

Reminiscent of Circus Days
You need have no further concern because of the vagaries of the weather. Tomato plants and beans are not going to be nipped by any more frosts this season. The weather is settled and summer is here. We make this prophecy not because we know anything special about the signs of the Zodiac, or have we any inside dope about what the Gulf Stream is going to do to the temperature along the Atlantic coast States during the coming six months. We simply know summer is here and vegetation is safe because, on Wednesday, we received our annual message from old Howard Sergeant. It came in the usual form—a program of the thrilling acts that go on under the big top of the greatest show on earth. We knew before the paper knife had slit the wrapping on the gaudy covered pamphlet what it was and memories that we nurture dearly transfixed us at once. Years and years ago, when the Logan house in Altoona was an arid desert, flanked on the right by the Globe oasis, and on the left by the Brandt oasis, Howard could always be counted on to join us on the broad veranda of the Logan, just in time enough to wrangle a bit as to which of the oases was the right one through which to start the trek to the show grounds. Year in and year out we met there on circus day until business engagements took Howard from Phillipsburg to cast his lot in distant cities. Since then we have carried on alone and every year we become more conscious of the fact that circus seats were never designed or humans of the wasp variety. We didn't mind their hardness in the old days, but if it weren't that we're almost as crazy about them as Harry Valkey we'd never endure another one, unless it advertised pneumatic cushions free to all visitors who have no objection to reducing. Our recollection runs back more than fifty years to the first circus we remember having seen. It was O'Brian's and exhibited out in what is now Bush's Addition, on the flat opposite the Dave Miller store. It arrived in town on Sunday and Sunday school was in session in the old "Wigan" that stood on the south-west corner of the present High school yard. The tawdry wagons rolled down the Spring street hill on Linn. The Sommerville boys, Harry, Al and Robb, Billy Butts, Gilbert Beaver, Don McCafferty and who made up the class that Rev. James P. Hughes had to wrestle with, led hard to concentrate on the lesson. We don't know how well they succeeded. As for us, when the solitary elephant of the aggregation came along we became a "Toby Tyne," scrambled out the window and allowed the lumbering pachyderm to know where—for us in those days the present Bush's Addition seemed as far away as Stormstown is now. That was the beginning. Since then we have seen every circus that has etched canvas on a lot. The first of the then really big shows to visit Bellefonte was Forepaugh's. It came in October, 1889, a reminder that because we had eyed "hooky" from school to go to a Grange picnic on the top of Nity mountain, and when Johnny Urbeck arrived up there with the nouncement that the bill car was town, we forthwith beat it for Bellefonte, walked every inch of the way, biting dust such as is not own today, and all for the thrill sitting on our hunkers at the side of a car that didn't have "a darned or elephant painted on it." The first railroad circus to come to Bellefonte was Bachelor and his. After them O'Brian's grew of the wagon show class and took to the rails. Then there was the Seven Elephant Show, John Bin's, Robinson's, W. C. Coupe, later L. Main, Gentry Bros., Wnie's, Sparks, etc., that made annual visits, but it was not until May 1898, that the really biggest show earth had Bellefonte on its itinerary. Then Ringling Bros. came for their first tour and when they rolled into Bellefonte on fifty cars we saw that they were per than either Forepaugh's or the num and Bailey shows, neither of ch up to that time required so ay cars to transport. We had met four Ringling Bros., when they d in Baraboo, Wisconsin, and sted ownership of a country news- and a little wagon show. All of n are gone now but one and the ibition they then apologized for become the greatest tented sement enterprise the world has en seen and probably ever will see. Since 1898 a larger circus than glings then was, has visited Belle- e. It was the Hagenbach and lace shows with fifty-seven cars. e love them all. The spirit of us day is in our life. When "Lal- Rookh" comes riding her ele- at through the streets and the ope strikes up "Suwannee River" grow restless for the smell of the agerie, the jostle in finding seats the thrill of the grand entry. you don't react like that you t understand why we just had to go of some of the thoughts that awakened when we fingered igh that circus program.

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A Bright Future for Pennsylvania Democrats.

