

—One of the reasons that so many people are well is that they can't afford to be sick.

—Vote for Johnston for District Attorney and put that office in the hands of a young man who is free from all political alliances and in a position to conduct it without fear or favor.

—If we are to believe former fire marshal Bob Kline and George Carpeneto, chief of the Undines, all the joy of running to a fire is now taken out of life. They're so convinced that the new Undine pumper has occult powers that all the firemen out on Bishop street will need to do when the alarm sounds now is say: "Hiss!" and keep on playing pinocchio while the new machine goes out and puts an end to the conflagration.

—Our local hospital acquitted itself very creditably last year. Out of nine hundred and seventy-four patients, many of whom were taken there at the eleventh hour, forty-three died. A four and one-half per cent. mortality rate is low; just about four out of every hundred. Only those who shun the thought of taking a chance on being one of the four would think that rate too high. Anyways, the hospital brought more than two new ones into the world for every one it failed to keep from going out.

—There are more than thirty-two thousand students in the forty-three colleges in Pennsylvania. The percentage is probably as high in the colleges of other States. More and more are seeking higher education each year and that causes us to ponder a bit. How are the people who have to do the work going to manage to keep enough cars on the highways to pick up this ever growing army of "thumb jerkers" when it is hitch-hiking home for week-ends or somewhere to root for the Varsity foot-ball team?

—Mr. Horace Hartranft has laid on our desk a circular big as a bed sheet. Attached to it is a letter in which he says: "We guarantee results." Horace has supplemented the advice "H. S. S." gave us last week as to how to solve our heat problem, which is becoming so pestiferous that it carries us back to 1898 when we had the plain, though now obsolete, seven year itch. By the way, that's not such a bad analogy—if you've ever had the itch. All that "H. S. S." advised us to do was buy a special five dollar clock in which he had no interest. What Horace wants us to do is buy a contraption that he is agent for and on which he'd take down a fair commission. You see, he's not an unselfish friend so we have to meet him on his own ground. Accordingly, we make this proposal: If the company for which Horace is agent, and for which there is one other more ubiquitous, will install, free of charge, one of its contraptions in our furnace "we'll tell the cock-eyed world" whether its Bellefonte representative is right or wrong when he "guarantees results."

—The determination of Mr. J. Mitchell Cunningham to retire from the council of Bellefonte will be a matter of much regret to those taxpayers of the borough whose interest in its welfare is unselfish. Since he has formally withdrawn his name as a candidate for re-election from the West ward we do not hesitate to confess that against his wishes and without his consent we circulated the petition that put him in the primaries. We did it because we believed then and believe now that there were too few as peculiarly fit as he for such positions. We had no motive other than what he thought was best for the town that is our home. Over a period of early forty years we think we need to take second place to any resident in that matter of active interest in what is going on in the governmental circles of our borough. And during that period we can say we have ever asked a councilman, or any other borough official, for a favor which there was any personal benefit. We make this declaration as proof that our interest in trying to force Mr. Cunningham to run was unselfish as his long service to the borough has been. As a citizen he has done more than his duty, so that, perhaps, our insistence was resumption. When Harry Fenlon, William H. Derstine and W. R. Jenkins tore away the tumbling boardwalk on Water street, walked it up and made the beautiful promenade that's there now there was a great deal of cry, but would Bellefonte go back to the board-walk on stilts? Then Mr. Cunningham, Ben Brady and W. H. Brouse rebuilt the water works, increased the amount of it and made the Big Spring the beauty spot of the town, then some of those who saw him supervising the improvement, by in and day out without a cent compensation, rolled their tongues their cheeks and said things they are ashamed of now. He did it because he thought he was doing something for Bellefonte and if you see anything else constructive in his long, conscientious and gratuitous service as a resident that splendid work, alone, should cause you to admit that Bellefonte is going to lose a councilman who has been fearless and fair in standing for the interests of the taxpayers and one whose constructive work will be apparent as long as Bellefonte is Bellefonte.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 74. BELLEFONTE, PA., OCTOBER 18, 1929. NO. 41.

Levying Tribute a Party Policy.

Levying tribute upon the State job holders has become not only a settled but a systematic policy of the Fisher administration at Harrisburg. For many years it has been done in furtive fashion. Quay and Penrose permitted it but in a shame-faced manner. Since the Mellons and Grundy have come into control of the organization, however, it has become an open operation. Last year nearly \$400,000 was forced from State employees, all of which except \$67,000 was expended during the campaign. That considerable balance is said to have been used to defray the cost of a political breakfast for Governor Fisher at Harrisburg and breakfast and luncheon for the Governor's invited guests in Washington at the Hoover inauguration.

