

Premier Tardieu of France seems inclined to fling a monkey wrench into the machinery of the naval parity conference.

We see little hope of value from a referendum on prohibition. As long as men vote dry and act wet a referendum will be futile.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars are asking Congress to make the Star Spangled Banner an "official anthem," by legislation. That would be like gliding pure gold.

Garet Garrett, financial and political writer, is in a serious condition in a New York hospital as the result of having been shot in that city Saturday night. If the motive hadn't been so palpably one of robbery we would suggest that his assailant might have been one who resented his statement that any up and doing local merchant can buck any chain store that comes into competition with him.

In Springfield, Ill. last Friday, Federal Judge Fitzhugh ruled that mere possession of intoxicating liquor does not constitute a violation of the national prohibition law. He said the liquor must be possessed for some particular purpose in violation of the amendment before it can be regarded as violation of the amendment.

The possibility that Democratic National committee man Sedgwick Kistler, of Lock Haven, will announce that he will seek the nomination for Governor on our ticket at the May primary leaves us in wonderment. Wonderment not as to Mr. Kistler's fitness, but as to who would be his running mates were he to succeed in winning the nomination, for much would depend on their ability to rally votes.

Who licked the first stamp in the new post-office? Whoever performed that feat had better let us know for while fame's spot-light might never be focused on them it is reasonably certain that whoever is compiling the Watchman's "Fifty Years Ago" in 1980 will blunder onto the gentleman or lady's name and it will be mentioned among the notable happenings in Centre county fifty years ago.

An Obligation on Democrats. Chairman Collins, of the Democratic State committee, has been doing some efficient work in the service of the party since the election last fall. Almost "since time out of mind" it has been the custom of the Democratic organization in this State to cease all activities with the close of the polls on election day.

Strange, what memory is. Just now when we're trying to concentrate and consolidate a good paragraph out of some vagrant something that have been flitting in and about the cells, that lie just below the skating rink we maintain for files in August, they open up and pour down on us a flood of condemnation. Condemnation for countless letters lying on our desk unanswered. God forgive us for not having answered such letters as we have received from dear old Mrs. Hannah Osman, of State College.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION

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The State Farm Products Show

Fourteen years ago a modest exhibition of farm products was given at Harrisburg under the name of the Pennsylvania Corn Show. Last evening the successor of this unpretentious enterprise closed the fourteenth annual session with an exhibition of farm products that covered a floor space of 114,000 feet in four buildings and was visited by considerably above 100,000 interested participants and spectators.

There could hardly be imagined a more accurate measurement of the increasing interest and rapid development of the agricultural industry in Pennsylvania. While not classed as an agricultural State this manifestation of deep interest in farm products proves conclusively not only the fertility of the soil but the adaptability of the people to the cultivation and development of the products of the soil.

As a feature of the show meetings were held each evening at which capable speakers discussed the subjects in which the audiences were interested. Congressman J. C. Ketchum, of Michigan, member of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, Washington, was the principal speaker. But it is not invidious to say that some of the speeches of the Pennsylvania farmers in attendance were quite as interesting as his very eloquent address.

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Chairman Collins, of the Democratic State committee, has been doing some efficient work in the service of the party since the election last fall. Almost "since time out of mind" it has been the custom of the Democratic organization in this State to cease all activities with the close of the polls on election day.

The approaching campaign is one of great importance to the people of Pennsylvania. The Republican party, under the leadership of Mr. Grundy, stands committed to the interests of Big Business and the creation of monopolies. The welfare of wage earners is of no concern to those who shape the policies of the Republican party.

Chairman Collins has been discharging his duty fully and well but he can't accomplish much without the co-operation of the members of his party in all parts of the State. Every Democratic citizen in the Commonwealth is as much concerned in the purpose as he. In this county, for example, there is a fine field for energetic and intelligent effort.

Perplexed Bosses and Servile Followers

A writer in the Pittsburgh Press, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, says: "There are something like ten million people in Pennsylvania but their voices are not as potent in the creation of a Governor as those of the Pittsburgher and his associate from Bristol." His reference is to W. L. Mellon and Joseph R. Grundy and the thought expressed was inspired by the recent return of Mr. Mellon from his usual mid-winter sojourn in the South.

