

—So far as 1928 is concerned the Watchman is all any more, still yet, already once again. It's all because there ain't any more.

—The Smithsonian Institute may have failed in appreciation of Orville Wright's achievements but the public does him full justice.

—It is said that liquor will cost more next year, but there is no expectation that it will be scarcer and little hope that it will be better.

—The Republican legislative caucus was held in New York, Saturday evening, but Mr. Mellon has not yet made up his mind as to who will be Speaker.

—If the lounge lizard who has been running up your light meter, eating your fudge and keeping your home evenings when you thought you would take in the movies, hasn't been around lately it's a sign that he isn't going to send you a bunch of flowers or a box of candy on Christmas.

—We're going to try to make a happy Christmas for "Wesley." If you want to join us send anything from a quarter to a dollar. Some day we're going to put Wesley's message to the world in words that he can't command. To us he is an heroic figure. Heroic because he has plodded his way through life under handicaps that would have broken the spirit and heart of most of us.

—Let the scoffers scoff. They reveal their hypocrisy when the Christmas season approaches for then they begin to respond to something within them that they don't understand and won't recognize. Subconsciously they react to the Christmas spirit just as one hundred thousand fight fans once stood in a New York arena with bowed heads in silent prayer. The prayer was that Lindbergh, who was then winging his way over the Atlantic, might reach Paris in safety. Many in that mob had little thought of God, yet none protested the suggestion that there is One to pray to.

—Among the many things the tax payers of Centre county don't expect Santa Claus to drop in their stockings is the prospect of less expense in government, yet that is likely just what is to happen. At the last election neither the Prohibition, Socialist, Labor, Communist nor Industrialist parties cast two per cent. of the total vote, so they will have no place on the ballot next year. In Centre county the printing of columns for these parties has been an expense that we have inveighed against, time and again. It couldn't be stopped until Al Smith appeared on the scene. Then the Prohibitors forgot their party and rushed to Hoover. We don't know or care where the rest of them went, but they went somewhere and Al, "that bad man" has saved Centre county really more than Herbert Hoover can give it with all the prosperity he isn't going to give.

—Having worked our way out from under a load far too heavy for waning mind and brain to dispatch as easily as they once did we started home Wednesday evening to get a snack before beginning the night shift. On the bridge something bright, off to the south, attracted our attention. It was the new moon and we saw it over our right shoulder. My, how we were perked up at that omen of good luck. Then we remembered that we hadn't a cent in our pockets and the charm was broken. For when one sees the new moon over the right shoulder good luck does not follow unless he or she has money in hand. We had none, for the day before we had given the little change we had to a stranded boy who was trying to get home for Christmas. We stood there on the bridge to drink in the glory of that December moon, poised in the opaline sky of early evening. The falls of Spring creek looked like dancing diamonds and for a moment we were charmed into utter oblivion as to work and care and luck. Then we turned to the homeward way where garish lights and man's puny attempts to create a Christmas atmosphere snapped us out of the rhapsody.

We hadn't thought much of Christmas up to that moment. We had been too busy, but it's strange what an impression such things make on one. We got to wondering whether that moon might not have had a message to us just as the Star of Bethlehem had for the Wise Men of the East. We know it did, for it brought us face to face with the advent of Christmas. And all of the beauty we saw as we leaned on the rail of the bridge was but God's setting for the birth of the Christ child. With it came to us an over-whelming flood of recreation.

Our heart bulged with hope that all the world would be at peace, and happy, and come to see the beautiful things in life and be blinded to the sordid.

It would have been said anyway, but we want you to understand that when we write this message of Good Cheer to you it isn't just words. It is from a heart that prays that all your life will be as full of contentment, and happiness, and self effacement as was ours during that moment of translation on the bridge.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Little Chance of Reform Legislation.

The Philadelphia representatives in the General Assembly assembled in caucus, the other evening, to consider questions of policy and programmes of legislation to be followed at the organization and during the coming session. There are thirty-six in the delegation and as the chosen leader of the bunch boasted it "has the power to make or break any bill introduced in either the House or Senate." That being the case any hope of beneficent legislation during the session of 1929 may as well be abandoned. The rebuke administered in November by the election of five Democratic Representatives and one Democratic Senator has had no effect. It has failed of its purpose.

If the solidarity of the Philadelphia delegation in the matter of legislation were confined to measures of application only to that city we might have no reason to complain. "Ephraim is joined to his idols" and the rest of us might "let him alone." But the thirty-six may, and no doubt will, vote as a body against any legislation tending toward reform that has the least political tinge and thus becomes a menace to any form of improvement in the government of the Commonwealth. It will become a trading post to which the representatives of all sections of the State must appeal in order to get legislation through, and it will drive hard bargains with those who come to it.