In former years the demand upon State employees for contributions was only made in National or State-wide campaigns. But this year, and presumably in all future time, it will be made every year. The process is simple but certain. The State Treasurer sends to the county chairmen lists of the State employees resident in the several counties and the chairmen, under an implied promise of continued employment, make the levy. "We have tried to the best of our ability," the chairman writes to the "victim," to take care of you during the present administration—and if we succeed in retaining you we must have an organization that will have standing with the new administration.

The Republican women of Adams county have already issued a vigorous protest against this brutal method of brigandage and the better element of the party in all sections of the State is complaining. The Mellons, Grundy, Vare and Fisher are abundantly able to pay expenses incident to their ambitions and enjoyments and it is not only cruel but contemptible to exact from scrub-women and other not too generously rewarded minor employees the price of breakfasts and lunches in Harrisburg and Washington for the Governor and other party leaders. It is all right for those who can afford it to contribute for campaign expenses but to collect by force is a moral if not statutory crime.

Ramsay MacDonald was sorry to leave this country. Well, if he can crash the immigration gate he will be welcomed here to stay.

The Base Ball Championship.

The contest for the 1929 world championship in base ball ended in a blaze of glory at Philadelphia, on Monday, in a victory for the Athletics. It was a great series and worthily won, for both teams gave their best in the struggle. It attracted nation-wide public interest and for the first time enticed the President of the United States from his pressing duties in Washington to witness the spectacle. We most cordially congratulate Connie Mack on the success achieved. He spent years of time and thought in selecting and training the players whose prowess, skill and valor brought him honor and glory and victory.

The World Series is no longer an event. It has become an institution, and that one which has just ended revealed incidents which were both surprising and dramatic. The opening games at Chicago were comparatively tame and easily won, though without default on the part of the vanquished. The "breaks" were on one side and gave victory not without merit on one side or because of faults on the other. For this reason, though popular interest was not intense it was present and sustained. But the games in Philadelphia were thrillers. Those on Saturday and Monday were extraordinarily alike in process and results.

That base ball continues to grip the American heart, notwithstanding a few minor set-backs in recent years, is proved by the wide-spread interest in the contest just closed. There was danger in the trend to degrade it from a sport to a commercial enterprise but let us hope that danger is past. Some years ago Connie Mack won a series of victories which he converted into coin by selling the players who had brought him honor and fame. To put Fox, Haas, Simmons and Miller on the auction block after their achievements this year would be a sad spectacle.

It's a sacrifice of the flexible provision or defeat of the tariff bill in the Senate. The administration can take its choice.

The General Motors corporation is going into the radio field and musing up of the static may be expected soon.

Party Machines Against Voting Machines.

The amendment to the constitution of Pennsylvania giving the voters of several political units an option to adopt the voting machine was carried by a very large majority. But it is not certain that it will result in the installation of the machines where they are really needed. A couple of weeks ago we noted that important State officials were secretly circulating propaganda against the adoption of that safe system of voting. Since that we have noticed an apparently concerted purpose of the Republican newspapers of the State to alarm the public on the ground that voting machines will greatly increase the cost of elections and involve the communities which adopt them in debt.

There are a great many communities in Pennsylvania that have no need of voting machines, though they are diminishing in number. The voters in such districts express their political sentiments by their ballots and their votes are fairly counted and honestly returned. Such communities are entitled to the right of adopting the cheapest method of conducting their elections. But in all of the big cities and in some of the smaller municipalities the art of debauching the ballot has been so highly developed that elections are not only a farce but a fraud. In such places no expense can or ought to be great enough to deter voters from declaring in favor of the machines.

Previous to the Primary election the Vare machine promised to favor voting machines. But since the Primary the leaders of that sinister organization have been adopting expedients to scare the voters into opposition. In Pittsburgh the same methods are being employed with the same object in view. In Lackawanna, Luzerne, Schuylkill and other populous counties the Republican machines are becoming active in opposition and in Dauphin county the party managers are becoming aggressive in their fight against the voting machines. These are the communities in which voting machines are needed. If the vote in these places is adverse the value of the constitutional amendment is lost.

Judges as well as doctors disagree. A New York judge declares buying liquor is no crime while a Louisville judge declares it is. In the circumstances what is a layman to do?

Defensive Tactics of Fall's Lawyer.

