

—May has already brought life to the hot-dog stands along the highways.

—It looks as though Senators Walsh and Norris have the goods on Secretary Mellon, but Andy has the money.

—It is estimated that the dry law has cost \$800,000,000 in ten years, which is a tolerably high price for what has been accomplished.

—All of the unemployed might find profitable employment right now in figuring out how much worse they might have been off had Al Smith been elected last fall.

—Poor Uncle Andy might well say as Hamlet spoke, "one woe doth tread upon another's heel, so fast they follow." Before the investigation of his title to office is ended inquiry into the Aluminum trust is begun.

—The latest rebellion in Mexico has been suppressed and them that are for the government and them that are fernist it will probably start right away to prepare for the next one. Mexico wouldn't be Mexico without a rebellion or two every year.

—When Governor Fisher signed the Boyd bill he ended the possibility of having ballots as big as tent flies in Pennsylvania. Under the Act introduced by the Senator from Montgomery county constitutional amendments or other questions submitted to the voters in the future will be printed on a separate ballot.

—It looks as though there might be a very pretty fight for the Republican nomination for tax collector of Bellefonte. From now until September Orrie and Sarah will be a very busy pair. He would just love the job and she wouldn't deKline it, so the stage is set and the one that gets the most votes will win.

—We're sorry for our friend Sam Solt. A law has been enacted making it a misdemeanor for anyone to wear a military uniform while working for his personal profit. Sam helped lick Spain and the uniform he wore then has stood him in good stead since. It has helped his "bally-hoo" a lot when he sets up his stand at a busy street corner.

—The Pinchots have arrived at Colon, Panama. The "Marie Pinhot," the scientific yacht on which the arty expects to be afloat for a year or more, was slightly battered by a ratherly gale before reaching Colon and had to be laid up for repairs here. Gifford has been slightly battered, lots of times, but stayed in the ting, so "Marie," if she's a true Pinhot, ought to be able to take a few lows and stay on the sea.

—Our national chairman, Mr. Rasob, says: "The Democratic party ought to run, year in and year out," that's exactly what it has been doing, being an automobile man, we're surprised that Mr. Raskob didn't suggest that there might be something the matter with its steering gear. Let him get his experts working on that a bit. The old bus goes good enough, but she's always deaurin' to gas stations when she ought to keep headed for the pie counter.

—Those misguided gentlemen down Philadelphia who are organizing a put an independent Republican ticket in the field at the September primaries would accomplish more if they were to join with the Democrats that city in an effort to defeat the ticket the machine in their party will nominate. Prior to last November he who would have said that a Democratic Senator and Members of the House could be elected in Philadelphia would have been called a lunatic. They were, however, and the chance is good to do it again if the right combinations can be made.

—If we were the Hon. Frank O. Lowden we would decline to serve on President Hoover's commission of six minds to solve the farm problem. The President is looking for a coat and wouldn't Lowden be the bal one? He is the best friend the farmer has in the Republican party if he should head such a commission and make recommendations of congressional action, what would happen? Congress would do as it sees about the matter, the President would laugh up his sleeve and Governor Lowden would be accused having double-crossed the farmers.

—We read that Mr. "Red" Grange, the galloping ghost," has advised college football players to stay out of professional ranks. "Red's" attitude reminds us of an old friend who is eternally preaching Prohibition to us. He doesn't seem to realize that he drank everything that was brewed, distilled or synthesized and would probably have been drinking if he had not his liver and his lights and his kidneys and nerves scared into abstemiousness. Before thestead acid went into effect he said anybody who drank was headed for l. Not having arrived at that destination himself he now declares that a sin if we violate the law." It's a very pretty for Grange and him give advice, but the average person would sooner have it from those who haven't first gotten all they could out of the things they advise against.

Democratic Watchman

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Senator Brookhart Severs Relations with the President.

Senator Smith Brookhart, of Iowa, has formally and vociferously severed his friendly relations with President Hoover. It was a painful operation but inevitable. In a speech delivered in the Senate, the other day, he tearfully declared that "he had made 200 campaign speeches for Mr. Hoover, but," he added, "the President has not carried out his campaign pledges to the farmer." This is "too bad." But Senator Brookhart has a remedy. He advises Congress to "disregard the President and pass a real farm bill over Hoover's veto." That would be heroic if it were possible. But such a rebuke of a President at the beginning of his term is unprecedented. The "cohesive force of public plunder" is much too strong for anything like that to happen.

