

The equinoctial storm was a little belated, but it was mighty welcome since it brought such a copious rain.

Somebody has said that a sunbeam is something that'll go through pollution and come out unpolluted. Would that all our sons could say that the sunbeam has nothing on us.

William Feather never said anything truer in his life than when he expressed this bit of philosophy: "The boy who does not lead a normal life in youth usually takes his vices at one gulp the moment he becomes a free agent." Mothers, if you are making a Little Lord Fauntleroy of your son or daughter your apron strings are lashing you to the pillory of many heartaches.

According to the records of the Danville State hospital the rate of admissions for alcoholic disorders is now seven times greater than it was in 1919-1920. With the asylums, jails and penitentiaries bulging with victims of bad liquor we think our colleges ought to extend their extension departments so that moonshiners can take a correspondence course in how to make better stuff.

We are not particularly interested in what Mr. Shearer might have done by way of compromising us while at the Geneva conference. We would be interested, however, in learning whether any of the Senators, who have him on the rack, have a record for constructive endeavor and loyal citizenship that will equal the one their spies have reported him to possess.

For goodness sake, if you love us, give us a recipe for firing a house heating plant so that it will please everybody when it's 50 degrees in the morning and 70 degrees at noon. Ever since we discarded the cherry old coal range in the kitchen there's been trouble in the home. Gas is wonderful, it is at the cook's command when she comes down stairs in the morning. There is no waiting for it to "catch up," but it hasn't done what the good old coal range did, work while we slept, and had the chill taken off the bath room. God, how we hate the smell of a newly lighted oil stove, the hope of the prudent wife who attempts to bridge the gap between the mild weather of summer and the crisp nights of fall. It takes more of an engineer than we are to keep a house hot enough to get up in the morning and cool enough to stay in at midday with a furnace designed to keep it comfortable in zero weather. If you have a recipe for not forgetting the furnace or of keeping it just right without using any coal please put us wise.

As we are writing this stuff we hear the radio from the living room xuding its program. Reception is fine and both ears are cocked so that concentration on the work at hand is without its difficulties. We are sensing, while writing, to a soprano from somewhere singing "After the Fall." It might not mean much to you, but it does to us, for in the summer of 1893 we had a minstrel how out on the road and Hard Harris, our present Mayor, was the ensemble tenor. If Hard can't throw it that awful cough he has and has to march up to greet St. Peter we want to place something in his hand that might prove an open sesame to the nearby gates. Hard was the first man, east of Omaha, to sing "After the Fall" from a stage. Notwithstanding what Mr. Chas. K. Harris, the author of the song, might have said, his reminiscences published in the Saturday Evening Post some time ago, about the song that really made him famous, we had a copy of the original of his manuscript from a Cincinnati music publishing house before it was in print and the echo of the applause Hard got when he sang in Tyrone and Clearfield, specially, music far sweeter to our ears than any we are now hearing from the radio—possibly that is because Amos and Andy have just come on.

The rather striking bit of verse, published several weeks ago, "Dawn and Dusk" the authorship of which we ascribed to someone in Canton, Pennsylvania, because it bore the post-mark of that city, seems to have had even more merit as we ascribed it at the time of publication. It has been published in any of our exchanges and credited to the Watchman, an honor to which we are not entitled. We have been prised and elated, however, with the discovery that the author is none other than our nephew, Thomas King Morris, Jr., whose modesty prompted us to resort to the subterfuge ofonymity to get his fine thoughts on print. The youth of the land is led a mystery. Looking down at from the pedestal to which experience raises those of mellowing years are too prone to think it hopeless. We know nothing of what they are thinking in their devil-may-care way. We know nothing of whom we love best that the person in the world whom we would have thought to be the author "Dawn and Dusk" is the one who fully wrote.

Whistler's notes, the Bird's sweet song,
Rising sun and Faith, how long
I these withstand the age old test
life? Not long I fear unless—
me—there comes at close of day
peaceful hour when creatures pray,
My promise for the day is Dawn;
wake and live, the lots are drawn,
sunset rests my weary soul
then I've won through to my goal;
now I know I like by far
dusk that brings the evening star.

Democratic Watchman

VOL. 74. BELLEFONTE, PA., OCTOBER 4, 1929. NO. 39.

Shearer in His Own Defense.