In an interesting review of political conditions in Pennsylvania, in the Philadelphia Record of Sunday, Mr. Robert B. Vale, a most competent authority on the subject, presents a very encouraging prospect for the immediate future of the Democratic party. He declares that Republicans admit our "party will have more than a fighting chance" to elect the Governor next year and adds, "there is rising within the Republican party a progressive movement that great interests are fighting to stifle," and "in Pennsylvania there is a serious split in the Republican ranks." To the arrogance of Mellon and Grundy and the blunders of Governor Fisher Mr. Vale lays the blame for most of the Republican troubles in the State. But the hope expressed by Mr. Vale is not based upon the troubles in the Republican ranks. It is inspired by the changed conditions in the Democratic party. "Leading Democrats of the State are practically unanimous on the proposition that their party must go progressive," he writes, while "the Republican State organization is reactionary and growing more so every year." This is literally true and is increasingly provoking public resentment. The Mellon methods are sinister and the Grundy policies offensive to independent minds. "There are revolts in all parts of the State against this sort of rule," Mr. Vale notes, and the opposition is crystallizing into a great force about ready to strike. On the other hand the Democratic organization is growing rapidly in all sections of the State. Differences among leaders which have worked harm have been ironed out and forgotten. Bi-partisan trading has been eliminated and the State leaders are moving forward in full determination to deserve the confidence that has been reposed in them by the voters. State chairman John R. Collins epitomizes the conditions in a statement that "voters of the State are heartily tired of the orgy of extravagance going on under the present Mellon-Grundy administration, and in 1930 we will give them a good chance to bring about economical and efficient State government." That will be a splendid consummation.

Press reporters continue to predict a Hoover victory on the farm relief bill. In other words, they realize that official patronage is a more potent force than conscience in the Senate.

Test of Hoover's Sincerity.

Colonel Samuel O. Wynne, prohibition administrator for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, speaking from the pulpit of the Arch Street M. E. church, in Philadelphia, told his interested audience that "the greatest stumbling block to prohibition enforcement is the fact that United States district attorneys still are being chosen for political reasons and not on merit." This is an openly avowed arraignment of the Hoover administration. Federal district attorneys are appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Attorney General. If the officials named to fill these important offices are not up to the standard of efficiency, the blame rests on the President and Attorney General. There are three vacancies in Pennsylvania at this time. The district attorney of Philadelphia and one of his assistants have recently resigned to avoid investigation of charges of failure to prosecute violators of prohibition laws, and the office of assistant district attorney for the Middle district of the State was created by a recent act of Congress. Colonel Wynne has recommended for the most important of these vacancies a man who is entirely capable and in full sympathy with the purpose of prohibition legislation. His nominee has been cordially endorsed by the prohibitionists of Philadelphia and the district. If a less satisfactory candidate is chosen it will be an administration fault. Colonel Wynne declared that "the keystone of all law enforcement is the United States attorney. A weak, dishonest or inefficient United States attorney can absolutely break down the entire system." President Hoover, in his address before the Associated Press a few weeks ago, said enforcement of all laws is the first and paramount obligation not only of every public official but of every good citizen. The sincerity, the real honesty of President Hoover will justly be measured by his appointment of a Federal district attorney in Philadelphia. If he names a man recommended by the Vire machine he will confess himself a hypocrite. He will be degrading the power to the service of corrupt politics.

Remedy for a Great Evil.

The recent exposure of an attempt of a power trust to acquire control of leading newspapers for a sinister purpose is a matter of grave importance. It had previously been shown that schools, colleges and even pupils had been perverted to the service of power corporations in disseminating propaganda to confuse the minds of the people. These facts properly aroused public indignation and protest. But not until the discovery that the public press was being prostituted to the same base use did the country awaken to the seriousness of the evil. An investigation by the Federal Trade Commission confirmed the charge and the power of Congress has been invoked to stifle it. But great as the evil may be the remedy suggested by Senator Norris might be worse. "If the time comes when all the press is controlled by the power trust, or by big business," he declared in a speech in the Senate the other day, "there is no other position for a free people to take than to have the government take over the press." That would be "jumping out of the frying pan into the fire." It would be a Mussolini remedy and that sort of remedy could not possibly satisfy a free people. It might fool some for a brief period and deceive the very credulous for a considerable time. But it will not cure the evil which is certainly threatening and may be in actual existence now. The suggestion of Senator Dill, of the State of Washington, has a truer ring. "The right of special mail rights," he said, "could be denied to papers being used to influence readers in behalf of special interests." Senator Wheeler, of Montana, added, "newspapers get special privileges from the government in reduced mailing rates which presuppose that these papers shall not be subsidized or printed in behalf of particular interests." This remedy might easily be enforced. At present newspapers are required to reveal their ownership as well as their obligations and a newspaper deprived of its mailing privileges and advantages in mailing rates would soon find its way to the newspaper grave yard.

Bishop Cannon asks, "who can imagine the nefarious liquor traffic as part of the Kingdom of Heaven?" It would be equally difficult to believe it a prosperous industry in the other last resort.