The incentive which led up to this declaration of sinister purpose may have been a movement, recently organized in Philadelphia, to alter the form of government of that city and adopt the manager system. The uncoincidental purpose of this movement is to get rid of the Vane machine as a dominant force in the municipal government. Naturally the delegation is opposed to that. In Cincinnati and other cities of large population the experiment has been adopted with gratifying results and the chances are that few, if any, of the present delegation could be elected if the Vane machine were wiped out. But it is unfortunate that all reform legislation is to be sacrificed to save the machine.

—The Senate is still withholding its approval of the nomination of Roy West, Samuel Insull's lawyer, for Secretary of the Interior. The records of Albert Fall and Hubert Work in that office make Senators careful.

Monopoly Control a Present Evil.

The Boulder dam bill, as passed by the Senate last week, after eight years of parliamentary jockeying, promises little advantage to the people of the section of the country concerned. As originally drawn and agreed to by the House of Representatives the measure would have committed the government to construct the dam and create plants for irrigation and generating electric power for public service. As adopted by the Senate it authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to lease to private corporate interests the right to supply irrigation and electric power as a commercial enterprise. This change in the plan may secure executive approval of the bill but robs it of its value to the public.

All that is necessary to complete the monopoly of electric power in the country is to convey to the power trust control of the government owned plant at Muscle Shoals and a franchise to generate and sell electric service at Boulder dam. The Boulder dam bill as passed by the Senate practically guarantees that half of the proposition. President Coolidge is already committed to that purpose and President-elect Hoover is in complete accord with him on the subject. It is not likely, therefore, that a Secretary of the Interior appointed by either of them would refuse to adopt a policy so obviously adverse to their wishes. In fact the present Secretary is a part of the power trust.

President Coolidge's "pocket veto" of the Muscle Shoals bill, enacted during the last session of the present Congress, is ample evidence of his desire to turn that property over to the Trust. In his campaign speeches Mr. Hoover clearly expressed his concurrence in that purpose. With increased Republican majorities in both branches of Congress, and the potential advantage of vast patronage at hand, it is easy to imagine sufficient executive control of the next Congress to secure any legislation desired by the occupant of the White House. In view of these conditions it must be apparent to all thoughtful persons that the day of monopoly control in this country is at hand.

—Representative Britten will probably fail in his enterprise with Great Britain, but it is certain that he will get himself disliked at Washington.

Senator Bruce's Grim Humor.

Senator Bruce, of Maryland, perpetrated a fine bit of humor during the consideration of the Treasury Appropriation bill the other day. Senator Bruce is a "lame duck," having been defeated for re-election in November. He is also a leader of the wet forces in Congress, and may have been influenced to an extent by disappointment in the result of the election in the country as well as in Maryland. In any event he managed to hoodwink the Senate into appropriating \$270,000,000 for prohibition enforcement and "laughed out loud" at the consternation which followed his achievement. It is confidently expected that the provision will be stricken out by the conference committee.

It is assumed, of course, that the Maryland Senator played the trick on the Senate as a joke, but there is some ground for a contrary opinion. Senator Bruce is a serious man and not given to jesting. He interpreted the result of the election as a mandate to enforce the Eighteenth amendment through the operation of the Volstead law. The head of the enforcement bureau of the Treasury Department recently testified before a committee of Congress that it would require \$300,000,000 to enforce the Eighteenth amendment by that medium, and Senator Bruce may have been simply expressing his concurrence in that estimate and literally "proving his faith by works."

Eight years of fruitless effort has proved that the enforcement of the prohibition amendment has been a disgraceful farce. It has cost a vast sum of money and accomplished nothing except to supply fat jobs for corrupt politicians, create a lucrative industry of bootlegging, and make hypocrites of millions of good citizens. It has made it difficult for poor people and easy for rich men and women to procure alcoholic beverages but impossible for nobody. Senator Bruce may have come to the conclusion that such conditions are intolerable in a state of right-minded people and that the government is under moral and legal obligations to enforce the Volstead law or repeal it.

—Reports of danger to Mr. Hoover may be exaggerated, and the enthusiasm at his receptions in the Southland may be manufactured.

Mr. Britten Takes Another Plan.

Representative Britten, of Illinois, chairman of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, appears to be determined to encroach upon the prerogatives of the Department of State. Some weeks ago he wrote a personal letter to the Premier of Great Britain suggesting that a committee of Parliament meet the Naval committee of the United States Congress at some point in Canada and settle the differences between the two nations on the question of naval equipment. After considerable delay, and probably some anxiety, he got a polite letter from the Premier indicating that his intentions were admirable but his method of procedure irregular and therefore out of order.

