

—Tomorrow will be ground-hog day and sausage would make an appropriate breakfast.

—If General Bramwell Booth and his High Council want peace in the Salvation Army we would suggest that they change the name of the "War Cry" to "Whoopee."

—Those who fear that they will get through reading their new Almanac and mail order catalogue before more gratuitous literature is available are reminded that Messrs. Burpee, Vick and Dreer will be sending out their seed books in a very few weeks.

—David Watts has confessed that he stole two hundred dollars from the collection box of the Lutheran Sunday school in Lewistown. We'd like to say something mean about David. He deserves it. But speech is knocked completely out of us by the announcement that a Sunday school collection box actually had two hundred dollars in it.

—Incidentally, the young rector of the local Episcopal church did more for his Master's cause in the moment he decided to stand in the pulpit of another denomination and invited a minister of another denomination to stand in his than he might accomplish in years of zealous, isolated Christian endeavor. If God's cause is to prevail it needs a united army.

—With two million more people in the State last year than there were in 1910 eight thousand fewer babies were born. Some will view the announcement with alarm. We don't. The present era of sophistication will continue to sophisticate until babies are so rare as to become "something new." Then watch out. The infant industry will start running again at one hundred per cent capacity. Everybody will be after one.

—As proof that Republican officials sometimes do things that please us very much we heartily commend the action of Governor Fisher in having appointed Tom Baldrige to the vacancy on the Superior court bench and chosen Cyrus E. Woods to carry on as his Attorney General. Both are the types of men who will bring honor to the posts to which they have been called and prove the wisdom of Governor Fisher's choice.

—Being ever eager to oblige we respond to "Col." H. F.'s thought that a "Fifty Years Ago Today" column would be very interesting. The most important thing that we recall as having happened in Bellefonte fifty years ago today was our laughing out loud in "Miss Mallie" Petriken's school when the late A. Scott Harris turned his upper eye-lashes inside out and made a face such as we have never seen imitated since. The important part about it was when "Miss Mallie" grabbed up her little black ruler, that was supposed to have lime on it so it would burn lots, and beckoned us to the ante-room of the little school house that stood where the Petriken apartments now stand. Courses were elective then as now and when we were given the choice of a bean "on the bare" or stay in until five o'clock—Well, time meant nothing to us then.

—A word of caution is never amiss, so we admonish our Catholic friends of Bellefonte to keep January 30, 1929, indelibly stamped in their memories. The wonderful testimonial they gave Very Reverend William E. Downes on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination in the priest-hood set a precedent that might easily corrupt His Reverence's ideas of chronology. We know that some years ago when he and Dr. McKinney, of the Presbyterian church, were almost a daily twosome on the golf course, their memories became so bad about remembering strokes that each had to keep a card on the other. In the light of such supposed faulty counting and especially with a thousand dollar purse as a precedent St. John's congregation had better keep their eyes on the calendar or they might be celebrating the golden anniversary of their able rector in about fifteen years.

—Last week a lady sent us the editorial pages from the New York Herald-Tribune of the Friday and Saturday before. On each an editorial was marked and on the margin of the sheet she had written: "Reminds me of some of the Watchman's writings." The Herald-Tribune, as you know, is one of the greatest of American newspapers. And while we, alone, know that the Watchman is THE greatest of American newspapers we were none-the-less flattered by the ladies suggestion that the Herald-Tribune might be aping the Watchman. We were about to dedicate a paragraph to the soundness of her judgment of editorial and reportorial values when we thought it might be better to read the marked articles first. One was "needed" with raspberry jelly and the other played up a half-barrel of applause that evidently is part of the picture of a New England farm home cellar. Personally we like applause but we're not going to dish out any to a lady who tells us "our writings remind" her of it. And as for razzberries—that was the unkindest cut of all.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Secretary Mellon Called to Account.

Most of the Senators in Congress concede that Uncle Andy Mellon is a great financier and some of them believe that he is "the greatest Secretary of the Treasury since Alexander Hamilton," who, as a matter of fact, never accomplished much "out of the ordinary." But it appears that there are quite a few Senators who entertain doubts as to the fairness of the Secretary, while a few have the temerity to question his efficiency. It must be admitted that on several occasions he has gone wildly astray in statements of the condition of the treasury, and according to the records he has frequently been wrong in levying income taxes. The blame for such blunders may belong to the revenue board but Uncle Andy is responsible for the board and gets credit for its merits.