In his testimony before the Senate committee, the other day, Mr. William B. Shearer, practical lobbyist and professional patriot, failed to present an imposing figure of himself but he did somewhat puncture the reputation for idealism which Mr. Charles M. Schwab has been building for some time. It will be recalled that Mr. Schwab testified before the same committee that as soon as he learned that Shearer was on the payroll of the Bethlehem Steel company he ordered the revocation of the contract. Shearer testified that Schwab was "the real inspiration behind the lobbying and propagation at Geneva," and that a threat that Secretary Kellogg would prosecute a suit for \$15,000,000 against the Bethlehem corporation unless Shearer was discharged, was the actual reason for cancelling the contract.

By his own evidence William B. Shearer stands condemned as a conscienceless adventurer preying upon public credulity in whatever direction and by any methods that promised liberal recompense. His principal capital is what Samuel Johnson defined as "the last refuge of a scoundrel." The first question put to him by the chairman of the committee was "what is your name?" and his reply was "William Baldwin Shearer, American, Christian, Nationalist and Protestant." After the chairman had promptly ordered that "all except the name" be stricken out, the witness added that he had letters from almost every patriotic society in America which reflects no credit on the patriotic societies of America and seems to have been of little advantage to Shearer. But that is of little importance to the question at issue.

The simple facts are that William Shearer, an adventurer of doubtful character, was employed by three shipbuilding corporations to attend the Geneva conference sitting for the purpose of devising means to decrease or procure a parity in the naval equipment of the United States and Great Britain. That he performed the work for which he was liberally paid, that he made frequent and accurate reports of his operations to his employers and that if he had not brought suit for money which he claimed was due him the world would never have known the affair. Clearly the present purpose is to make Shearer the goat, and the chances are it will succeed. But the corporations which employed a super patriot to serve a treasonable purpose ought not to escape blame entirely. Besides, the practice is a policy of the party.

Hoover Wants Great Power.

President Hoover is somewhat inconsistent in his communication to the Senate urging the adoption of the flexible provision of the pending tariff bill. At the outset he declared that "he will not at any time discuss specific rates as he regards that as an interference with Congress." It certainly would be usurpation of the prerogatives of Congress which under the constitution has, alone, the power of legislation and fixing tariff rates is essentially legislation. But he covets the power of fixing the rates of tariff taxation through the medium of the flexible provision, now in force under the Fordney-McCumber act and he asks to have it continued under the pending bill, notwithstanding.

The flexible provision of the existing tariff law creates a Commission to investigate complaints against rates. Originally it was to be composed of economic experts and non-partisan. But it was to be appointed by the President and under precedents established by President Coolidge it may be "packed" in the interest of high protectionists. As a matter of fact whenever any member of the Commission revealed an inclination to favor a decrease in rates he was induced to resign so that his place could be filled by a man in favor of increases. In that way every change in tariff rates made by Presidential proclamation was to a higher level. Patronage was freely used in promoting such results.

The value of a flexible provision in the tariff law to an aspiring President may easily be imagined. The danger of such legislation can hardly be measured. It conveys to the President power to enrich or impoverish any man or group engaged in manufacture or commerce. In a campaign for re-election the President might easily by the employment of this extraordinary power, conscript the wealth of the country into his service and make his tenure of office perpetual. Possibly President Hoover has not been influenced by these considerations to urge that this power be bestowed upon him. But the fact is that the danger is not only present but imminent and public safety requires its removal.

Vare Probe on a New Lead.

Senator Norris seems to have directed his probe as to the source of Vare's slush fund into a promising direction. He has already discovered at least one contributor of the phantom variety and is likely to uncover others. There is a deep-seated suspicion that a considerable part of the fund credited to business men of Philadelphia was in fact contributed by Mr. Vare himself. There is an equally wide-spread belief that much of the \$50,000 listed in the name of Sheriff Cunningham was drawn from bootleggers and other protected operatives in the criminal life of Philadelphia. The purpose of Senator Norris' undertaking is to develop the facts in the matter.

With this object in view he first procured a list of the contributors as filed and sworn to by Thomas F. Watson, Sr., treasurer of the Vare campaign committee, in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, at Harrisburg. To each of those credited with large subscriptions he has written a letter asking how much he gave and whether in cash or check. In cases where checks were used he asks the name of the bank upon which it was drawn. The Senator states that one of the alleged contributors has positively declared he made no contribution and it is intimated that others have followed his example. Of course some of them will refuse or neglect to reply but that policy will expose them to suspicion.

