

—There were some "vacant chairs" at the Republican caucus in Harrisburg, the other evening. Some of those entitled to seats are in jail.

—As for the new year we are hoping it holds nothing worse in store for us than the old one had and as for you we are wishing that it may have a million times more of the joy of living than we got out of it. And that—we should say—is some good wish for you.

—Sir Geoffrey Butler, English lawyer and member of Parliament, says he is appalled at the amount of drunkenness he has seen since coming to the U. S. A. Sir Geoffrey has yet to learn, it seems, that sobriety in dry countries can't be measured by wet country standards.

—Probably few of you will be interested in the announcement that twenty-three thousand new millionaires have been created in the United States since 1914. We feel it our duty, however, to keep you exactly informed in such matters so we pause to inform you that we are not among the nouveau rich.

—In two months Calvin Coolidge will have his public fade out. Of course historians will quibble about his greatness as President of the United States and we shall not raise issue with any of them. We prefer to remember him as the President who fished for trout with worms and stalked doe deer with a doubled barreled shot gun.

—Many a time during the New Year you will probably have arguments as to the time certain important events happened during 1928. Therefore we suggest that you preserve page six of this issue of the Watchman. All of the memorable happenings of the old year are reported there and it will be a very handy sheet to lay away for reference.

—The loose manner in which we often express ourselves was splendidly illustrated by a very demure lady, on Tuesday, when she told us that a mutual friend, who happens to be a very reputable widower of the town, "is in bed with a nurse." We just had to laugh and the good woman doubtless thinks us a very heartless person, because we know she didn't realize what she had said.

—In the Norris case Judge Kirkpatrick has ruled that it is not unlawful to buy booze from a boot-legger, but when you have him deliver it to you you are guilty of conspiracy to transport the stuff. In other words, the law admits that it is impotent to prevent you from going to the source of supply, making your purchase and carrying it home yourself, unless it detects you in the act of transporting it.

—Right at the start of the New Year we are beset with a lot of worries that ought to be on other shoulders. Here we have the Post Office Department asking for bids for rooms to house the local postoffice for a period of five years when, some four or five years ago, a bill went through Congress authorizing the erection of a federal building in Bellefonte for that purpose. We've always been worrying for somebody else and this time it happens to be "Mitch" Chase, our dapper Congressman. He's the fellow who ought to be working out this problem, but it'll probably not come into his mind until early in the fall of 1930 and then the new five year lease will have been signed and Bellefonte will be out of a chance for a public building until 1935.

—To those of you who helped us make a real Christmas for Wesley we want to say that our only regret is that you could not have been here when we made the presentation of your gifts. Accustomed to nothing more than the crumbs from the rich man's table he was so overwhelmed at the thought that so many of you thought of him that tears trickled down his cheeks, his voice faltered and he bowed his head until he could recover his composure enough to say: "I never knew I had so many friends. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Christmas came once a month." In all there was twenty-two dollars and seventy-five cents and a big fat hen in the stocking you filled for Wesley, and next week we shall publish the names of his friends, together with several of the letters that came.

—A wierd play in the University of California-Georgia Tech foot-ball game at Pasadena, on New Year's day, is being talked off as the most notable bone-head ever pulled on a grid-iron. Captain-elect Reigels of the California team gathered up a loose ball and ran seventy yards towards his own goal line before he was aware that he was going the wrong way. The blunder really resulted in the defeat of his team, but it was not the first notorious foot-ball faux pas. Some years ago a Penn State player got through the Yale line up at New Haven and was galloping over a clear field to the Yale goal with what would have been the winning count for State. Because there was no other player near him he suddenly became obsessed with the idea that he was going the wrong way, so he turned around and ran right back into the arms of the pursuing opponents.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Hyocrisy Wins by Narrow Margin

As predicted in our last issue Senator Bruce's amendment to the post-office appropriation bill, allocating \$300,000,000 for enforcement of the Volstead law was stricken out of the measure by the conference committee. The Anti-Saloon League and all other prohibitionists for revenue and politics were bitterly opposed to so large an appropriation for that purpose. It might accomplish the result, which would not only put the high-salaried prohibitionists out of their jobs but would deprive the political prohibitionists of an effective smoke-screen to deceive the too credulous voters. But they saved themselves by a narrow margin. The vote in the Senate on the motion to adopt the conference report was very close.