Senator Brookhart is hardly fair to his former friend, Herbert Hoover. Mr. Hoover never specifically promised the farmers of the country any service, and the platform of the Kansas City convention is equally free from exact obligation in the direction of farm relief. Both made equivocal declarations on the subject that deceived nobody except those who wanted to be fooled, and Mr. Hoover permitted Senator Brookhart and Senator Borah to construe these ambiguities so as to confuse the minds of the farmers and influence their votes under a false and fraudulent pretense. It was their speeches rather than Hoover's promises that fooled the farmers.

According to current gossip in Washington Senator Borah is also more or less incensed because of President Hoover's expressed attitude on the farm relief question. Brookhart and Borah probably expected to occupy the enviable position of "the power behind the throne" during the period covered by the Hoover administration. They both deliberately set out to underwrite pledges never made by Hoover in the expectation that gratitude would influence him to favor them in the event of his election. But there is a stronger magnet appealing to Mr. Hoover's gratitude, and they are disappointed. Those who supplied the slush fund have the first claim on official favor and Brookhart's eloquence had no influence on their votes or contributions.

In any event it is impossible to conjure up even the semblance of sincere condolence for a group of grown men who permitted a couple of political "porch-climbers," willing to prostitute their oratorical gifts for a selfish purpose, to muddle their minds. If there had been even a suspicion in New York and other centers of "frenzied finance" that Mr. Hoover would approve any legislation desired by the corn belt farmers, the purse strings of the plutocrats would have been drawn so tight that even a dime couldn't have been slipped across to the treasury of the Republican National committee. The farmers ought to have known that, and probably did know it, until their minds were confused by the sophistry of Brookhart, Borah and other ambitious blatherskites.

—Senator Hefflin wants somebody punished because one of his Massachusetts audiences threw things at him. An amendment to his motion substituting reward for punishment ought to be in order.

—Maybe the law forbidding the appointment of a man in business or commerce to be Secretary of the Treasury is absurd, but it is a law nevertheless, and Mr. Hoover says all laws must be obeyed.

—Hugh Gibson has discovered a new armament which is enthusiastically applauded by diplomats, and will probably be promptly scrapped when brought up in conference.

—The labor unions of Philadelphia denounce Governor Fisher as a "double crosser," but the Republican machine has a way to mollify labor unions about election time.

—Harry Sinclair's business associates have full confidence in his integrity, which partially explains the fact that the public believes the whole oil industry is rotten.

—A scientist says that the coming woman will have a bass voice and a moustache as a reward or penalty for usurping men's places in life.

—What's the use of submarine telephone cables when wireless and radio will serve the public and ought to cost much less.

—Torch murders seem to be becoming a habit in New Jersey.

Uncle Andy and His Office.

The question of the right of Andrew W. Mellon to serve in the office of Secretary of the Treasury has been discussed at considerable length by members of the Judiciary committee of the Senate since the beginning of the special session. In submitting his cabinet nominations for confirmation the name of Mr. Mellon was not included for the reason that he had been previously confirmed. Senator McKellar, of Tennessee, assumed that his term of office had expired with the end of the administration with which he was identified. By unanimous vote the committee rejected this interpretation of the law. But the McKellar resolution attacked the legality of his service for another reason.

In the early period of the government Congress enacted a law declaring that no person directly or indirectly interested in business or commerce is eligible to appointment as Secretary of the Treasury. At the time of Mr. Mellon's appointment by President Harding he was extensively engaged in business of various kinds. But he promptly resigned all his executive and directory assignments while retaining his holdings in banks and other corporations except those in the Overholt Distilling company, which he disposed of outright. But many distinguished lawyers, including the chairman of the Senate Committee, contend that as a stockholder in corporations he is at least indirectly engaged in business.

Senator Norris quoted from Mr. Mellon's testimony before a Congressional committee that the Secretary holds considerable, though not a majority, of the stock of the Aluminum trust, the Gulf Oil company and the Steel Car corporation. From other sources he obtained information that the Mellon family owns a majority of the stock in those corporations and from the records of the income tax bureau it may be learned that his income from these and other corporations amount to many million dollars a year. If these connections do not involve him in business, "direct or indirect," it would be hard to imagine anything that would. If they do he is holding office in violation of law and President Hoover asks for enforcement of law.

—A few months ago the Philadelphia Record proved conclusively that the textile mill owners of that city were blamable for the slump in the industry. Now it favors an increased tariff tax to reward the delinquents for their faults.

Hoover's Hard Road to Travel.

