentally diseased."

## It Must Have Been Some Address.

From the Denver Kiwanian of October 24 we take the appended notice of an address delivered before that body by the Rev. Wilson P. Ard.

It is evident that the able young clergyman is fulfilling the expectations that his pastorate here presaged.

Wilson Ard—he never fails us. Great eloquence he sets before us—but it isn't just that—there is deep thought making that eloquence a thing of lingering substance; and greater yet a throbbing quality from within which reaches out to touch hearts with refreshing warmth and unleash hidden urges to better living. "Seeing the Unseen"—What a subject and what an address. It was related to Kiwanis and to us as Kiwanians. Words from this pen will not attempt to comment upon what was said. Those who did not attend missed a great, great deal.

## Where Was Mr. Holmes When This Was Going On?

In 1215 English speaking people first forbade the taking of private property for public use, except "by the law of the land." In 1789 the people of the United States provided in our constitution that private property could not be taken without "due process of law." The people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have written into their State Constitution, "nor shall private property be taken or applied to public use without authority of law and WITHOUT JUST COMPENSATION BEING FIRST MADE AND SECURED." As a people we have always prized our constitutional guarantees of the freedom of our persons and homes from an arbitrary exercise of power as one of the most cherished fundamentals of American government.

In 1925, for the first time in the history of our State, our authorities deliberately invaded the security of private property. By Act No. 382 of that year the Secretary of Highways by acknowledging a plan or draft of such nature as he sees fit, with the approval of the Governor, may designate the future location of the highways of the State. The filing of this plan or draft in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for the County in which the land concerned is situated, makes the land entirely valueless to its owner. The owner or occupier is thereafter forbidden to erect any buildings or make any improvements within the limits of the plan. It may be a hundred years before the road as designated be constructed, but in the meantime there is a lien against the property, impossible to efface. No buildings or improvements may be erected thereon, and the owner is practically prevented from realizing the value of his property by sale. Four generations hence the heirs of the present owner may receive damages based upon the value of the land at the time of the filing of the plan, but any increase of value, or enjoyment of the land is kept from the owner by the State's prohibition.

Is such practical confiscation compatible with our form of government, or is it the arbitrary act of an overdeveloped centralized machine power. Already no less than three hundred twenty one (321) property holders on Routes 27, 56 and 58, in this county are affected by this Act. How many of these owners today know of the condemnation of their lands? How many have received damages for this condemnation? Let the three hundred twenty one (321) owners speak for themselves and they will answer to a man that they have not been paid.

On the 11th day of this month the Hon. J. L. Holmes made a talk in Bellefonte in which he stated he had been present and voted on every important measure while he was in the Legislature. The only man in Centre county who had authority to raise his voice in protest against this unconstitutional measure, did not choose to vote. Did the man who had sworn to protect and defend our constitution and represent his constituency, raise his voice to see that "just compensation was first made and secured" for three hundred twenty one (321) land owners of Centre county? Never a word. Is this the faithful, efficient and conscientious service, he boasts of having rendered?

For this and other reasons the people of Centre county will choose to send Andrew Curtin Thompson to the next session of the Legislature.

## Fraudulent Contract Stopped.

The conspiracy through which the Sinclair oil corporations and the Republican organization has been robbing the government of its naval oil reserves for many years got a hard jolt, the other day, when the Attorney General handed down an opinion that the contract is invalid. The contract was entered into in 1922 between the Sinclair Crude Oil Purchasing company and Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior, and under it the Sinclair company obtained \$33,757,350 worth of oil. It was for a period of five years and contained a "joker" authorizing a renewal without competition for another five year period. The Attorney General holds that the original contract was fraudulent and the renewal invalid.

In the advertisement for the original contract no mention was made of the renewal feature, which was inserted subsequently by Secretary Fall, apparently under a secret agreement with Sinclair. When the contract expired in 1927 and application was made for the renewal the attention of the then Secretary of the Interior was called to the fraud, but he disregarded the warning and signed up the renewal. Senator Walsh, of Montana, called the matter to the attention of the President who referred it to the Attorney General in the hope, probably, that some way might be found to oblige Mr. Sinclair. For seven months it was buried in the office of the Attorney General, who was finally forced to act.