In a signed statement giving his reasons for offering his amendment Senator Bruce said that when Mr. Doran, federal prohibition commissioner, stated to a Congressional committee that it would require that amount of money to enforce the Volstead law, he determined to supply the money if possible. He was "actuated by the wish to ascertain how far the Anti-Saloon League and sincere dreds in Congress were willing to incur the political hazards of imposing upon the federal taxpayers the enormous pecuniary burden which Mr. Doran says is indispensable to the effective enforcement of prohibition, and how far the dreds in Congress, who are wet in practice, were willing to unite in a generous appropriation which might make it more difficult to harmonize a dry tongue with a wet throat."

The proceeding that followed the adoption of the Bruce amendment by the Senate was unique in the history of legislation. The Republican Senators allowed it to pass in full expectation that the House conferees would strike it out. But the House conferees were disposed to disappoint that hope. Then the Senate conferees, who were in honor bound to support the action of the Senate, begged for adverse action on the part of the House, and upon the plea that it was necessary to "save the party" finally prevailed. The House committee moved to strike out and the Senate representatives concurred. Then the House adopted the report which, after a spirited debate and a roll-call, was carried by a majority of three in the Senate.

—Somebody over in England has invented a motor vehicle that can be folded up and kept in a house closet. This is a step in the direction of solving the parking problem.

The Power Trust Wins.

The Senate committee to which the nomination of Roy O. West to be Secretary of the Interior was committed has voted to report in favor of confirmation, three Democratic Senators, Ashurst, of Arizona; Pitman, of Nevada, and Kendrick, of Wyoming, having joined with the Republicans in producing that result. This is the more surprising because Mr. West's record as a corporation lawyer and his long continued affiliation with the Power trust and utility corporations had been laid open before the committee. Senator Norris, of Nebraska, had presented every detail of Mr. West's relations with Samuel Insull, both as counsel and partner and to make him a member of the Federal Power Commission is inexplicable.

One would think there had been enough scandals in the Department of the Interior within the last ten years to make the Senators careful in selecting a Secretary. Albert B. Fall conveyed to corporations controlled by Doheny and Sinclair oil properties of the government of the value of hundreds of millions of dollars and after the courts had denounced these transactions as fraudulent and therefore void, his successor in office, Hurbert Work, now chairman of the Republican National Committee, renewed one of the leases with Sinclair at a cost to the government of at least \$1000 a day. Curiously enough this last outrage concerns a property in Wyoming, Senator Kendrick's home.

During the consideration of his nomination Mr. West vultured a pledge that in the event of his confirmation he would take no part in the deliberations of the Federal Power Commission when questions involving claims of Samuel Insull were under consideration. That was a poor plea for approval. With the commission packed in the interest of the Power trust it wouldn't be necessary for the Secretary of the Interior to favor the trust. But it is the duty of the Secretary to act in the interest of the government against the schemes of the trust and Mr. West has not promised that and would be incapable of fulfilling such a promise if it had been made. His allegiance is to Insull.

General Assembly of 1929.

The organization of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania for the session of 1929 presented the political machine to public view in perfect form. Caucusses were held as a matter of form. But they simply ratified the actions previously taken at a conference, in the executive mansion, in which W. A. Mellon, Joe Grundy and Governor Fisher participated. Senator Schantz, of Lehigh county, was named as President Pro Tem. of the Senate and Representative Hess, of Lancaster, as Speaker of the House. There was no opposition to either or to anything else. All motions were made by persons designated for the purpose by the big bosses and the vote in every instance was unanimous.

The session began at noon, on Tuesday, and was as "cut and dried" as the proceedings of the caucusses. The twenty-six newly elected Senators were sworn in by Judge Fox, of Harrisburg, who had previously served in the Senate and the Representatives were qualified by Judge Wickersham, of Harrisburg, who had seen service in that chamber. The customary and somewhat perfunctory invocations were offered by local clergymen and a joint session was held to count the votes of the recent election. This purpose completed separate sessions were resumed, a resolution agreed upon by the boss conference to adjourn finally on April 18th was adopted. Governor Fisher read his message and the body adjourned to meet on January 14th, when the standing committees will be announced.

The machine methods of the organization afford little inspiration for hope of beneficent legislation during the session. The treasury surplus, which State Treasurer Lewis now estimates at \$35,000,000, appeals to the cupidity of Senators and Representatives alike and the grabbing operations may create some excitement. It is practically certain that enabling legislation to make the voting machine constitutional amendment effective will be enacted but beyond that there is not likely to be any substantial reforms. The bosses are well satisfied with present conditions. They are in absolute control. Quay never had such "easy picking" and Penrose was a "piker."

—Mr. Vare's last word to his legislative servants was that it should be "held intact as a group."

Mr. Hoover's Changed Programme.