The incident provoked a good deal of comment in official circles in Washington. It seems that there is a law on the statute books, enacted a hundred years or more ago, forbidding usurpation of functions of the Executive department and providing a penalty. For a short time there was talk of enforcing this law against Mr. Britten but President Coolidge and Secretary of State Kellogg finally concluded that no real harm had been done and the matter was dropped. But Representative Britten was not satisfied with such a disposition of his pet notion and now announces his purpose to bring the matter before the Inter-parliamentary Union which assembles in Geneva in August next.

With this object in mind Mr. Britten recently cabled to Commander Joseph M. Kenworthy, member of the British Parliament, suggesting a plan for "frequent inter-parliamentary groups of two or more nations," presumably to discuss such questions upon which the participating nations are in disagreement. Commenting on this Mr. Britten says "I propose to do in August, 1929, exactly what I had hoped might be done this year in Canada." In other words, he hopes by this method to take out of the hands of the Executive department certain questions relative to war and peace and vest them in the representatives of the people, namely the Congress of the United States, so far as this country is concerned.

—Lloyd George says "the nations are heading straight for war," and it may be said that he isn't doing much to divert them from the course.

—Airships seem to have taken the place of automobiles as death dealing agents.

Senator Moses Wants Trouble.

Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, is consistent in his movement to hamper the ratification of the Kellogg pact to outlaw war. He was among the most energetic of the group which opposed the ratification of the covenant of the League of Nations. In that case he was influenced by malignant partisanship. In this case he is probably moved by the spirit of mission. He asks for four absolutely impotent reservations to the pact, which in itself is absolutely impotent. The adoption of his reservations can have no other effect than to humiliate the President and the Secretary of State. His purpose in opposing the League of Nations was to humiliate President Woodrow Wilson.

The Moses reservations provide that the treaty imposes no obligation to resort to coercive measures against offenders; that it imposes no limitations on the Monroe Doctrine; that it does not impair the right of the United States to defend its territory, possessions, trade or interests and that it does not obligate the United States to the conditions of any treaty to which the United States is not a party." As a matter of fact there is nothing in the treaty in question which could be construed into imposing such obligations on the government or people of the United States. The treaty actually imposes no obligation of any kind upon the United States or anybody else.

But having opposed the ratification of the covenant of the League of Nations without just reason Senator Moses is justified in opposing the ratification of the Kellogg pact without any kind of reason at all. Consistency is a great virtue to small minds and the New Hampshire Senator feels that he must maintain his record, even if it is a bad one. It is not likely that his proposition will meet with much favor in the Senate or approval in the popular mind, for most of the thinking people appraise the pact as a harmless gesture the ratification of which will flatter the vanity of President Coolidge and Secretary of State Kellogg without doing either harm or good to any one else.

—As a precautionary measure it would be wise for Mr. Hoover to stay away from Bolivia and Paraguay until the smoke blows off.

Shower of Letters in Airmail Celebration.

Upwards of ten thousand letters, or a total of 350 pounds of mail, were sent out from Bellefonte by airplane, on Tuesday afternoon, as an advertising stunt in honor of the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the government air mail between New York and Chicago and the opening of a landing field in Bellefonte.

The celebration was conceived at a meeting of the Kiwanis club several months ago and a committee appointed of which George T. Bush was chairman. As it was impossible to have a parade of airplanes the committee decided to put out a letter which will advertise the town. The wisdom of their decision was shown in the fact that such a large number were sent out.

At first there was some uncertainty as to whether the heavy cargo of letters could be sent out by plane, owing to the fact that Bellefonte is not a regular stopping place and also that because of the near approach of the holiday season the airmail now is very heavy. But it just happened that H. P. Little, the pilot who got lost in the clouds, on Monday, and came down in New York State, was sent back to Cleveland without a cargo of mail and he stopped in Bellefonte and took on the letters mailed here, leaving for Cleveland about 2 o'clock p. m. All mail sent from here will be distributed for consignment to the various destinations.

Included in the large number of letters were some to every State in the Union and quite a number to foreign countries. That it will be a good advertisement for Bellefonte is quite certain.

—On Wednesday afternoon a large moving van going up High street caught an electric light wire strung across the street from a standard in front of the Bush Arcade to the Potter-Hoy hardware store and pulled it down. In attempting to pull the slack out of the wire in replacing it employees of the West Penn Power company pulled over the standard which fell on the Brouse grocery delivery truck, knocking a hole in the top and side. Fortunately nobody was hurt. The wire was one put up temporarily to furnish current for the curb trees.