A significant feature of this shady proceeding is the fact that the Secretary of the Interior who granted the renewal of the contract in the face of full knowledge it was fraudulent was Hubert Work, now chairman of the Republican National committee and manager-in-chief of Herbert Hoover's campaign for President. It was not only a renewal of a fraudulent contract legalizing the robbery of the government but a renewal of the corrupt partnership between Harry Sinclair and the administration at Washington to drain the naval oil reserves of the country. It has been stopped, temporarily, through the vigilance of Senator Walsh, but if Hoover is elected President who knows what will happen.

Elihu Root, "the greatest living American," who was to preside at the Hoover meeting in New York, failed to appear. It may be recalled that Mr. Root thinks pretty well of Governor Smith.

Young Teddy Roosevelt is going to hunt big game in Asia. It is to be hoped that he will have better success than when he aimed to get Al Smith's job as Governor of New York.

Mr. Hoover claims credit for the Republican party for every increase that has occurred within seven years except those in crime and divorce.

In his New York speech Herbert Hoover practically offered the power trust a blanket mortgage on the entire water power of the country.

Philadelphia is doing fairly well in the matter of house-cleaning, but the arrest of a few "higher-ups" would vastly improve things.

## PILOT HOPSON KILLED FLYING NIGHT MAIL.

Plane Crashed in Tree Top Near Polk Pa., During Storm Last Thursday Morning.

Pilot William C. Hopson, flying the night mail from New York to Cleveland, was hurled to his death, at an early hour last Thursday morning, when his plane struck the top of a dead chestnut tree in a strip of woodland near Polk, Pa. Hopson left New York at 9:45 p. m., Wednesday evening, passed over Bellefonte on time and was reported passing over Clarion at 1:05 Thursday morning. That was the last heard of him. Residents of the country west of Clarion reported having seen several flares dropped from the plane and scout ships sent out from Cleveland scoured that section all day, on Thursday, without finding a trace of the missing pilot or plane.

Early Friday morning, however, the wrecked plane, partially burned, and the mangled and burned body of the pilot were found in a strip of woodland near Polk. A hard rain storm had swept over that section of the State about 11 time pilot Hopson was on his trip and it is likely he was flying low to keep under the heavy clouds. But he evidently was lower than he thought and his plane crashed into the tree, breaking off thirty feet of the top, was hurled against another tree and crashed to the ground, a mass of wreckage, which burst into flames and was mostly consumed. Of the one thousand pounds of mail carried in the plane only about ten pounds were salvaged from the charred wreck.

Pilot Hopson was one of the oldest fliers in the service, having flown for eight years. He was known as a careful pilot and during flier. A number of years ago he was in Bellefonte and wanted to go to New York. The pit of the mail plane east was filled with mail so Hopson climbed onto one of the wings and made the trip to Hadley field. He is survived by a wife and fifteen year old son, Robert Hopson, living at Omaha, Neb.

In Hopson's load of mail were a number of diamonds and in hunting through the abandoned wreckage for souvenirs, on Friday afternoon some one found a diamond. Quickly the news spread and hundreds of people flocked to the scene on the hunt for precious stones. One man found four and others who found some sold them for two and three dollars each, stones said to be worth from \$85 to \$100. When the Postoffice Department heard of the finding of the diamonds an inspector was sent to Polk and he has recovered most of the gems.

Nathan Haugh, Miles township farmer who, on Monday of last week, was arrested for killing deer on his own land which he averred were destroying his crops, and entered into an agreement to pay a fine and costs aggregating \$515, evidently rued his bargain, as he failed to appear and make settlement last Thursday. It is understood he is going to appeal the case to court. Mr. Haugh was arrested because he failed to declare the killing of the deer to game wardens within forty-eight hours.

Tomorrow afternoon at 1:50 station W. P. S. C., at State College will broadcast the State-Syracuse football game, play by play.

GARDNER.—Mrs. Clara Strickland Gardner, wife of M. I. Gardner, passed away at her home in Clearfield, on Saturday morning, following a prolonged illness.

She was a daughter of Cyrus J. and Nancy Huey Strickland, and was born in Bellefonte sixty-five years ago. She was educated in the public schools of the town and as a young woman engaged in teaching. For a number of years she taught in the second grade of the Bellefonte schools and proved a most efficient instructor. Her inherent love for children and school activities remained with her always and her greatest pride was the success in later years of the boys and girls who had been her pupils in their youth. As a girl she united with the Bellefonte Presbyterian church and retained her membership there all her life. During her years of residence in Bellefonte she was active in all kinds of church work as well as in other affairs, social and otherwise.