The break in President-elect Hoover's plans for the period of time until the date of his inauguration has created a great deal of mental speculation among the politicians in Washington and throughout the country. In the first place his tour of the Southern Republics has been curtailed and his purpose to isolate himself on some remote island on the coast of Florida during the winter months practically abandoned. He is now heading under full steam for Washington where he will spend ten days in personal touch with current events. There are reasons for this change in his programme, of course, but they have not been revealed and conjecture has been running wild concerning them.

One usually well-informed Washington correspondent ascribes it to the attitude of Senator Borah on the question of an extra session of Congress immediately after the inauguration, as Mr. Hoover promised in one of his campaign speeches. The pledge was conditional upon the failure of the present Congress to enact farm relief legislation satisfactory to the farmers. The bill which it is proposed to enact is not likely to be satisfactory, but the party leaders hold that any legislation in that direction will absolve Hoover from his obligation in the matter. Borah, who induced Hoover to make the pledge, and he feels personally responsible for its fulfillment, insists on the extra session.

There are other vexed questions disturbing the minds of the party managers which may have had something to do with Mr. Hoover's change of programme. The differences between the supporters of the Kellogg peace pact and those who are backing the naval building enterprise have reached an acute stage and both are trying to inveigle Hoover into the controversy. It is also suspected that certain leaders were organizing trading posts and making embarrassing bargains in relation to the public patronage which Hoover might be compelled to ratify in the future, and it is probable that his unexpected return to Washington is to put a stop to that sort of commercialism.

—The grab game to get that \$35,000,000 surplus is now on.

Vanishing Landmarks.

With the passing of W. L. Foster, at State College, another of the few remaining links that connect the great institution of today with the struggling little college of half a century ago, is broken. Our first memory of him runs back into the early eighties when, as a boy, we saw him in a shooting match on the old Centre county fair grounds at Coleville. We marveled at the accuracy of his marksmanship and the ease with which he handled a gun, though having but one arm. It seemed no handicap to him, however, and he got much out of sports of all kinds. In those days the Fosters, the Mitchells, the Stuarts, the Hunters, the elder Dr. Glenss, the Gibsons, the Baileys, the Krummins and the Neidighs represented about all there was to the village of State College proper, because what is now the east end of that borough was known as Sauerstown and there was not much contact between the settlements. Mr. Foster was a young business man of State College then and was continuously identified with the growth of the town up to the moment that ill health forced his retirement only a short time ago.

Often we wonder why communities change without giving thought to the answer that is right before us to end the wonderment. Just look at the register of deaths on page four of this issue of the Watchman. Name after name of your friends and ours, who have slipped away is there. Many of them just as conspicuous in their communities as Mr. Foster was in his. And in many cases those who will take up their torches will be comparative strangers. At least persons with whom it is too late for we of the other generation to form friendships like those that are so frequently being broken now.

It is but the natural sequence of the march to journey's end. As the years slip by the mortality rate advances and we notice it the more because all about us friends are falling who can never be replaced. It's a sad vision to contemplate. Still it is the realization that it will steadily grow worse until our generation has gone and a new one takes up the burden of carrying on. Can we not then say that communities are not changing. Its only the people. Will Bellefonte, State College or any other place be changed more when the last of our generation is gone than they were when we followed the last of the one that preceded us to the cemetery?

—Our distinguished friend Al Smith has also enlisted in the army of the "unemployed."

Trickery That Ought to Fail.

If it were not obvious that Mr. Vare is "sparring for delay" the letter of his physicians to the chairman of the Sush Fund committee of the Senate would put the chairman of that committee up against a hard proposition. They present the record of his infirmity in persuasive language and convincing form. But there are incidents, omitted from the narrative, which suggest insincerity. For example, they assume that his participation in the Kansas City convention in June was responsible for his affliction in August. That may or may not be true but in any event it is hardly sufficient reason for further delay in the determination of a matter already too long drawn out by evasiveness.

When Senator Dave Reed, of Pittsburgh, organized a filibuster in the Senate a year ago his purpose was to postpone the determination of the question of Mr. Vare's title to seat in that body. When the powers of the courts were invoked to retard the investigation the same purpose was expressed. When Mr. Vare was invited to appear before the committee previous to the assembling of the National convention he failed to acknowledge the courtesy for the same reason. These facts prove that physical infirmities have not been directly or indirectly responsible for Mr. Vare's failure to present his case to the committee. He has had ample opportunity but wilfully failed to do so.