But there have been so many tax refunds of vast amounts, and so many of them to corporations in which the Mellon family is directly or indirectly interested, lately, that suspicion has been aroused among the Senators. It has been the recent custom to pay claims for tax refunds in the quietest way possible, and when an enormous sum was handed over to the Steel trust a short time ago the tongue of gossip began wagging mildly. A few weeks later several millions were refunded to the Aluminum trust and lesser but considerable sums to other corporations which provoked open criticism and a resolution in the Senate that hereafter such claims be turned over to the board of tax appeals. This suggestion was bitterly opposed by the Secretary and his admirers.

Probably the claims for tax refunds are just but they indicate a faulty method of assessment. And there is no valid excuse for secret consideration in any event. Such functions should be performed in the open. Senator Norris, of Nebraska, uttered a truth when he said "the idea of a great government department acting in secret on a question of such magnitude was detrimental to the public interest." It is positively repugnant to every principle of popular government. It is not sufficient that a citizen of Pennsylvania or Iowa may have access to the records if he will go where they are kept. He is entitled to full information as to how and why the records are made. The Senate resolution doesn't afford that just measure but it is a step in that direction.

Tariff Taxation and Export Products.

In an address on the "Economics of the Dairy Situation," delivered at a banquet of the Pennsylvania Dairy-men's Association, held in Harrisburg last week as a feature of the State farm products show, Dr. Clyde L. King, professor of economics at the University of Pennsylvania, refuted the absurd theory that tariff taxation will benefit farmers. Dr. King was Secretary of the Commonwealth during the Pinchot administration at Harrisburg and presumably is interested in politics. As professor of economics in the University of Pennsylvania he ought to have an understanding of the subject he was discussing. His positive declaration that tariff is not panacea for farmer's ills commands attention.

"The election is over and we may as well face the facts," he said. "Tariff duty cannot by any possible means affect the exports, but only the imports of a country. The United States exports one-third of the wheat of the world, so there can be no hope for the wheat growers from the tariff. We produce more hogs, more potatoes than we need and it will not be more than ten years until we are exporting milk products," he continued. The comparatively few eggs imported and the equally trifling quantities of other farm products, mostly brought in as ballast, he might have added, exercise a negligible influence on prices in the markets of this country. But in the recent campaign eggs became an issue.

Dr. King is absolutely correct in his opinion that tariff taxation benefits only the imports of a country, which is obviously the idea he wanted to convey to the dairymen he was addressing. An exporter gets nothing, directly or indirectly, by taxation on imports. But every competitor in the market boosts the price of domestic products to the limit of value and tax of the imported goods. And tariff taxation does materially affect the people of exporting countries. It increases the price of every commodity the exporters have to buy in order to produce the things they export. It is conservatively estimated that the present tariff costs the consumers of this country \$4,000,000,000 a year.

Evil Product of Single Track Mind.

At what he called "the last budget meeting" of his administration President Coolidge made it plain that he will leave the great office of President as he entered it with a "single track mind." It was on the occasion of an address to the business organization of the government at a session held in Washington on Monday evening last. The substance of his speech was in the nature of an eulogy of the budget system for the invention as well as the achievements of which he arrogates to the Republican party in general and himself in particular. In assuming this attitude on the subject he ignores the fact that the system had been under consideration some time during the Wilson administration and was delayed by the world war.

At the outset Mr. Coolidge declared that government expenditures for 1921 "exclusive of debt reduction, were about \$5,000,000,000. The interest charge alone was more than \$1,000,000,000 and our outstanding indebtedness was nearly \$24,000,000,000. The business of the country was prostrate. Its different branches of agriculture, commerce, banking, manufacturing and transportation were suffering from severe depression. Employment was difficult to secure. Wages were declining, five million people were out of work." His obvious purpose in this enumeration of adversities was to justify his previous statement that under the Wilson administration "the entire government structure was permeated with extravagance."

When a statement of facts is made with the deliberate purpose to deceive it is a malicious falsehood and it seems impossible to think that Mr. Coolidge had any other idea in mind when he spoke as above quoted. We had just emerged from the most destructive war in the history of the world, our own part in which had cost more than all the other expenses of the government from the beginning of our national life. Our large share in the war was conducted without a scandal. The creation, equipment and maintenance of an army of four millions and the subsequent demobilization of the force were expensive but not extravagant. But the speech was characteristic. The late Rutherford Hayes was a great statesman in comparison with Coolidge.

Herbert Hoover appears to be trying to be a "Me Too" to President Coolidge.

Grundy's Waiting to be Tested.