—The Philadelphia professional gamblers seem to have taken Mayor Mackey's campaign pledges at "face value."

New Milk Ordinance to be Ready for Council at Next Meeting.

Seven members were present at the regular meeting of borough council on Monday evening. Isaac Underwood appeared in person and presented the advantages of the borough carrying its compensation insurance in the Pennsylvania Threshermen and Farmers' Mutual Insurance association, which he represents. The premium is the same in that company as in any other, but policy holders get the advantage of a dividend, which the past two years has averaged 17 1/2 per cent. As the premium on the compensation insurance the borough is compelled to carry amounts to about \$450.00 a year it would mean a return in dividend of about \$75.00. On motion of Mr. Emerick, seconded by Mr. Badger, council voted to give Mr. Underwood the insurance for the coming year.

The Street committee had no report to submit.

The Water committee reported a number of repairs to pipes and meters, and the renting of the first floor of the Phoenix mill property to the Beatty Motor company for \$20 a month. Collections on water taxes included \$5.00 on the 1926 duplicate, \$71.43 on the 1927 and \$1023.57 on the 1928, a total of \$1100.

The committee further reported that it has been customary at this season of the year to place a decorative illumination at the spring, but everything tried so far has not given good satisfaction. This year the West Penn Power company has agreed to furnish an under water illuminated spray for the price of \$54.00 per light. If two lights are used it will give a combination of three colors and be much more effective. The committee favored the two lights. Mr. Emerick moved that the committee be empowered to put in the two light illumination and that they be made a permanent decoration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mignot and passed by council.

Mr. Cunningham then called attention of council to the fact that Mr. Seibert and the Water committee had been severely criticised by the fire marshal and others for a bad condition at the fireplug on Howard street on the night of the fire last week. When the firemen first hooked onto the plug they had an abundance of water but they shut off the water to connect another line of hose then were unable to get the plug open. Mr. Seibert exhibited to council the brass thread stem which operates the valve, and which was badly bent. When the firemen shut off the plug they exerted so much force on the stem that the brass was bent and then the valve naturally couldn't be opened. Mr. Cunningham made it plain that he was not censuring the firemen but made the explanation to show that the fault was not that of Mr. Seibert nor the Water committee.

The Finance committee reported a balance of \$6088.39 in the hands of the borough treasurer and asked for the renewal of notes totaling \$6500, which was authorized.

The Fire and Police committee reported that the street commissioner was using new fire hose to flush sewers, and should use old hose instead. The matter was referred to the Street committee.

Mr. Cobb, of the special committee, reported considerable progress in the matter of the new milk ordinance. After a number of meetings the form has been decided upon and the borough solicitor is preparing the ordinance which will be ready to submit to council at its next meeting.

Mr. Brouse, of the Street committee, stated that the borough is now paying for a light it is not using, one that stood in front of the Bush house, and he suggested that a light be placed on west High street, near the corner of the Potter-Hoy Hardware company's warehouse. Council authorized placing the light.

Mr. Emerick asked regarding a light in the rear of the Bush house and an examination of the map showed that there should be a light there and the matter was referred to the Street committee.

Bills totaling \$1238.26 were approved for payment after which council adjourned.

Laughing

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

A Texas physician introduces the case of a woman given up to die at 37 years of age. She thought that, inasmuch as it was all settled, she might as well stop worrying about it. She immediately set about having as good a time as she could—and lived to be 103.

Laughter clears worry out of the brain and is real exercise for the body. And if a thing can't be helped, we might as well laugh as cry about it. And sometimes it is helped, after all.

—If it is news you are looking for take the Watchman.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—A confession of how he and two companions stole fifty-seven automobiles and committed 104 robberies in seven counties of northeastern Pennsylvania, has been made by Anthony Kwiatkowski, 19, of Nanticoke.

—Telling his family that he intended to hunt deer, Abe Kilmer, 65, a farmer of Towanda, Pa., left home on Friday with a rifle. A short time later he was found dead, a bullet wound in his head and the gun at his side. Members of the family told the police he had been despondent.

—While visiting friends in Millburg, Mrs. Harry Aurand, 35, of Selinsgrove, becoming despondent tried to end her life by slashing her wrists. Excusing herself from a group of friends with whom she was visiting, Mrs. Aurand went to an upstairs room and, obtaining some razor blades, severely cut herself. Surgeons at the Geisinger Memorial Hospital expect her to recover.