Mr. Vare attempted to acquire a seat in the United States Senate by purchase of votes in violation of law and by frauds equally obnoxious to political morals. The exposure of his methods defeated his expectations for a time. Ever since he has been trying to break in by one unlawful expedient or another without success. Now he hopes that through an increased Republican majority in the Senate and a tightening of party lines he will be able to realize his ambition if he can delay final action until the assembling of the next Congress, whether it be in extra or regular session. The purpose of the letter of his physicians to chairman Reed is to further this scheme. It ought to fail.

Pennsylvania and the Summer White House.

When President Coolidge recently asked the support of the newspapers of the country in gaining the establishment of public opinion for the establishment of a Summer White House for his successors, he started something. It will be remembered that he pointed out the desirability of such a White House close enough to Washington that it might serve not only as a summer residence, but a place to which the President and the First Lady might run away occasionally.

The subject has been taken up by the press, by Congress, and by many localities with suitable sites to suggest. Now the grand old Keystone State comes forward with its offer, and at a place most suitable. It is at Buena Vista, on the heights overlooking Waynesboro, just north of the Maryland Line.

A high escarpment, wooded by giant trees of primeval growth, surmounted by a level space of grassy sward and forest vistas, where a big hotel and several residences have taken advantage of the elevation and a broad view almost without compare—such is Buena Vista. It was named by the widow of the Mexican hero, Iturbide, who, after her husband's untimely death in 1824, came to the height above Waynesboro to spend the rest of her life.

Since Pennsylvania has so suitable a place for the Summer White House the historic antecedents of this grand old Commonwealth, where the Declaration of the Independence was signed, where the Constitution was framed, where the Gettysburg address was delivered hardly more than a few "stone throws" from Waynesboro, the claims of Pennsylvania to the Summer White House should carry much weight.

Uncle Sam Should Be Wary of Being Too Helpful.

Once bitten, twice shy—the burnt child dreads the fire—such crude maxims perhaps have not occurred to the Administration at Washington, but the primitive logic they express seems to govern certain decisions, nevertheless.

On the board which is to be created to mediate the boundary clash between Bolivia and Paraguay those countries will name two members each, and five will be selected from other American nations. It is expected that the United States will be asked to appoint one.

But it is intimated strongly that while the Government "would not shirk its duty," if the request were made, it will insist upon acting only in concert with the other countries. Furthermore, it will do its utmost to prevent the elevation of the American representative to the chairmanship or any post imputing to him the functions of a referee.

This cautious attitude is dictated by common sense and experience. The Latin-American Governments might profess the most earnest desire to have this nation assume the leadership in promoting a settlement; but it is notorious that they do not relish a "big brother" attitude on the part of the United States, and no matter what the decision might be it would inevitably lead to criticism.

History furnishes a warning even more weighty than the fiasco of President Coolidge's arbitration of the quarrel between Chile and Peru over Taana-Arica. Fifty years ago President Hayes was induced to arbitrate the claims of Bolivia and Peru to the very territory now in dispute, and his award is one of the things over which they are still wrangling.

Many Road Bills in Offing.

The number of bills to be presented at the session of the Legislature which convened today will be larger than ever before in the estimation of officials of House and Senate who have some advance knowledge of what legislators have in mind.

Nothing would please the Administration more than to be relieved of adding further to the road system of the State. But by far the larger number of bills now ready for presentation are for just such additions. Even those who present road bills for the most part would be glad if some all-powerful influence would turn thumbs down on all of them, for a majority come with from two to a half-dozen to be presented on request, knowing full well that they cannot get all of them through and may get none. In either case they will have to answer to the folks back home who will compare their results with those of neighboring legislators, to the embarrassment of all concerned. This condition arose last session and for a time an effort was made to stem the tide. Finally an agreement was reluctantly reached to add 600 miles in an omnibus bill. But when it came to the Governor it included twice that mileage, and at that nobody was satisfied. Twice as many road bills are in the making, it is estimated, as were submitted two years ago.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Pittsburgh detectives are looking for a man who walked into Judge Sylvester J. Snee's private chambers, took the judge's overcoat valued at \$75 and departed, leaving his own coat.

—Mary Ellen, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Barth, of Hazleton, can claim quite a record in the coal regions, having five grandmothers. The mothers of both her parents, their grandmothers and the great-grand-mother of her mother are living and reside near the Barth home.

—After ninety years continuous operation the Thompson Brothers Knitting Mills, of Milroy and Lewistown closed their doors Tuesday. Three generations of the Thompsons played an important part in this industry. Hosley was their chief product, although at one time they did include blankets and other woven goods.