It has already been proved that Vare himself contributed more than he ought to secure his election. He acknowledges personal contributions amounting to upward of \$71,000 which is more than the salary for the full term and as it costs a good deal to maintain the dignity of a Senator in Washington he must have expected to find some source of revenue other than the legal compensation. But it will not be so easy to find out where the Cunningham contribution came from. Mr. Cunningham may be sent to jail, as Sinclair was, and that would shut off every source of information. But on the other hand after it is discovered that Vare is down and out he may conclude that it would be wise to tell the truth.

A new religion has been started the purpose of which is to teach "How to Get Along with Each Other." That is certainly a laudable purpose and the first feature of the creed ought to be "behave."

Mystery of Lobby Operations

Mr. William B. Shearer must have had other sources of revenue during the period he was employed by three ship building corporations as lobbyist. The officials of those corporations acknowledge that they paid him \$7,500.00 for lobbying in Washington during the Sixty-ninth Congress and \$25,000.00 for "observing and reporting" at Geneva during the conference for reducing naval forces. In a letter addressed to the officials of the ship building corporations upon his return from Geneva he said his expenses "over the period of time I have devoted to this fight are well in six figures." It might be worth while to find out where the rest of themoney came from.

There is some distance between \$32,500 and \$100,000 which is the lowest total that can be expressed in six figures and the difference must have come from some source other than Sunday school collections. Going into details Mr. Shearer stated the "other than my expenses of necessary entertaining both here and in Europe, there has been considerable expense for stenographers, stationery, stamps, multigraphing, printing, automobile, train and steamship travel. My mailing list runs from 1200 to 4000." Such luxuries and necessities do run into money and it may well be believed that he was anxious to get an understanding "as to the status of my just claim based on our understanding."

The books of the ship building corporations fail to show any payments on account of these lobby activities but as the fiscal officers of them acknowledge, under oath, payments of \$7,500 and \$25,000, it may be assumed that much was paid. But stenographers, stationery, stamps, multigraphing, automobile, train and steamship service are cash commodities and as Shearer is not a wealthy man where did the six figure difference come from? Of course the steamship corporation officials may have overlooked or forgot about some contributions or Mr. Shearer might have persuaded patriotic organizations or religious societies to chip in. Anyway it is an interesting and mysterious problem.

The courts of this State are gradually raising the penalty for drunken driving to a level that "fits the crime."

Law Enforcement in Washington.

The question of prohibition enforcement in Washington is increasing both in interest and importance. Senator Howell's statement that the President is to blame for the moisture has encouraged others to speak out. Senator Blease told of narcotic joints within the shadow of the capitol and Senator Brookhart followed with a startling story of a Senatorial dinner at which the souvenirs were silver flasks filled with whiskey. This function, under the auspices of a Wall Street broker, was for the purpose of introducing newly elected Senators into the ways and methods of legislation as practiced in Washington under a Republican administration. It was known as the "Wall Street Dinner."

Of course there were some Senators at the feast who were already familiar with the processes. There were Charlie Curtis, now Vice President; Reed Smoot, now Chairman of the Committee on Finance; George H. Moses, now President Pro Tem of the Senate; Wesley L. Jones, author of the famous "five-and-ten" prohibition law; James W. Watson, now Republican floor leader in the Senate and other veterans as well as experts in partisan legislation. Their part of the programme was to introduce the "greenhorns" to their Wall Street hosts and recommend them as worthy "guides, philosophers and friends," who knew exactly what legislation was needed and precisely how it might be obtained.

The banquet was held at Willard's and was the recherche event of the session of 1926. Senator Brookhart's present purpose is to have the proprietor or manager of the hotel brought into court to answer for the flagrant violation of the Volstead law. That is a laudable purpose and clearly essential to the promise of making "Washington a model city." But it isn't the solution of the problem which confronts the authorities of Washington and the administration of President Hoover. A searching inquiry into the purpose of a dinner to Senators in Congress, new or old, by Wall Street manipulators of finance and legislation is infinitely more important. It bears a sinister aspect that needs explanation.