Within the first ten days of the special session of Congress President Hoover got two rather rude bumps in the Senate. The day after he had conveyed his unalterable opposition to the debenture clause of the farm relief bill the committee on agriculture reported its approval of that feature, and at the first meeting of the committee on immigration it indefinitely postponed two resolutions providing for the repeal of the national origins provision of the immigration law which had been recommended by Mr. Hoover in his message. This is not quite as bad as the same body treated Mr. Coolidge in rejecting two of his cabinet nominations, but it is bad enough to indicate future trouble.

The consensus of opinion in Washington is that the President will win on both points ultimately. The expectation of favors in the form of patronage will influence a majority of the Senators to support his wishes. In the matter of the debenture provision he will experience little difficulty. A motion to amend will be in order at any time while the farm relief bill is under consideration. But in the national origins affair it will not be so easy. It has been pigeonholed in the committee and if the committee remains obdurate it will be difficult to rescue it. A motion to discharge the committee from further consideration and place it on the calendar would be a discourtesy.

The leader of the opposition to the proposed repeal is Senator Dave Reed, and there is a strong suspicion that his action is more in resentment of a fancied slight than in vindication of a principle. Recently the President appointed a Pennsylvanian to the office of Indian Commissioner without consulting Senator Reed. It is admitted that the selection was an admirable one and possibly if the Senator had been consulted he would have cordially acquiesced. But making appointment without the consultation was an impeachment of Senatorial dignity which cannot be condoned. It may be compensated for, however, and both being "practical men" no doubt they will find the way.

Governor Fisher's Futile Alibi.

In vetoing the Musamanno Industrial police bill Governor Fisher creates a vast forest of verbiage and consumes a great amount of space to show that in many respects it is exactly like the Mansfield bill which he had previously approved. In a 2000 word statement he admits that he assisted in the preparation of both measures and that neither of them satisfied him. But with both of them before him he picked the least effective one for approval for the reason that he felt he could establish rules for administering the law that would put into the one approved the merits which were already expressed in the one he vetoed. That is, he availed himself of an opportunity to usurp the functions of the Legislature.

The principal cause of complaint against the coal and iron police force was that it licensed a bunch of ruffians to roam about the State, foment trouble, incite to crime and cripple or kill any one who interfered with their operations. The Musamanno bill specifically forbade that sort of brigandage. It limited the operations of the force to the territory of the corporation, company or individual who employed it. The Mansfield bill puts no such restraints on the activity of the bogus policeman. If it be true, as Governor Fisher declares, that the two bills are precisely alike in every other essential provision, he must have been influenced to approve one and veto the other because of this grave difference.

As a matter of fact, however, there is another material difference between the bills. The one vetoed specifically required persons arrested to be taken before a committing magistrate while the one approved contains no such provision. Under it the arresting officer may take the prisoner to a barracks where he can be tortured and even murdered, as recently happened in a mining town near Pittsburgh owned by the Pittsburgh Coal company, a Mellon corporation a few months ago. It might be possible to frame rules that would put teeth in the Mansfield bill that would serve these purposes. But what is the use in depending upon conjecture in such matters? The safe way is to put what is needed into the text of the law.

—Secretary Mellon says he owns less than a majority of the stock of the Gulf Oil, the Aluminum trust and the Steel car corporation. But the Mellon family owns about eighty per cent of each and Uncle Andy has a good deal of influence in the family.

Governor Smith and Tammany

The selection of John F. Curry as head of the Tammany Society of New York may or may not mean a repudiation of former Governor Alfred E. Smith. Those who assume that it is point to the fact that Mr. Curry has not held friendly relations with Mr. Smith in the recent past and that he is an exemplar of the type of politics which made Tammany anathema in years gone by. Friends of Mr. Smith do not so interpret the Curry victory nor will they admit it a sign of moral decadence in the organization. Under the retiring administration of the Society the aim was to attain high standards and move forward along lines to ideal public service. This was the purpose of Mr. Smith.

If the elevation of Mr. Curry to the head of the Society means a reversal of this policy it is to be regretted. But we refuse to accept such an interpretation. Another view of the subject is that it indicates that "the party leadership will revert again to the survivors of the old Wilson group"—Robinson, of Arkansas; Glass, of Virginia; Hull, of Tennessee; Walsh, of Montana, and others of that fine type." The New York friends of Governor Smith are in accord with this expectation and as Representative Black says, "four years hence Tammany will be behind the National ticket as usual." The default of last year which gave the State to Hoover was the result of a personal feud.

The defeat of last year was somewhat disheartening because of the influences which brought it about. Religious bigotry is a monster capable of working infinite harm, and religious bigotry was the principal reason of the diversion of hundreds of thousands of Democratic votes to the enemy. But there were collateral causes for dissatisfaction in the Democratic ranks. Neither our leaders nor our platform held faithfully to the fundamental principles of the party. With the group of leaders likely to be called into control as the result of trouble in Tammany such mistakes will not be made in the future. And a helpful figure in the new organization will be Alfred E. Smith.