If the press reports from Harrisburg are true Mr. Joe Grundy's pretense that he will control the proceedings of the General Assembly during the present session will be brought to an early and acid test. Mr. Grundy is very much opposed to the repeal of the anthracite coal tax. The reasons for his attitude on this question are quite obvious. He understands that if the coal tax is repealed some other subject of taxation will have to be found to make up the revenue deficit. He is also aware that the most likely new subject of taxation will be manufacturing corporation shares which have gone free of such a burden for many years, and has been a cause of considerable complaint in the past.

The proposition to repeal the coal tax has formidable support. The coal carrying corporations, the operators and the miners are actively striving for repeal and are earnestly aided and abetted in their efforts by the mercantile organizations of the coal producing counties. An organization of the Senators and Representatives of those counties in the Legislature has been effected and the indications point to a stubborn contest. If the repeal movement is defeated the result will be accepted as a license to Mr. Grundy to regulate the proceedings of the Legislature as well as direct the activities of the party in the State, according to his fancy. It will commission him as absolute party boss.

Realizing the value of the stake Mr. Grundy is investing all his energy and ingenuity in the contest. He let it be known, to employ the language of one of the newspaper correspondents, that "the door has been left open for dealing." But this made no impression on the minds of the coal region solons. It was whispered about the lobby that Governor Fisher "will probably line up with Grundy" but that failed to cause any detour in the purposes of the repealers. In the coal regions the slump in the coal industry is widely blamed on the anthracite tax and the recovery of trade is more important than the political ambitions of a rather "raw" adventurer. It promises to be a pretty fight.

Tax Problem Bothering Bosses.

State Treasurer Sam Lewis has taken another shot at Governor Fisher's administration programme in the form of a public statement in opposition to an increase of the gasoline tax. In his public declarations and private conversations Governor Fisher recommends not only making permanent the emergency tax of one cent a gallon on gasoline but adding another cent to the levy in order to provide funds to take over the toll bridges and "city streets forming parts of highway routes." Both of these purposes are widely favored by the motoring public but there is a deep-seated aversion to the proposed method of accomplishing the result. That is motorists and others think the gas tax is high enough.

It is practically certain that the Anthracite coal tax will be repealed during the present session and it will be necessary to provide a new source of revenue to balance the loss of five or six million dollars a year which that tax affords. An additional cent on the gas tax would easily supply this demand. The alternative is a tax on shares of manufacturing corporations but Joe Grundy is irrevocably opposed, to such a levy and Grundy is the "Grand Old Man" of the General Assembly at this time. It may even be assumed that he inspired the suggestion of the Governor to increase the gas tax having in mind the idea of averting the tax on manufacturing corporations.

The question was of sufficient interest to the party leaders to cause a conference to be held in Harrisburg on Monday and magnetic force enough to draw Mr. W. L. Mellon out of his recently announced retirement. It was held at the Executive Mansion and besides Mr. Mellon, Mr. Grundy and the Governor, Cyrus Woods, Mr. Lewis and State Chairman Martin were present. What conclusion was reached has not been revealed but will appear in the trend of legislation within a few days. It is a safe guess, however, that Mr. Grundy will be able to prevent the taxation of manufacturing corporations though such a levy would not only be popular with the public but just to the farmers of the State.

Fish Commissioner Buller has just announced that last year the hatcheries of Pennsylvania planted seven hundred ninety four thousand three hundred and twelve trout in the streams of the State. Gosh what a lot of fish! But unless the coming season proves better than the last one, so far as we are concerned, on the first day of February, 1930, all but about twelve of them will be right where Mr. Buller put them last year.

When Hoover and Smith met in Florida we wonder whether the President-elect said to the former Governor of New York what the Governor of North Carolina once said to the Governor of South Carolina.

Now that Trotzky has escaped from the custody of the Soviet government he may give the world some valuable information concerning that organization in Russia.

President Coolidge is unable to conceal his fears that the country will go headlong to the "demnition how-wows" the moment he leaves the White House.

King George is recovering and Marshal Foch is almost restored to health is the good news which comes from the European capitals.

Possibly a well adjusted muzzle might serve to restrain the mischievous tongue of Representative Britten, of Illinois.

Nobody of right mind will begrudge the splendid success of the Pennsylvania railroad during last year.

After all Grundy may have to sacrifice Sam Lewis to save the manufacturing corporations from taxation.

It is to be hoped that no blood was shed when Mr. Hoover and Mr. Smith met in Florida the other day.

Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, continues to keep the people of that city guessing and laughing.