—G. H. Gustin, of Lock Haven, State game protector, arrested Ira Bittner, of Beech Creek, R. D., after a search of his premises revealed a part of a deer head and some venison. He was charged with killing a deer out of season and with transporting an illegally killed deer, and paid total of \$150 fines and costs in the two cases.

—Suffering from a severe gash in her leg, painful body bruises and shock, Mrs. Edward Hunsicker, of Allentown, is under the care of her physician, Dr. Warren Peters, and the husband is under arrest charged with throwing his wife out of a second-story window of their home. The woman landed on a sloping roof and rolled off.

—Stabbed in the back by his 11-year-old playmate, Walter Hagen, the 14-year-old son of W. I. Hagen, of Beech Creek, is in a critical condition in the Lock Haven hospital. Hagen and his companion, Paul Waite, son of Harry Waite, were on their way home from school when they became engaged in a quarrel and the stabbing followed.

—Cook forest, containing approximately 8,000 acres in Forest, Clarion and Jefferson counties, is now in possession of the State. Charles E. Dorworth, secretary of forests and waters, announced last Friday the formal purchase of this tract of virgin white pine and hemlock. The price paid was \$850,000, \$250,000 of which was raised by private subscription.

—James Walter Paugh, of Detroit, was killed and his parents and two other persons were injured on Friday when their automobile was struck by a Philadelphia bus on the Lincoln highway near Bedford. The Paugh machine had been stopped and chains were being placed on the wheels when the bus crashed into it. Mrs. Louise Paugh and Mrs. Elmer Smith were taken to the Somerset Hospital. They were burned when the wrecked machine caught fire.

—Ralph L. Hampton, former sheriff of Chester county, in whose accounts a shortage of about \$25,000 was shown by an audit and who was convicted on a charge of embezzlement, was sentenced to serve from two to four years in the Eastern penitentiary. Sentence was imposed by Judge Henry C. Niles, of York county. Defense counsel was allowed 10 days in which to file an appeal and the former Sheriff was released under \$5,000 bail pending such action.

—When Robert Barger, 4 year old son of Mrs. Andrew Barger, of Howard, fell at his home while pushing a kiddie car about, he was thought to have sustained a fracture of the home of the leg as he was unable to walk, but when he was taken to the office of Dr. G. D. Mervine, at Lock Haven, Thursday night, the X-ray photograph disclosed that a large drainage needle had penetrated the kneecap and the knee joint, and when it was removed the boy was able to walk and was removed to his home.

—Newspaper photographers and telegraph operators will no longer be permitted in the York county court house next week during the trial of three alleged witchcraft murderers, John Blymer, Wilbert G. Hess and John Curry. This announcement was made on Tuesday by Judge Henry C. Niles when he appeared before the County Commissioners, and asked that additional tipsters be employed to handle the crowds expected at the trial of the men who are alleged to have killed Nelson D. Reimexer, 60 year old farmer, to get a lock of his hair to bury and break a spell.

—Final preparations for putting the new blast furnace at the Steelton plant of the Bethlehem Steel company in operation were begun last week. A fire for the purpose of drying out the furnace has been started. The furnace will be dried for about a month before actual production will be started. The new furnace, which is the largest in the world, will put out 900 tons of pig iron a day. The two furnaces now in operation at the plant have a capacity of 500 tons each. When these furnaces are pushed hard it is possible to get 700 tons of pig iron in twenty-four hours.

—The attack on the life of Mrs. Dale Spaid, 24 years old, of Troxellville, Millin county, remains an unsolved mystery, although the police placed the usual dragnet about the community. It is believed by local residents that the attack came from some unknown enemy either in Troxellville or near-by. An unknown man is alleged to have attacked her, beating her with fists tearing at her face with his nails and used a knife. Twenty-four lacerations and abrasions were found on her arms, neck and face. The wounds resemble more the marks of a small rake used by florist. The husband was in an upstairs room dressing when the attack was made, but running out he grasped a gun and fired into darkness in the direction the assailant ran.

—The reflex action of the strong arm of ens. Nesbit is accused of being a member constable of Warrington township, York county, who has been arrested by detective Jesse Crabbs on a charge of stealing chickens. Nesbit is accused of being a member of a ring of chicken thieves that has operated in the upper end of York county over a period of weeks preceding the Christmas holidays. With him has been taken into custody Cleason Rife, of Washington township; Clair Rife and William Moul. The prosecutor in the case against the defendants are Jesse Spensler and Russell Moody. On the farm of the elder Rife the officer recovered more than 100 of the alleged stolen chickens. The Rifes and Moul were able to furnish bail for a hearing before Justice of the Peace Lewis D. Sell.