Approves the Wrong Repeal Bill.

Governor Fisher has surprised nobody by approving the Heaton bill for the gradual repeal of the anthracite coal tax and vetoing the Jones measure which provided for the immediate repeal of the entire tax. He is absolutely consistent. In approving the Mansfield coal and iron pool bill he choose the larger of two evils, for both bills on that subject presented to him for consideration were intended to regulate an evil that ought to have been abolished. But he approved the one that conveyed the least improvement. In the matter of the coal tax legislation the Governor signed the one preferred by the coal owners and vetoed the one demanded by the public. The coal tax, which was levied first in December, 1921, was made an excuse for increasing the price of anthracite coal to consumers in much greater amount than the tax. Mainly for this reason it was cordially accepted by the producers of the coal. But the result was disappointing. The increase of price influenced consumers to seek substitutes and instead of benefiting it injured the industry. As a revenue producer, however, it was a great success. In eight years it has brought into the State Treasury \$41,607,996, and has become one of the greatest revenue producers. To an administration ambitious to score as the most expensive in history, it was a valuable asset. But the vanishing prosperity of the anthracite coal industry influenced the coal producers to urge a repeal of the tax. Self preservation is as important in business as in nature and in order to promote their purpose the operators promised a reduction in the price to consumers if the tax were abolished. That was persuasive propaganda and the public joined in the petition for repeal. The Governor suggested the gradual process but the operators protested that it would afford so little relief that they couldn't afford to reduce prices. The double bill expedient was then proposed, a stupid Legislature adopted it, and the Governor has approved the bill of least value to the public.

President Hoover spent Sunday in his fishing camp but didn't fish. Probably there are "blue laws" in Virginia.

Memorial Services at State College.

General Edward Martin, State Treasurer of Pennsylvania, will be the Memorial day orator at State College, next Thursday. Completed plans for a proper observance of the day in upper Pennsylvania provide for services at Lemont, Linden Hall and Pine Hall on Sunday, the 26th. At Lemont, the services will be in the Presbyterian church at 10:30, with Rev. J. Max Kirkpatrick the speaker. The services at Pine Hall will be at 2 p. m., in the Reformed church, the program to be in charge of Captain W. H. Fry. At Linden Hall the services will be in the cemetery at 3:30 o'clock. The speaker will be John T. Taylor Esq., and music will be furnished by the State College school band. The college military department will furnish a bugler and the firing squad. Children are requested to take flowers. The services at State College will begin at 9:50 on Memorial day with a parade which will come to rest on the campus, where the exercises will be held at 10:30. Music will be furnished by the College band. The invocation will be delivered by Rev. John F. Harkins, Dr. Ralph D. Hetzel, president of the College, will introduce the speaker, Gen. Edward Martin. Rev. Clarence A. Adams will pronounce the benediction and the services will close with "The Star Spangled Banner," by the College band. State College will be honored with the presence of Mr. George Cretzians, Minister Plenipotentiary from Rumania, and his secretary, Governor John S. Fisher and other State officials have been invited. Services at Houserville will be held at 9:30 a. m., with Thomas I. Mairs, as speaker, and music by the Lemont band. At the Branch services will be held at 2:30. Rev. Edward Frear will be the speaker and the College public school band will furnish the music.

Historic Tablet for Gray's Cemetery.

On Memorial day an official revolutionary marker that has been placed on the grave of Elijah Chambers, in Gray's cemetery, will be unveiled. It will be the occasion of an imposing ceremony and Rev. Wardner Willard is coming, specially, from Harrisburg, to make the address. Elijah and James Chambers came to Centre county from Cumberland county in 1790. Both having had grants of land from the government they settled in the Halfmoon valley and were pioneers there. Elijah had served throughout the revolutionary war; having enlisted while living in Cumberland county. While it has never been officially determined it is commonly supposed that the town of Chambersburg took its name from them. Among the Elijah Chambers direct descendants still living in this community are Wm. C. Chambers, a grandson and his children; Charles Larimer, a great grandson and the latter's children; Elizabeth and Marietta, great great granddaughters. Marietta will draw the cord that will unveil the tablet. Rev. Wardner Willard, of Harrisburg; Mrs. Morris Hazel, of Altoona, Willis Hartsock, of Tyrone, and Lee R. Larimer, of Jersey Shore, are other great grand children. It has been due largely to the interest and material contribution of the latter that the tablet memorializing his distinguished forebear has been placed in the cemetery where he lies.