The obvious purpose of those defending Albert B. Fall, in the Supreme court at Washington, D. C., is to appeal to the emotions of the jury rather than depend upon the evidence presented. Mr. Fall is a very sick man. During the first session of the court assembled to try him on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the government he collapsed and the hearing was halted. The judge directed an examination into his physical condition and four eminent physicians reported that the ordeal of a trial at this time might cause his death. Thereupon counsel for the government moved for a mistrial and the attorney for Mr. Fall objected and demanded that the trial proceed. It was a surprising action.

Albert B. Fall was Secretary of the Interior in the administration of President Harding. He had induced the too complaisant President to transfer control of the national oil reserves from the Navy Department to that of the Interior. Having accomplished this, according to evidence brought out in a civil action, he leased the reserves to E. L. Doheny and Harry Sinclair, after having received financial favors from both of them. Doheny gave him \$100,000 in cash and Sinclair an equally large sum in Liberty bonds. Doheny subsequently declared that the lease he acquired was worth \$100,000,000. The lease to Sinclair was quite as valuable and the difference between those figures and what they paid was stolen from the government. There is no escape from that fact.

When Fall was carried into court, "wrapped in heavy blankets," the other day, former Senator Pomarine was urging the postponement of the trial as a humanitarian measure. The situation was almost tragic and every person present was deeply touched with sympathy. And the attorney for the defendant promptly proceeded to capitalize the emotions. He felt that no jurymen would vote to convict a man of felony who was thus hovering over the grave and insisted that the trial proceed. It was the one hope of acquitting a man from blame in a transaction which the Supreme court had previously declared was saturated with fraud. It is a pity that the law affords such protection to criminals.

Subscribe for the Watchman.

Scandal Postponed or Averted.

A public scandal has been postponed, if not entirely averted, according to press dispatches from Harrisburg, by a promise of Governor Fisher, "to take the whole matter under consideration." The cause of complaint is that in the readjustment of salaries the executive board cut the compensation of the managers of certain State hospitals from ten to eight thousand dollars a year, plus maintenance. The victim of this purpose protested that while the salaries of judges and other State officials are being increased generously it is unfair to decrease their compensation for the important and exacting services they render to the wards of the State.

The protest was entered some months ago but received little if any attention in Harrisburg until recently when the complainants began circulating stories or indulging in gossip of mismanagement of some of the State institutions. It was whispered that liquor supplies had been taken from the hospitals and given to politicians and that in one instance "some of the hospital liquor went to Washington and was used at a dinner party." While it is always possible to be good it is wise for them to be careful and Governor Fisher called a meeting of all concerned in the controversy at his office in Harrisburg, "to consider the whole system of administering State-owned hospitals."

Speakers who attended the meeting in behalf of the hospital superintendents offered no objection to the increase of judicial salaries for the reason that "the average trend of salaries is upward." They contended, however, that the "public spirited professional men" whose salaries have been slashed "took their positions with the knowledge that \$10,000 was the maximum salary and a reduction is a violation of a contract." Possibly this statement of fact and law may have impressed the Governor and maybe uncertainty as to the accuracy of the rumors influenced him to promise another conference on the subject. In any event the victims of the cut are hopeful.

Dr. William S. Taylor, dean of education at the University of Kentucky and one of the able instructors at teachers' institute this week, made an assertion on Wednesday, that the children of today can "write better, spell better and are better in arithmetic than they were forty years ago." Without seeking to enter into any discussion of the matter our observation and experience of more than forty years in newspaper work lead us to believe that the children of today are not as thoroughly grounded in the above branches as they were forty years ago.

Hallow-ween is only two weeks away and so far there is no indication of a public demonstration of any kind. It is a fact much to be regretted that the Elks abandoned the big parade they held for a number of years. That was always an event that was looked forward to with considerable anticipation by both old and young. But the interest in it had begun to flag and that was the principal reason for its discontinuance.

Philip H. Johnston would make a splendid District Attorney. He is a most exemplary young man with a fine education and legal ability to fill the office with great credit to himself and the satisfaction of the county. There would be no pussy-footing if Mr. Johnston were the prosecuting officer of the county. He would be fearless, but fair.

What the Republican Senators need is better "team work." The chairman of the Finance committee and the floor leader have made conflicting reports to the President.

The American Legion will oppose any parity plan that involves an abandonment of the naval building programme adopted by the last Congress.

Men may work and women may weep but the State job-holders must pay campaign assessments or give up their meal tickets.

Miss MacDonald urges American women to work in peace. That's a good suggestion, especially if it begins in the kitchen.

If the tariff bill fails, as now seems likely, there will be few complaints outside of the perennial tariff mongers.