It may soon become a question as to whether or not the Vore machine is worth saving.

The period of Vore's false pretense to a seat in the Senate is drawing short.

Subscribe to the Watchman.

The Passing of a Notable Democratic Statesman.

From the Philadelphia Record. In the death of Oscar W. Underwood the Democratic party loses a leader of more than ordinary attainments and the nation loses a statesman.

While Underwood had retired from active participation in the affairs of his country, after a notable career which had connected his name with much constructive legislation, his influence was still felt in the councils of his party. And always it was exerted on the side of conservatism. In House and Senate the voice of Underwood was effectively raised in debate; but it was not as an orator that this minority party chieftain made his deepest impress upon the conduct of national affairs. A keen student of the science of Government, profoundly versed in the law, familiar with the intricate processes of business, a stalwart champion of Jeffersonian principles, he came to be regarded by his colleagues as a sound adviser and a safe guide. Democracy never lacked for enthusiastic champions of new ideas and new principles. Without being at all reactionary, it was Underwood's habit to keep both feet on the ground, and to approach with caution radical departures from the faith in which he was trained. His influence was a wholesome counterbalance.

Unquestionably of Presidential caliber, Oscar Underwood, though named in conventions, never expected to secure the nomination of his party, and probably considered that geographical considerations kept that honor beyond his reach. His party's latest tariff act bore his name, and his talents were drawn upon in the framing of much of the constructive legislation of the Wilson Administration. Among the finest of the old Southern Democrats, the fame of Oscar W. Underwood is secure. He was a capable and faithful servant of a grateful country.

A Militant Democracy.

From the Roanoke World-News. Speaking over the radio last night, former Governor Alfred E. Smith, of New York, made an able plea for Democratic party solidarity and for continuous party effort. The burden of his argument was that the party should function as a party at all times, not merely during the heat of a presidential campaign. Outlining his view of the function and duty of a minority party, he advocated the opening of permanent offices, with a competent staff, for examination of public measures and for the dissemination of party information. To get up a new party organization a few months before a presidential election each four years is not only costly, but results in the use of amateurs where experience is needed. Illustrating by the proposal to amend the tariff law at the coming special session of Congress, Governor Smith suggested that such an office could analyze the proposals for changes in the tariff schedules in the light of the Democratic party viewpoint, and keep the country informed as to the extent to which the country is departing from Democratic principles.

The argument for a two-party system is now well established in State and Nation, whether the minority party be the Republican party in the State, or the Democratic party in the Nation. In either case there is a real responsibility resting on the minority, not to block progress by carping criticism and inaction, but to examine critically the proposals of the majority, and see how they accord with the established principles on which both parties have been established. In a country as large and as diversified as the United States, it is almost impossible to conduct a campaign of education in party principles during the heat and personalities of a presidential campaign. The opportunity the former Democratic candidate points for bringing before the people of this country the true principles of Democracy throughout the years, and not just at election time, is too valuable to be longer overlooked.

The Prince of Wales to the Rescue.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer. A recent appeal by the Prince of Wales in behalf of the English miners has already had striking results; money to meet their needs has been given generously. Now he is following this action by a visit to the distressed mining districts. He knew them when they were prosperous, and he is well fitted to discover exactly what their needs are.

This is the sort of thing which the King would doubtless have done had he not been dangerously ill. The Prince reveals his full understanding of the duties and responsibilities of royalty by doing it himself. The unfortunate miners could not have a more sympathetic and useful friend.

Joseph Ficarra was the only member of the freshman squad of Bellefonte Hi foot-ball players who was able to win the coveted "B." We saw Joe in action in the Lock Haven game and he impressed us then as a flashy little player.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The drillers for oil and gas on the George Gates farm, three miles east of Lewistown, have reached a depth of 1400 feet, and it is reported that there are some evidences of oil and gas already.

—Mrs. Annie O'Brien, of Sunbury, widow of Charles "Peggy" O'Brien, widely-known circus clown, in her will directs that the preacher who officiates at her funeral shall receive \$10 and each pall-bearer \$5 for his services. Her estate is worth a few hundred dollars. O'Brien died eight years ago.

—Mrs. Anna Doria, 76, died at Scranton, on Sunday morning and left one hundred fifty-eight survivors. They comprise five sons, three daughters, eighty grand-children, and the remainder great grand-children. She came to this country from Italy twenty years ago and had lived in Scranton and vicinity ever since.

—When Robert Snyder, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Snyder, of Milliflurg, was caught in his cellar by Earl VanHorn, the irate man took him before Justice Willis, who held the boy in \$300 bail for the March term of criminal court. VanHorn then went his ball when it was found he could get no other surety.