Governor John S. Fisher has appointed E. B. Dorsett, of Mansfield, master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, as a trustee of the Pennsylvania State College. For many years Mr. Dorsett has had a close interest in all phases of State College work and has given his help many times in its development. He succeeds W. S. Wise, of Meadville, as one of the six trustees appointed by the Governor, Mr. Wise retiring because of failing health. Governor Fisher reappointed Jesse B. Warriner, of Lansford, to the trustees board. He is a graduate of the college and has been a trustee for several years. Mr. Dorsett was the speaker at the evening meeting of the Farmer's Field Day gathering at the College yesterday.

Secretary Stimson says this country will have nothing to do with German reparations. Yet we have been managing the whole business from the beginning.

It is worth while for our Republican friends to remember that Gifford Pinchot will be home in time to take a hand in the next primary election.

Many Puzzling Questions Up to the Borough Council.

At the regular meeting of borough council, on Monday evening, a written proposition was presented by the West Penn Power company offering to make a thorough survey of the town, at the company's expense, in connection with the water pumping proposition, the communication carrying the inference that the company could possibly make a proposition to council which would be more attractive than going ahead with the construction of a borough generating plant at the Gamble mill. Supt. W. T. McCormick and R. H. Lightner, of the West Penn, were present and made it plain that the company is not at all antagonistic to council's desire to reduce the cost of pumping the water. To this end they proposed that a thorough survey be made both of the company's plans as well as the boroughs, and if the question is not definitely determined by September 1st, the date of the expiration of the present contract, the company will continue to furnish service from month to month as long as the borough needs the same. The matter was referred to the Water committee for conference with West Penn officials.

A communication was received from the Central Pennsylvania Gas company, authorizing the borough to make all repairs along gas pipe lines, on a cost-plus basis, bills to be submitted monthly.

Walter Reichert and Henry Sholly were present to ask for building permits for the construction of houses on Burnside street. The matter was referred to the Street and Village Improvement committees and borough solicitor.

Mrs. Alice Showers appeared in person and asked exoneration of taxes and the matter was referred to the Finance committee.

Robert F. Hunter was present in connection with his proposed airport marker but as he has not yet secured a definite location, and because of this fact the West Penn Power company is unable to give the exact cost of lighting, president Walker suggested that he get his proposition in definite shape then return to council. Mr. Hunter also reported to council that the Central Pennsylvania Gas company has undertaken a settlement of the claim of Mrs. Harvey Schaeffer, made against the borough for injuries sustained in a fall. Mr. Hunter further stated that he has been in conference with two men who are desirous of starting a knitting mill in Bellefonte and they would like to secure the brick building at the Phoenix mill. The building is at present under monthly lease but the matter was referred to the Water committee.

The street committee reported receipt of \$40 from R. L. Mallory for sewers, and repairs made on various streets. The committee further reported that an inspection of the streets of the town showed that some places should be oiled and the committee asked authority to purchase a carload of oil and the necessary chips to make the repairs, which should be made next month. Authority was granted to make the purchase from the lowest responsible bidder. The committee also reported a number of pavements in town that are badly in need of repair, and it was decided to notify the owners to make same.

The Water committee reported various repairs, the collection of \$45.00 for rent at Phoenix mill and \$350 on water tax.

The Finance committee asked for the renewal of notes totaling \$7,400, which was authorized.

Bills totaling \$1520 were approved for payment after which council adjourned.

Plutarco E. Calles, late President of Mexico, has announced his retirement from public life. Maybe it's a case of "taking time by the forelock."

Democratic State Chairman Collins serves notice that Trading Posts in the party have been permanently discontinued.

The Athletics are scoring strong in the fight for the pennant, but it's a long run to the finish.

The proposed tariff schedules fail to satisfy Grundy. He wants both the earth and the sky.

Al Capone probably imagined that Philadelphia is a safe harbor for captured crooks.

The air is still exacting toll but the aviators refuse to be discouraged.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Twenty-one Boy Scouts of the Lehigh county council set 4,000 trees around their camp in Monroe county this spring. Although inexperienced the boys averaged about one tree a minute in the planting operations.

Miss Marian Clarkson, Shamokin High school senior, has neither been absent nor tardy once in the twelve years she has attended public school. She is the only student in the high school of 700 or more pupils with this record.

As a result of Governor Fisher's approval of the Heaton bill, which provides for a gradual removal over a period of two years of the tonnage tax on anthracite coal, the price at the mines will be reduced five cents a ton on June 1, according to an announcement made at Wilkes-Barre, on Tuesday.