The Pittsburgh writer made one exception to this general rule of subservency. "Off-hand" he writes, "but one man stands out as determined to reach a decision within his own mind, unaffected by what the political chiefs may say about him. He is Gifford Pinchot who knows before hand that he has nothing to gain from either Mellon or Grundy."

Neither Mellon nor Grundy is sure of himself in the impending dilemma. Mellon would like to place General Martin in the executive office at Harrisburg and Grundy has a strong preference for Sam Lewis. But each is afraid to force the issue upon the other. Governor Fisher has a prime favorite in the person of Ben Taylor, who is at present Secretary of Property in his cabinet.

Senator Watson, of Indiana, Republican floor leader, favors a nation-wide referendum on prohibition enforcement. But most people suspect that it is a new form of passing the buck.

President Hoover Exculpated

Properly disciplined public opinion will, with practical unanimity, approve that feature of the Senate Lobby committee's report which exculpates President Hoover from blame in connection with the sugar tax. There will be persons here unfamiliar with the details of public life who will continue to cherish suspicions. The old adage "where there is much smoke there must be some fire," holds tight grip on the minds of many and the lobbyists certainly did "bandy the name of the President" in connection with their activities with surprising frequency and unblushing effrontery.

The lobby investigation has been an expensive enterprise but it was worth all its cost. It has probably put an end to all professional lobbying in Washington. "I hope," said Senator Caraway in presenting the report, "that responsible business men will cease paying tribute to these lobbyists, these grafters who have nothing to sell. The whole scheme is nothing but simple graft. It's worse than that, because it plays upon the public and undermines the confidence of the American people in the integrity of their government."

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A faint whisper from "Uncle Andy" Mellon would sound like a loud call to Secretary of Labor Dav-

Bezdek to Concentrate on His Real Work

We note with great satisfaction the action of the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania State College in finally having added a school of education in athletics to the six other schools of that great institution. It consummates a tentative agreement between the late Edwin Earl Sparks, then president of the College, and the graduate advisory committee on athletics, made in 1919, before Hugo M. Bezdek was persuaded to resign his position as manager of the Pittsburgh National League base ball team to take charge of physical education at the College.

At that time Mr. Bezdek made it very clear that the proposal only appealed to him because of his desire to be of service to young manhood. And the opportunity presented seemed to open a field of great range to him. We are convinced that he would never have come to the Pennsylvania State College had the prospect in 1919 narrowed itself to nothing more than coaching football and base ball teams.

Just why the change was not made years ago we are unable to say. But now that it has been made we expect great things from the head of the new school of physical education, because we have always had confidence in Mr. Bezdek's ability and genuine regret that circumstances which we could never understand deterred him from concentration on the real development of what we knew to be his life's work.

So far as the Republicans of this congressional district are concerned, especially since only two candidates have thus far entered the field, it looks as though it might be a Long Chase.

Republican Machine Shattered.

The adoption, by the Senate, by the decisive vote of 48 to 38, of Senator Harrison's amendment that the tariff tax rate on sugar fixed in the present law be continued in the new measure is significant in that it indicates the administrator machine has been literally "shot to pieces" and that the tariff is no longer other than a local issue, even in New England. The bill passed in the House of Representatives provided for a rate 2.40 for Cuban sugar and 3 on imports from other countries. The Finance committee of the Senate cut the rate to 2.20 on the Cuban product and 2.75 on that of other nations. The existing rate is 1.76 on Cuban sugar and 2.20 on that of other countries.

In the vote on the Harrison amendment 18 Republicans, nine of whom are classed as "regulars," voted with 29 Democrats and the Farm-Labor Senator from Minnesota in favor of the lower rate. Four Democrats, Broussard and Ramsdell of Louisiana; Kendrick, of Wyoming, and King, of Utah, voted with 34 Republicans against the amendment. The Louisiana Senators represent cane sugar constituencies and the others beet sugar producers and they voted to rob probably 110,000,000 consumers of \$100,000,000 a year for a trifling advantage in the higher rate to maybe 10,000,000 sugar growers in the country. They may be able to justify this perversion of power to their own consciences but it is an act of selfishness.