—Miss Leota Znadey, 21, student nurse, died in a Pittsburgh hospital Monday night from poison she drank early Sunday while temporarily insane. It was reported to the coroner's office, which pronounced the case suicide. Miss Znadey, whose home was in Port Allegany, McKean county, had been ill for some time.

—Keys to the Union county prison, a \$10 bill, and an auto license were stolen at the Lutheran Sunday school at Lewisburg Sunday night. Miss Villa Frock, daughter of the sheriff, who is church organist, said she left them in her coat in the Sunday school room, from where they disappeared and have not been found.

—The biggest gasser in the Clarion county field in years is roaring out at better than 3,000,000 feet a day. The well, property of the United Natural Gas company, was brought in on the C. A. Meyers farm in Piney township, near Curllsville, about nine miles south of Clarion. Gas was found in the 100 foot sand, at a depth of 1021 feet.

—William Moore, farm-hund of Somerset county, was located a week ago after having lived in an abandoned coal mine for 43 days. He is dead from exposure. The man was in a weakened condition and his clothing was in tatters when he was found. While he was being treated at a Somerset hospital, an inquiry also was being made into his mental condition.

—A man giving his name as Frank Jones, 56, a self-styled herb doctor, was found by city health authorities at Sunbury, on Saturday, living in a small lean-to on a garbage dump. He readily admitted getting his food from the place, saying "there is plenty there for my simple wants." Jones was offered a berth in the poorhouse, but declined to go. He was allowed to stay in the shack.

—Charles Roe and Mary Groce, of Juniata county, were arrested by a special officer and lodged in jail at New Bloomfield. The night previous the pair broke into the chicken house of Hirt Brothers, Perry county, it is alleged, and were engaged in filling crates with choice fowls when they were discovered. Both managed to get away but not before being identified, leaving the crates and chickens on the ground. They were followed to Juniata county and the arrested made. The pair are now in jail in default of \$500 bail.

—Mrs. Sophrona Strang Bills, aged 76, wife of Loren Bills, was burned to death when their home near Enterprise, Forest county, was destroyed by fire. The woman was sleeping upstairs, and the husband and son, Lee Bills, were on the lower floor when fire was discovered. She was trapped on the upper floor, and could not find her way out on account of the smoke. The son was so badly burned in an effort to rescue his mother that he was taken to the Titusville hospital. The fire is supposed to have been caused by an overheated stove.

—David Watts, 33, of Lewistown, has made a full confession to police to robbing the St. John's Lutheran Sunday school fund of \$200. The money was in charge of Walter Heck, treasurer of the Sunday school, and he was in the habit of caching the money in a stationary vault at the Russel National bank, where he is trust officer. Watts, the janitor, saw him hide the money. With his confession he returned about \$100. Watts served time in the Mifflin county jail for embezzlement of funds of the Lewistown Pure Milk company.

—What was the site of the abandoned town of Instanter has become the property of the Ridgway Y. M. C. A. through the generosity of Mrs. J. K. Gardner, of Ridgway. This will give the organization one of the finest camp sites in Pennsylvania. The land purchased by Mrs. Gardner includes the property of the Elk Tanning company, the school property, a large number of houses, and 160 acres of land. Two good trout streams run through the property and deer can be seen almost any evening at a crossing above and below the camp. There is an abundance of spring water, and a good site for a swimming hole.

—Police suspect foul play in connection with the death of Dominic Kissler, 42, Timblin, Jefferson county, who died shortly after he was found lying between the rails of the Pittsburgh & Shawmut railroad near Timblin. Authorities at first believed he had been run down by a train, but later it was said blood was found on a by-road 200 feet from where Kissler was picked up. This led to belief he might have been attacked and carried to the trucks to make it appear that he had been hit by a train. He had suffered a fractured skull and contusions of the chest and arms. Physicians, however, said he died of exposure.

—Fred C. Koller, auctioneer at a sale in the lower end of York county, was called upon to sell a horse that has false teeth. The animal, once a fast stepper on the track, is 18 years old and was owned by a Maryland dentist twelve years ago. An accident in a race caused the horse to lose two front teeth. The owner modeled two teeth out of walrus ivory and then performed a neat job of bridge-work in the mouth of his racer. The dentist died eight years ago and since then the horse has had several owners. Eventually, his fate was to work as a farm horse. The late owner died and his farm and other belongings, along with the horse, went on the auction block.