—A lone holdup man walked into the Gostonyi Savings and Trust company bank in Reading, and waving an automatic pistol to cow the employees, scooped up \$600 in bills and backed out of the door before turning to flee. He didn't get far as he was captured a block away by patrolman Martin after a pistol duel in which the robber and policeman each emptied their weapons.

—Buses have taken the place of street cars between Johnstown and Ebensburg, Cambria county seat, following suspension of trolley service by the Southern Cambria Railway company. The trolley concern was sold at a trustees' sale Monday to Gomer Walters, Johnstown, for \$32,300. The sale must be confirmed by the county court before disposition of the property is made. Walter had no statement to make regarding his plans.

—Harry Berger, former deputy internal revenue collector attached to the Altoona district pleaded guilty on Tuesday, before Judge P. P. Schoonmaker in United States court, at Pittsburgh, to seven counts of embezzlement. After it had been explained that there seemed to be a multiplication of charges and that Berger's shortage was only \$38 he was placed on probation for three years. He formerly was treasurer of Blair county.

—Claiming that her husband branded a large "T" on her leg, after forcing her down on a bed, Mrs. Ida May Myers, of Hutchinson, Fayette county, was granted a divorce from Burl Myers, also of Hutchinson. Mrs. Myers testified that her husband would force her down on the bed and then use a heavy strap and buckle to punish her. When he branded her leg with the letter "T" he said that he did so just to have her constantly reminded of him.

—The Pennsylvania Hide and Leather company plant covering five acres near Curwensville, was totally destroyed by fire last Thursday night. Damage was estimated at \$1,000,000. Headquarters of the firm are in Boston. The cause was unknown. The tannery was located on what is known as the "flats" and lies adjacent to the borough of Curwensville. It normally employs more than 50 men. The fire is said to have originated in the main building, which is five stories high, and of frame construction.

—Harry William Biddings, 21 years old, of Millin township, Columbia county, was arrested early Monday evening and pleaded guilty to charges of larceny, breaking and entering in connection with the burglary of the home of Perry McHenry, in Orange township, Saturday night, while McHenry was absent. The youth said he had taken more money than McHenry knew was missing. He said he had taken \$515 in cash, \$900 in notes, \$150 in Liberty bonds and titles to two automobiles. Biddings was committed to jail in default of \$1500 bail.

—Charging that diseased cattle had been slaughtered and the meat peddled on the Hanover streets by "frost butchers," a group of meat dealers and green grocers of that place entered a protest at a special meeting of the town council, and asked for more strict regulation of the sale of food-stuffs. A higher peddlers' license fee, which would keep out the small dealer was also urged. Dealers asked that the peddlers' license fee be increased from \$15 to \$20 per year. A small additional fee of \$5 for each additional wagon used for peddling, was suggested.

—Drawn onto a revolving wheel, which was speeding at the rate of 350 revolutions a minute, John Hill, 35, father of three small children, was whirled to death at the brickette plant at Delbert Station, Northumberland county, on Saturday. The man, with his brother, Ermy Hill, had just begun his day's work when the belt of the large wheel slipped from its position, and, in an attempt to replace it without throwing the clutch, stepped so close to it that the wheel caught his clothing. A minute after the brother had witnessed the accident the machinery was stopped.

—Refusing the offer of the Reading Railway company for compensation for loss of a leg, trainman Frederick S. Linderman, of Shamokin, in his suit for damages, filed in the courts of Newark, N. J., demands \$75,000 restitution. When the accident occurred Linderman was employed as brakeman on a yard engine. Standing along the tracks at the lower end of the new Reading yards, he was caught under the wheels of one of two trains which appeared at the same time, confusing him, traveling in opposite directions on parallel tracks. His leg was severed above the knee. He is basing his claim on the contention that the locomotive which struck him came under the inter-state commerce regulations, refusing to accept damages under the State workman's compensation act.

—William P. Woods, cashier and vice-president of the Milfin County National bank, Lewisburg, who organized the first Boy Scout troop in Milfin county eighteen years ago, and who now has several camps in the seven mountains where the boys may summer, in company with W. Boyd Bratton and Charles Hoffman, of the Chamber of Commerce; D. C. Bowman, Foster Cupp and Charles W. Stahl, of the Rotary club, and D. B. Gardner, president elect of the Kiwanis club, all of Lewisburg, have arranged the preliminaries for an organization to comprise all Boy Scout troops in Milfin, Juniata and Huntingdon counties under a paid executive with a view to the betterment of that service. The movement will cost \$6500 a year and Milfin county's quota would be \$700. The National Council was represented by D. C. Van de Boe, of Harrisburg.