No clue has been found to the robbers who took \$250 to \$300, stole the safe and escaped with fifty pounds of butter, a large quantity of sugar, candy and cigarettes from the Vengold store on one of the main streets in Sandy Lake, Venango county. The robbery is the fourth in eighteen months at the Vengold store.

It takes a lot of public spirit to give away 100 broilers for a chicken supper. That is what Henry Hocker, Milanville, and Livingston Blauvelt, Bethany, did for the Wayne county poultry association meeting at Indian Orchard. Women members of the Indian Orchard Grange prepared the meal which was enjoyed by 140 persons.

Eleven families were driven from their homes early Sunday morning by fire which swept a six-story brick apartment house in Pottsville, and threatened four similar structures during the four hours it raged. To combat the flames, the largest mobilization of fire apparatus seen there in fifteen years was necessitated. The loss was estimated at \$50,000.

All persons desiring ringneck pheasant eggs from either of the two State game farms, recently acquired by the Board of Game Commissioners, must make formal application on regular blanks supplied by the commission. These application blanks can be secured either at the offices of the board at Harrisburg or from the various county game protectors. Full instructions governing the hatching will be furnished with each shipment of eggs.

Thomas E. Bevin's, of Pittsburgh, has failed, at least temporarily, to regain the bride he claims is being kept from him by her parents. After a hearing on Bevin's habeas corpus petition, Judge Thomas J. Ford continued the case indefinitely and the bride remained at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Monaghan. Bevin charged that the day after he married the girl, they visited the Monaghans where the bride was seized and locked up and their marriage certificate destroyed.

Mrs. Jessie E. Taylor, 29, post-mistress at Clayton, Butler county, was sentenced to one year in the Federal women's reformatory at Alderson, W. Va., after she pleaded guilty to a charge of embezzling postal funds at Pittsburgh, on Tuesday. Mrs. Taylor, mother of two children and the support of her aged parents, told the court she used the \$3,571 she had embezzled to pay doctor and hospital bills. A postal inspector, however, said part of the money had been used for payments on an automobile.

Michael Kowaleskie, living near Shamokin, has brought suit in the Northumberland county court seeking \$200,000 from Leslie A. Lichtel, Shamokin, for the death of the former's wife, which he says was due to an automobile crashing into the plaintiff's home. According to Kowaleskie's statement, Lichtel's car left the road and crashed into his house so hard that it caused a pipe in a hot water radiator inside the parlor to be dislocated; water ran out, the wife got her feet wet, pneumonia developed and she died. The accident happened September 12 last.

Charles Foster, Claysville, Pa., was convicted of the murder of Martin Parko, alias Mike Baker, by a jury at Tombstone, Ariz., Saturday night. The jury recommended the death penalty after a deliberation of 25 minutes. Baker was slain near the Mohave desert last February after he had given Foster a ride in his automobile. The body was found with a bullet wound in the head and Foster was later arrested with the slain man's car in his possession. Foster was hitch hiking from Los Angeles to his home in Pennsylvania when the murder occurred.

Owners of ochre or natural paints or deposits in the Mertztown-Longsawamp region of Upper Berks county are much interested in the discovery of what is believed to be continuation of their vein of alburtin. It was found on the John O. Irwin farm and seems to be of large extent. New Jersey paint manufacturers have sent prospectors to examine the new deposits. Mining paint ore has been a profitable industry for many years near Mertztown, where a paint mill turns out large quantities of powdered ochre every week. The product is dug from large open pits, dried and then pulverized.

Twenty-two persons on a Greyhound Lines, Inc., bus were injured, two seriously, near Butler, Pa., on Sunday when the big vehicle, enroute to Cleveland from Pittsburgh, skidded on a slippery pavement, rolled over twice and took fire. The flames were quickly extinguished. The injured passengers were taken to a Butler hospital in ambulances and given treatment. Gerald Whan, 28, Youngstown, the driver, said it was raining and that the accident occurred as he attempted to swing the bus into a dirt road from the paved highway at a place known as Cranmer's hill on the New Castle road. Whan, who was severely bruised, said he was not running fast at the time.

The Bureau of Engineering of the Pennsylvania State Health Department is making necessary arrangements for the enforcement of the new law which provides for the licensing and regulation of dealers in milk used for human consumption. Several months will be required before the necessary details of the inspections can properly be arranged for but dealers are advised to maintain the sanitary standards formerly set by the Department, and the minority of individuals and firms that has not as yet met these standards to take interest themselves toward that end. Detailed information relative to the actual enforcement of the law by the State Health Department will be issued in the near future.