How Appropriation for Hospital is Used.

Appropos of the forthcoming membership drive for the Centre County hospital the following statement regarding State appropriations and how they are used has been made by John S. Sommerville, chairman of the annual membership drive, so that the public generally can be fully informed of the institution's financial standing and the need for a liberal response when the drive is put on in the near future:

The Legislature recommended an appropriation of \$19,500.00 (which is only an increase of \$1500.00 over the former appropriation) for the Centre County hospital. If this bill is approved by the Governor it means that \$9,750.00 will be available for the year 1929 and the same amount for 1930.

This money can only be used for charity patients after a thorough investigation of the patient's ability to pay has been made by the hospital manager, and approved by the Department of Welfare at Harrisburg. The amount allowed is \$3.00 per day for each charity patient.

During the year 1928, 291 charity patients were cared for with a total of 4700 patient days. The average cost per patient day for maintenance only was \$3.72, so that it cost the hospital \$17,084.00 to care for these patients. The amount due from the State is \$9,004.00, leaving a deficit of \$8,080.00.

In addition to this, there were 464 days of part pay patients that cost the hospital \$1,686.08. These patients paid \$815.00, leaving a deficit of \$871.08, or a total deficit of \$8,955.08. The more than 5000 days of these patients represent at least 5000 visits, or 15 per day made by the patients to the hospital staff, not including the many surgical operations, for which they never received one cent of pay.

When you are asked to contribute to the care of your neighbors who are unable to pay and who without aid could not have the care and treatment that they require.

J. S. SOMMERVILLE, Chairman Annual Membership Subscription.

Advice to Young Authors.

From the Philadelphia Record. Right at the outset those two young fellows, Calvin Coolidge and Alfred E. Smith, should be warned that this new game they have decided to break into isn't as easy as a lot of people think. Trying to make a living in journalism is more than a matter of putting a lot of words on paper. It is a highly organized and severely competitive business. We do not want to discourage them, but it is only fair that they should be given a word or two of advice before this experiment they have started goes too far.

For one thing they shouldn't rely too much on such plays as "Gentlemen of the Press" and "The Front Page." These show modern journalism in a certain light, but there are aspects that are missed. Al and Cal must not think that the main equipment of a worker in the journalistic field is nerve, profanity and a large capacity for gin. If these boys have started out with this idea they should get rid of it at once. And there is more to the job than interviewing a murderer and cursing the result into a telephone.

Of course, they are not writing for the daily press as yet. They are going to do their stuff for magazines, and they have been assigned subjects with which they should be fairly well acquainted—that is, themselves. But if we know anything about them they will not be content with this. They will want to get closer to the daily life of the people and perhaps some day achieve the dream of every cub reporter and become "stars."

But even in the limited field where they will start there are dangers. They will write that they are on safe ground. But they should remember that it is the critics they must please, as well as the generous public. And the critics are omniscient. Joan Lowell has just written about herself. She may have been "Rocked in 'The Cradle of the Deep,'" but she undoubtedly has been stoned since she set sail on the seemingly calm waters of autobiography. Al and Cal should beware.

—Announcement of the complete schedule of work to be offered by the Pennsylvania State College for the coming year is contained in the new issue of the general catalogue which has just been published. Freshman week starts September 19 and college opens September 24. The freshman class is to be limited to 1000 men and 170 women. The granting of admissions will start in July. An illustrated catalogue is also being distributed by the college Registrar.

—The Tyrone division of the Pennsylvania railroad is now a thing of the past, the change taking place on Wednesday of this week. A number of the office employees at Tyrone were given work at other points, while others are out of work.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSSTONE.

—One man was killed, another so severely injured, he is expected to die, and a third escaped death when they fell 100 feet in an old standpipe at the Eastern Steel plant, Pottstown.

—Harry Serrol, 55, of Scranton, went to sleep while smoking a cigar. He awakened to find himself enveloped in flames from the burning bed. Serrol was rushed to a hospital where he died a few hours later from the burns he had sustained.

—Caught in a fire that followed an explosion of gasoline in his home, Benjamin F. Hineman, burned to death Tuesday near Custards, six miles south of Meadville. Hineman had tried to start a fire with the gasoline. Neighbors unsuccessfully attempted to rescue him.

—James Schules, 15, of Towanda, lost the sight of both eyes and all fingers of his left hand when a dynamite cap with which he was experimenting exploded. The boy was testing an electrical contrivance rigged up by friends to fire cartridges and had substituted the dynamite cap for a cartridge when the accident occurred.