In 1889 she married Mitchell I. Gardner and they lived in Bellefonte until almost twelve years ago when they moved to Clearfield. In 1918 they moved to Johnstown where Mr. Gardner, as division chief, opened the internal revenue office in that city. In 1921, when Mr. Gardner left the federal service, they returned to Clearfield and that had been her home ever since. During her residence there she made many warm friends who showed her many kindnesses and who sincerely regret her passing away.

Her only survivors are her husband and one son, Harold Gardner, at home; and one sister, Mrs. A. Lester Sheffer, of Milroy. Funeral services were held at her late home at 2 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, burial being made in Hillcrest cemetery, Clearfield.

MOTHER  
Not enough for her are flowers  
Her life is so blent with ours  
That in all we dare and do  
She is partner, through and through:  
Suffering when we suffer pain,  
Happy when we smile again,  
Living with us, night and day,  
That is ever mother's way. . . .

MUSSEY.—Mrs. Alice Sarah Musser, widow of F. Pierce Musser, for many years a well known resident of Millheim, passed away on October 8th, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. F. B. Breneman, at State College, following an illness of some weeks.

She was a daughter of Jonathan and Susan Strohm Kreamer and was born in Penn township on March 30th, 1854, hence had reached the age of 74 years, 6 months and 8 days. All her married life was spent in Millheim, but since the death of her husband fourteen years ago, she had made her home with her daughter at State College. She was a lifelong member of the Methodist church and always took an active part in church affairs.

She is survived by one son and a daughter, Randall Musser, of Denbo, Pa., and Mrs. Breneman. She also leaves one brother and three sisters, John H. Kreamer, of Harrisburg, Mrs. Mary A. Miller, of State College; Mrs. Cora Bowman, of Los Angeles, Cal., and Mrs. Emma J. Frank, of Millheim.

Funeral services were held at the Breneman home, at State College, on October 11th, by Rev. A. E. Mackie, after which the remains were taken to Millheim for burial.

WHITE.—John Henry White died at his home in Bush's Addition, Bellefonte, last Saturday morning, following an illness of several weeks with a complication of diseases.

He was a son of John and Mary Stover White and was born in Spring township almost 74 years ago. He followed farming for many years, principally in Spring and Walker townships, retiring eight years ago. In addition to his wife he is survived by the following children: Lloyd F., Lyman H. and Epley White, all living near Bellefonte, and Mrs. Kathryn Lehman, of Jersey Shore. He also leaves two brothers and two sisters, Samuel White, of Linden Hall; Mrs. Elizabeth Kaufman, of Zion; Mrs. Emeline Detrick, of Hublersburg, and Wallace White, of Axe Mann.

He was a member of the Reformed church where funeral services were held at 2:30 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon by the pastor, Rev. Robert Thoma, burial being made in the Bellefonte Union cemetery.

FOWLER.—Mrs. Agnes Fowler, widow of Lyman Fowler, died at her home in Milesburg, last Wednesday night, following a brief illness with pneumonia. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor and was born in Milesburg 77 years ago. Her husband has been dead for some years but surviving her is one sister, Miss Florence Taylor, also of Milesburg. Funeral services were held on Saturday afternoon by Revs. Lehman and Pifer, burial being made in the Trezylynn cemetery.

Tyrone sportsmen have organized a hunting club to be known as the California Run Gun club, and have leased a tract of land in Taylor township, Centre county, and Snyder township, Blair county, as a private game preserve. The tract is five miles long by two wide, and is in one of the best game localities on the Allegheny mountains. The membership of the club is limited to thirty and the land is to be posted against invasion of outside hunters.

About seventy-five people went on the excursion train from Bellefonte to New York, on Saturday night.

## AARONSBURG.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Gilbert and children, of Sunbury, spent Sunday with friends in town.

Wesley Smith and H. E. Crouse have each purchased radios, Mr. Smith an Atwater Kent and Mr. Crouse a Spartan.

D. R. Ream is again afflicted as was Job of old. For several months he was rid of his boil troubles until recently when they again appeared.