A relatively unimportant election in the State is approaching. That is, there are only two State offices to be filled and few county offices of importance figure in the contest. For the most part the campaign will be for township, town and city offices in which the inclination has been steadily developing to vote along non-partisan lines. Notwithstanding this phase of the campaign word comes out of Harrisburg that a "shakedown" of from one to three per cent of the salaries of all State employees is to be levied. That's machine politics. That's how enough voters are hired to go to the polls in an "off" year and elect to office the little cogs in the machine's wheels while the good people stay at home.

Bellefonte can kiss hope of a new public building good-bye for at least ten years. We fear the Hon. Mitch Chase hasn't been nearly as much interested in Bellefonte as he will be when he comes up for election again.

Maybe Senator Brookhart is a trifle off in form in exposing the silver flask episode of the Wall Street dinner to Senators but it is one case in which the purpose justifies the breach.

The State Highway's oiling schedule for the week ending October 10th includes two stretches of road in Centre county, from Hublersburg to Howard and Madisonburg to Nittany.

Senator Norris is trying to find out who contributed to the Vare slush fund in 1926 and may incidentally start a procession toward Cherry Hill.

Mr. Vare has resumed leadership of the Republican machine in Philadelphia but he is making little progress toward a seat in the Senate.

Senator Couzens may be planning a final blow to Secretary Mellon in his movement to probe the recent power mergers.

President Hoover's week-end parties may develop into an institution unless the Sabbatarians enter a protest in time.

Senator Copeland of New York ought to have come home sooner or secured a "pair" before he left for Europe.

What the city of Easton really needs is a hospital for the treatment of moral maladies.

SUMMER IS SLEEPING.

Oh, isn't it nice when the Fall days come. When the mist and fog and late summer sun.

All go together to tell us quite plain "Gay Summer is passing, I will be Winter again."

We take down the awnings and pack away screens, And out from the gardens we "catch up" We chase a few flies and close all the doors.

For cold days are coming bringing Winter once more.

The noise and harsh dins of the street don't exist, All the nervous racking sounds are closed out by the mist.

And you "putter about," in the quiet in Winter is coming and Christmas—beside.

Oh, 'tis easy to speed the long Summer days, Welcome the Fall, with its blanket of haze.

For we know under Winter's deep snow and chill rain Summer's sleeping, but will come back again.

WINIFRED B. MEEK-MORRIS, September, 1929.

They Lifted Canal Boats Over the Mountains.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. The unveiling next Tuesday of a monument high up in the Allegheny Mountains near Cresson will commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the old Portage Railroad, long since abandoned. This memorial, erected with State funds by a commission appointed by Governor Fisher, is especially interesting to the people of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, for the Portage road was the link in the system of "public works" connecting these cities in 1829, which represented one of the greatest engineering achievements up to that time.

It is customary to regard "public ownership" as a comparatively modern doctrine and practice. But a century ago the State of Pennsylvania owned and operated this "main line of public works," as it was called, comprising two lines of railway and two canals. And, by the way, the term "main line," referring to the Pennsylvania Railroad's direct route west from Philadelphia, dates from this enterprise.

As the first link in these "public works," the State built a railroad in fifty-eight counties, the extent of which was so great that it had to be built in sections. It was the State's sixty-seven counties which have received the test by January 1. The area work is now being conducted in Clinton, Bedford, Centre, Juniata, Schuylkill and Wayne counties.

When a quantity of dynamite exploded on the back porch of his home, John Kvasnick, aged 27, of Hudson, Luzerne county, was blown to pieces, and his wife was critically injured. She was taken to a hospital, where it is believed that she will lose one arm. Neighbors stated that Kvasnick was experimenting with several dry cell batteries which he connected to set off traps in the mines where he was employed. Mrs. Kvasnick was watching her husband from the kitchen door when the explosion occurred.

There have been bridal showers, rice showers, flower showers and rein showers in Reading, but the most exciting shower of all took place when a bag containing 10,000 pennies was dropped while being taken to a bank. Police formed a cordon around the pile of pennies after scores of pedestrians had scuffled through it, and after a lot of small newsboys had taken advantage of the situation. After all the coins in sight had been rapéd up and bagged it was officially announced that every cent had been recovered.

Burgess A. G. Shissler of Shamokin, has announced that he will ask council at a meeting in the near future to draft an ordinance to prohibit the use of any soft coal in that borough. The burgess expressed himself forcibly on the subject. Within the past several months, he declared, he has had scores of complaints from residents who protest the use of soft coal—in machinery of construction and by paving companies. Most of the complaints are to the effect that dust from the fuel damages the appearance of homes, settles on paint and discolors surfaces.