Now that the World Series is finished there is grave danger that Shearer will get back to the front page.

Friends of Freedom—and Sugar.

From the Philadelphia Record. Two United States Senators, simulating a lofty passion for human rights, started a six-hour debate, over Philippine independence the other day, and their absurd proposal to grant it forthwith was defeated only by the close vote of 45 to 36.

An unedifying exhibition of insincere trifling with a serious question. The motive was not idealistic, but selfishly commercial. The professed champions of Philippine liberation were Senators King, of Utah, and Broussard, of Louisiana. But the cause would have been more accurately represented by a bag of beet sugar and a bag of cane sugar, commodities for which their States are noted.

Domestic producers are not satisfied with the protection they enjoy in a stiff duty on Cuban sugar, which constitutes 80 per cent. of the country's supply. They make piteous outcry because the relatively small imports from Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines—all American territories—are admitted free.

They tried to have Philippine shipments limited to 200,000 tons a year, but this proposal was beaten upon Governor Stimson's showing that it would be disastrous to the island's chief industry.

They have fought persistently for a tax on imports from the archipelago. But of course, the United States cannot in justice or common decency collect duty on products from its own territories.

So the sugar men resorted to the transparent device of advocating cutting the islands adrift and got the support of some Western agricultural interests which compete with other Philippine products. The United States is pledged to grant independence to the islanders when they are economically and politically fitted to exercise freedom and maintain in safety its responsibilities.

But even the most ambitious of the native leaders admit that the change must be long deferred, and some of them see greater economic benefit in remaining under the American flag.

Petition Rule.

From The Paris Mo., Appeal. We are now able to account for the fact that 19 out of every 20 husbands are so woefully henpecked. It is because the boyhood days of the present adult generation were spent in grade schools which had none but women teachers. The habit of obedience—sometimes inspired by puppy love for dear teacher and other times by fear of the rod she wielded—persisted into manhood and made easy marks for wives who otherwise might never have thought of wearing the pants. There never was a time in the world's history when husbands occupied a lower place in the scheme of things. What depths the next generation will reach can hardly be conceived, unless the present crops of dubs muster up courage to legislate a two-room schoolhouse for every district with a roughneck man as principal and special courses in caveman tactics for all the boys. Elimination of masculine teachers from our public schools was a direct step to petticoat rule and furnishes a satisfactory answer to the universal question, "Why are men afraid of their wives?" Something ought to be done about this.

Optimistic at 86.

From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. In these days, when so many people believe that the world is going to the dogs, it is refreshing to hear an opinion to the contrary, especially when it comes from an earlier generation. Most of the oldsters sigh over the glories of a departed age when things and people were so much better, according to their notions, than they are today. Now along comes Dr. George Alexander, a New York pastor, who came into this troublesome world eighty-six years ago. And he's a busy man despite his years. Perhaps that is one reason why he can retain his optimism and his benevolent outlook on life.

The venerable preacher when interviewed on his birthday anniversary, declared that "on the whole the world is getting better, but with some serious lapses. I feel that it is a pretty good time to live just now. The world is moving much faster than when I was young, and the city in some respects is decidedly better."

Aviation Mortality.

From the Wall Street News. The chance of death in an airplane trip operated by licensed pilots over scheduled passenger routes is about one in 400, it was disclosed in a report of the committee on aviation statistics of the Actuarial Society of America. The investigation was based on the hazard during 1928, when thirteen passengers were killed out of about 50,000 who were carried in scheduled flights. Inasmuch as figures were not available on the number of passengers accommodated in other than scheduled trips, the committee was unable to compute the death rate for this class.

SPAWNS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—Action on protests against the erection of the Columbus memorial on the grounds of the senior high school, at Easton, will be taken at a special meeting of the school board Monday.

—Negotiations are under way for the sale of the Johnstown Telephone company, representing an investment of nearly \$3,000,000, to the Independent Telephone company, operating on the Pacific coast and in Pennsylvania and New York.

—Traveling bags of an orchestra leader, left on top of a bus parked all night on the street in Berwick, were stolen, and Fess Williams, the leader, is out \$600. A gold saxophone, clarinet, diamond ring, uniform and other clothing were taken.

—Charging that both her legs were frozen when ejected from her home into the snow, on a cold day last winter, Mrs. Esther Ely, of Reading, has brought suit for \$572 damages against her landlord, George A. Heckman. She claims she was permanently injured.

—Greene county in 1928 was purely a man's county in industry so far as wage earners were concerned, according to records filed with the Bureau of Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs. Reports for the year show that no women were employed in industry as wage earners during that period.