—When Mrs. Harry Christie, Ansonia, Tioga county, went to the kitchen to get the morning meal recently, she found a strange man in possession of her kitchen range preparing his own breakfast. He refused to leave the house, saying he had leased the property from an Ansonia bank. Police were summoned who took him to the county jail.

—A total of \$63,531.25 was collected for violations of the provisions of the vehicle code by Pennsylvania justices of the peace, magistrates, and aldermen in the month of March, Benjamin G. Eynon, Registrar of Motor vehicles, Pennsylvania Department of Highways, announced Tuesday. Of this amount \$4,399.00 was returnable to the municipalities' treasuries, and \$59,132.25 to the State Treasury.

—Married men are less prone to suicide than single men, according to Calvin F. Schmid, sociology instructor at the University of Pittsburgh, who addressed members of the Hungry club on Tuesday. There are fewer suicides among women than among men, he added. Poison would seem to be the feminine way of ending it all and fire arms are used in the majority of masculine suicides, Schmid said.

—Mrs. Carrie Stover, of Mill Hill, widow of John H. Stover, aged 57 years, was found in her bedroom last Friday morning by her neighbors, suffering from slashes on the right wrist and on the neck, inflicted with a safety razor. She was removed to the Lock Haven hospital where her wounds are not considered serious. She resides with a son, Aaron Stover, who was absent at his work when the wounds were inflicted.

—The workmen's compensation board, in an opinion by Commissioner Morrison, has decided that a volunteer fireman fighting a fire in his own home is entitled to compensation. Russell D. Bigelow, of Philipsburg, was overcome by gas in the cellar of his home. A neighbor, another volunteer, rescued him. The board held that Bigelow complied with the provisions by first running to the fire headquarters to sound a general alarm.

—Attacked by a large gander in the barnyard of her home, near Loyalhanna, Mrs. John Gordon, 76, was seriously hurt. The fowl became angered when Mrs. Gordon approached a goose which was on a nest. It charged the aged woman and sunk its beak into her head, severing an artery. Before members of the Gordon family learned of the woman's plight and drove the gander away, Mrs. Gordon had lost considerable blood. She also suffered from shock.

—A. H. Potts, of Pittsburgh, at 77, is finding happiness in paying off at the rate of some \$300 yearly a 26-year-old debt of \$10,000 he does not really owe. When his extensive printing establishment at Parkersburg was sold by the sheriff 26 years ago he went to Pittsburgh to work for the Bible Institute. He has succeeded in paying all of the 50 employees who once worked for him in his Parkersburg plant. Patient application to the job of paying his debt has seen some \$5000 of it wiped away.

—With rifle and rope, William Weaver, 52, committed suicide on his farm, near Gettysburg. His body was found hanging in the barn. Weaver apparently sat on the front wheel of a wagon, with a rope around his neck, tied to a rafter. Then he placed the muzzle of a .45-calibre rifle in his mouth and released the trigger with a stick. The bullet ripped through his head and lodged in the roof of the shed. The shot knocked Weaver off the wheel and left him hanging. No motive was revealed.

—Mrs. May Stroble, of Eldred township, Lycoming county, pleaded guilty to the charge of burning a dwelling house, workshop and barn owned by her father, William Chappel, on the night of April 17, and was held by Alderman Keeler, of Williamsport, for the June term of Lycoming county court in \$500 bail. Mrs. Stroble said she was fearful her father would insist that she return to the farm to live, as the tenant had just moved from it, and determined to burn the buildings rather than be obliged to live there.

—Refusing to halt her car at the command of three highwaymen, while she was driving from her home in Ohio to the parental home at Lewistown, Mrs. Mildred L. Snook, was shot by one of the men, the bullet entering her back. She drove from the Ohio-Pennsylvania line to Altoona before stopping for treatment, despite the loss of blood and shock. The woman was removed to Lewistown where she is confined to a hospital. A woman companion of Mrs. Snook accompanied police to the spot where the shooting occurred.

—Pittsburgh detectives on Saturday arrested Charles Petzold, 40, on complaint of his wife that he had placed an improvised gas mask over her face while she slept in an attempt to take her life. Petzold told detectives his wife had a nightmare and the apparatus she claimed was a gas mask, was a bird cage. Mrs. Petzold said she awakened to find the instrument on her face and realized she slowly was becoming unconscious from fumes she had inhaled. When she attempted to escape, Petzold sought to hold her, but she fled and informed neighbors. Detectives claimed they found the mask, a long hose and a tank hidden in bushes in the Petzold yard.