District Attorney Samuel H. Gardner, of Pittsburgh, asserts that the three coal and iron policemen accused Saturday of the murder of John Borkowski, miner, will be brought to trial some time in October on charges of involuntary manslaughter. The three, W. J. Lyster, Harold P. Watts and Frank Slapikas were in the Allegheny county jail early in the week in default of \$5,000 bail each, but expected to secure their release. The policemen, formerly employed by the Pittsburgh Coal company, were charged with beating Borkowski to death last February. The defense contended he was injured in a scuffle after he had stabbed Watts following an argument.

Becoming suddenly deranged, Edna Langraf, 22 years old, of Allentown, seriously injured her mother, and attacked a policeman with a hatpin, before she was subdued and placed under observation in police headquarters on Sunday. The woman was found a year ago in an unconscious condition on a Bethlehem street. A milkman picked her up, and she told a variety of stories as to how she came to be there. The girl's peculiar actions as she left home on Sunday attracted the attention of neighbors who were about to notify police when her mother appeared. She tried to persuade the girl to return home, but was attacked and thrown to the ground. Her leg was broken. Police were then summoned, but the girl was not to be found. She suddenly appeared from around a porch, and lunged viciously with the hatpin at Motorcyle Officer Beisel, inflicting a painful wound in his right leg.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Dr. J. Bruce McCreary, deputy secretary of health, has announced that 350,000 copies of the Pennsylvania baby book are now ready for distribution. They will be distributed by the bureau of vital statistics on certificates from the attending doctor or may be obtained by writing to the pre-school section of the State Health Department.

Alfred G. Shissler, 50, chief burgess, of Shamokin, had his pocket picked of a wallet containing \$200 while in Sunbury, on Monday, by two youths, who had engaged him in conversation. Shissler told police he was on his way to a hotel when the youths stopped him to ask questions. He didn't discover his loss until the thieves were out of sight.

George A. Stuart, director of the bureau of markets, State Department of Agriculture, is authority for the statement that the garlic moth is reducing the value of wheat grown in the State thousands of dollars annually. He urged farmers to give close attention to the kind of seed sown, fumigation of bins and cleaning up all wheat about storage places before next spring.

Suit for \$75,000 damages was filed at Ebensburg, last Friday, by Michael Sakmar and Savanna Sakmar, his mother, against the Johnstown Traction company, Johnstown, for injuries they alleged Sakmar suffered when a street car collided with another car in Johnstown August 22. Sakmar was a passenger on one of the trolleys. The mother asks \$25,000 damages and the son seeks \$50,000.

Mrs. Frances Latchaw, 20, wife of Theodore Latchaw, of York, was placed in the York county jail after a fight at the supper table, during which she is alleged to have stabbed her husband in the back with a butcher knife and burned his neck with a hot pancake turner. She was committed to jail by Alderman Jacob Stager in default of bond in the sum of \$500 on charges of aggravated assault and battery and threatening to kill her husband.

John F. Dietrich, 53 years old, one of the "vanishing race" artisans of the days when carriages were made by hand and later in small factories, is dead at his home in Reading. Dietrich's body was found on the banks of the Perkiomen creek, near Collegetown, where he had gone fishing, by another angler. Heart disease is believed to have caused his death. He was a blacksmith, learning the craft in boyhood, and at one time had a factory of his own in Tamama.

The Rev. Charles Donnelly, evangelist, of Pittsburgh, who claimed his tonsils and throat were injured so that he was totally disabled for three months after conducting a revival campaign at the Burnside church near Mahanoy, Pa., has been denied compensation by the State workmen's compensation board because the claim was not filed for more than a year after the occurrence. The minister asked that the Pittsburgh conference of the Methodist Episcopal church compensate him.

Seventy per cent of all cattle in Pennsylvania are now tested for tuberculosis, the State Department of Agriculture has announced. With bovine tuberculosis eradication work on an area basis under way at the present in 98 townships in fifty-eight counties, the extent of which was so great that it had to be built in sections. It was the State's sixty-seven counties which have received the test by January 1. The area work is now being conducted in Clinton, Bedford, Centre, Juniata, Schuylkill and Wayne counties.

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