—A jury in Northumberland county court awarded Howard R. Zimmerman, 23 of Shamokin, \$18,500 damages against the Pennsylvania railroad for injuries he suffered in a grade crossing accident near Locust Gap, May 8, 1928. Both legs were broken, and he was otherwise hurt, the testimony showed. Surgeons said the injury is permanent.

—A \$10,000 home is the wedding gift her dead father will give Miss Elizabeth Blish, of Lansdowne, the day she marries. This was revealed, on Tuesday, when the will of Samuel A. Blish, late Philadelphia, manager of the brokerage and investment firm of Henry L. Dougherty Company, was filed for probate with the Register of Wills of Delaware county.

—A week-end search in which hundreds of residents of Schuylkill county participated has revealed no clew to the fate of three-year-old Allen Geiger, Palo Alto boy, missing from his home since last Tuesday morning. That the boy was either kidnapped or the victim of a hit and run driver who later disposed of the body to conceal the accident are theories held by State police and private investigators.

—Patrolman Thomas Knowles, of the William Penn Motor Club, Pottsville, was robbed of \$50 and his automobile by three bandits near the Ringtown hotel on Tuesday. He was forced to halt when one of the men apparently was thrown on the road directly in the path of his car. The bandit who "faked" the fall aided in the holdup, taking Knowles' money and throwing the empty wallet in his face.

—Edward R. White, of Williamsport, has a collection of more than 100 canes, ordinary walking sticks cut from the woods. Many kinds of wood are included, and they include straight ones as well as sticks with unusual curves. He has obtained them in his walks in the woods about Pennsylvania. He has given scores to friends, and declares he would not part with his collection for any amount of money.

—Chester A. Lyon, farmer, of Franklin county, has a Guernsey cow which is considered a class leader and a record cow. During a ten-month period, milking twice daily, the cow produced 9688 pounds of milk and 520.8 pounds of butter fat. Only five Guernseys in the history of the breed have beaten this record. Mr. Lyon purchased the cow two years ago, it having been shipped direct to him from the Isle of Guernsey, off the coast of France.

—The residence of District Attorney Leo H. McKay, of Sharon, was dynamited early on Saturday. The front porch was demolished and the front of the house damaged. McKay, his wife, and their baby were thrown from their beds but were not hurt. The Mercer county prosecutor was active recently in liquor law prosecutions and in a number of extensive raids, including a fashionable party which more than a score of arrests were made. Ten sticks of dynamite were used in the attack, police said.

—Louis Muff, aided by the police to be the ring leader of the underworld in Schuylkill, Northumberland and Columbia counties, was arrested, on Tuesday, at his home, in Exchange, taken to Lewisburg, where after a hearing he was held in \$3,000 bail to prove he does not own and operate a still in Mowry, west of Ashland. A large still valued by prohibition agents at \$25,000, was seized. A coat as well as Muff's and containing papers bearing his signature was found in the building. This evidence caused State trooper Robinson and constable Fox to arrest Muff.

—Three men were killed and eight others burned, one seriously, on Monday, in an explosion of hot metal at the plant of the National Tube company, McKeesport. The blast occurred when molten metal overflowed from a ladle into water at the bottom of a pit under the receptacle. Julius Burtasky, 45, McKeesport, was almost instantly killed and Carl Hoffmann, 30, and Philip Sandmeyer, 49, both of Greenock, died later at a hospital from burns. John Hando, 19, was reported in a critical condition. The plant was not damaged to any great extent by the explosion.

—Three Clearfield county peace officers were under arrest on charges of conspiracy and attempted extortion. They are L. L. Lewis, Justice of the peace of Helvetia; Bruno Vilkanofsky, constable, Brady township, and James Fitzpatrick, constable of the Third ward of DuBois. The arrests were made by State policemen. They are charged with an attempt to quash a case against Alex Phillip, of Sandy township, charged with violation of the prohibition law. Vilkanofsky is said to have been caught accepting \$100 from Phillip, and is alleged to have confessed implicating the other two officials.

—With game, especially bear, rabbits, squirrel and turkey, more plentiful in the hunting grounds of Mifflin county than for a number of years, the temptation to do a little "early" hunting is too much for some men to resist, according to Jesse Hassinger, State game trapper, who arrested two Readyville men, John Specht and Nelson Griffey, one with a rabbit and the other with a squirrel, which they confessed shooting out of season without even a hunting license. They were each fined \$10. Trapper Hassinger also arrested Ralph D. Mertz, of Centre Hall, and he was fined \$10 for killing a raccoon.