Mrs. W. J. Smith, her son Wesley and her daughter, Miss Martha, and Miss Jennie Hull, motored to Bellefonte, Saturday, where they spent a few hours in the shops.

Mrs. John Mohr Otto had as a guest her cousin, Mrs. Herman Haupt, of Philadelphia and Atlantic City, but who is at present at the National hotel, Millheim.

Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Smith and daughter Trila, and Mrs. C. S. Bower, motored to Roaring Springs, last Thursday, where they were guests of Mrs. Smith's niece, Mr. and Mrs. Ammon Mingle.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hull had as callers, Sunday afternoon, Mrs. C. C. Bell, Mrs. F. B. Patton and C. Earl Bell, of Huntingdon, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Kessinger and two sons, John and James Finley, of State College.

Thursday of last week Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Stover, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. George E. Stover, motored to Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. George Stover stopping in Youngstown where they will visit with their children, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Stover going on to Akron to visit their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Sterl Frazer.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Guisewite left by motor, Thursday last, for Franklin, Pa., when they spent several days with Mrs. Guisewite's aged aunt, Mrs. Alonzo Wilt and family thence to Akron, Ohio, where they stopped for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Wyle, and from there to Willard, Ohio, where they will be with Mr. and Mrs. William Bohn, the two ladies being sisters.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. King are entertaining their son, Mr. and Mrs. Harry King, of Battle Creek, Mich. They arrived here, Saturday evening, by automobile. Sunday there was a happy family gathering in the King home when all their children were at home. Mr. and Mrs. Harry King, Battle Creek, Mich.; Mr. and Mrs. Fount Smoyer and son Arthur, of Bellefonte; Mr. and Mrs. Horace Henry and three children, of Milroy; Mr. and Mrs. Paul King and daughter Ruth, Penn Hall; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond King and five children, of this place. Mr. King left here over eight years ago, this being his first visit home in that time. It is needless to say his family were glad to see in and his wife, who they had never before seen.

## BOALSBURG.

Miss Margaret Dale and brother Frederic spent Friday night in town. George Fisher is able to leave his room and spend part of the time down stairs.

Mrs. Harvey Searson, of Conneville, visited at the Coxey-Ishler home last week.

Mrs. Charles Ross and three daughters, of Linden Hall, were visitors in town on Sunday.

Elmer Houtz and family, of Bellefonte, were guests of Mrs. Mary Condo on Sunday.

John Musser, wife and sons, Daniel and George, of Wilkes-Barre, were visitors in town last week.

Rev. Wagner returned, Wednesday, from Erie and Mrs. Wagner from her visit at Garrettsburg, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Patterson and Misses Mary and Rachel Segner were among the excursionists to Philadelphia, Saturday.

Miss Marian Dale, of Oak Hall, accompanied by Miss Anna Mary Hess, drove to Phillipsburg, Friday, for a week-end visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Meyer spent several days, last week, at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Lee Brooks, at Spring Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Hosterman gave a chicken dinner, on Monday evening, the guests being the gentlemen who assisted Mr. Hosterman with the installation of I. O. O. F. officers over the county.

W. A. Rokey was seriously injured by a fall from a tree. A number of stitches were required to close a cut on his head. Injuries to his back are causing considerable suffering, with also probable internal injuries.

Mrs. Harry Musser, of State College, accompanied by Mrs. J. R. Irwin and Miss Cathryn Dale, of this place, and Mrs. W. W. White, of Linden Hall, drove to Milton, Wednesday, to attend the Lutheran Missionary convention returning home Friday.

## STATE COLLEGE.

Mrs. McMahon, of S. Allen St., is visiting at charter Oak.

Newton Hoy, of W. College Ave., has been very ill during the past few days.

Joseph Neff and family moved from Lemont to N. Atherton St., last week.

The students were well represented at Philadelphia for the big game on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Corman, of Lock Haven, visited a few days at the Lyman Corman home.

Mrs. Oscar Harvey and son, of S. Atherton street, were business callers in Lock Haven last week.

The stork stopped at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Swartz and left an 8 pound baby girl, on Sunday.

Mrs. Mabel Peck, of Bellwood, and a friend, visited in town on Sunday and also called at the Evergreens to see her daughter, Miss Freda Peck. Miss Peck is the charming lady who passes out the sandwiches at the Evergreens but better known among her friends here as "Betsy."