The Republicans who voted for the higher rate of tax on sugar, among them Mr. Grundy, were simply approving the old-time policy of the party to provide means by legislation to reimburse the liberal contributors to the campaign fund. They are not deceived by the false pretense of benefiting labor. It was shown that labor in the sugar industry, whether in Louisiana or Utah, is the poorest paid of any in the country and that their work is under the worst conditions. But they know that the party is kept in power by slush funds contributed by beneficiaries of tariff legislation, and as Mr. Grundy frankly admitted, with the understanding that they would be reimbursed.

Losses through bankruptcy proceedings in 1929 amounted to 610 million dollars which is a considerable sum for an exceptionally prosperous year.

HOW THREE WERE MADE ONE

Authorship Unknown. A Cannibal maid and her Hottentot bride They met in a rocky defile, A fey eagle plume was his only costume While the lady wore naught but a smile.

And slowly they strolled, while his passion he told, In pleading and tremulous tone, While softly they trod on the blossom strewn sod And spooned, in the twilight, alone. Then softly she sighed as she shyly replied, With tender and fairy like mien, She murmured the word, when a war whoop was heard And another had burst on the scene.

A heathen Zulu to the trying place drew Demanding his Cannibal bride, But the Hottentot said, with a toss of his head, I'll have your degenerate hide. The Hottentot flew at the heathen Zulu The Zulu—he went for the blade And fiercely they vied, in the strength of their pride, And fought for the cannibal maid.

She perched on a stone with her shapely and clasped tight in her tapering arms, And watched the blood fly with a love laden eye While the warriors fought for her charms.

While fiercely they fought and the ringing blows caught, She thrust and with parry and punch She said, with a smile, in a very short while I'll have those two fellows for lunch.

The Hottentot, hit by the heathen Zulu, The Zulu was struck by the blade And each of them sighed, as gasping he died, And gazed at the Cannibal maid.

She made a nice stew of the heathen Zulu And scrambled the Hottentot's brains 'Twas a dainty menu, when the cooking was through, And she dined on her lover's remains. Now the heathen Zulu and the Hottentot, Both deep in a Hottentot tomb, The three were made one—the story is one— And a maiden strolled off in the gloom.

Grain, Cotton and Banquo's Ghost.

From the Philadelphia Record. Is the farm relief question "settled?"

The Federal Farm Board has been active. It has done well—so far as it has had opportunity.

Encouraging co-operation among the producers of foodstuffs and staple crops, the severest opposition it has yet met, or could have met, is that which comes from middle men fearing they will be squeezed out.

The Farm Board has not met the test of a bad crop year. It has had a battle with the commission men in the grain marketing business. It has warned the cotton growers that they must restrict acreage if they want the support of Government loans on the 1930 crop.

The fight with the commission men is a clash between two economic theories; one that movement of crops direct from grower to consumer can be managed co-operatively under Farm Board direction and with the help of crop movement, with regard to domestic and world markets, justifies the existence and requires the services of the middle man.

In one view, these middlemen are parasites, feeding upon society, grower and consumer alike; making no creative contribution. In the other view, the recognized evils of speculation in grain and cotton are far outweighed by the provision of financial support for the marketing process.

These are matters enclosed within the circumference of the tremendous problem of how to bring grower and consumer together most cheaply and profitably to both, with out waste.

The task of lifting agriculture to a level with industry is a problem far too big to be solved merely by legislative action regulating the procedure of farm co-operative, elevator owner and market manipulator. It is a task in which one feature is in present danger of being wholly overlooked; has been overlooked in the Farm Relief Act.

Suppose the middleman to have been eliminated, and his place taken by the Farm Board, as supervisor of all marketing processes. Suppose the farmers, scattered, individual enterprises, to have become completely imbued with the spirit of co-operation.

No equalization fee. No export debenture. No farm subsidies of any kind—even though Alexander Hamilton did shrewdly note that the industrial tariff itself is a subsidy. And then suppose there comes a bad year. A year of drought, fields burning under ceaseless suns, with no rain to soak the roots of the growing plants. Or perhaps a year of phenomenal precipitation of excess rains, when crops mould and rot in the ground.

Then what can the Farm Board do? Will the weather co-operate? Can Congress control the weather? Regulate the sunshine, turn the wind and the rain on or off at will. The equalization fee and the export debenture plans, killed by the Republicans, would have provided assistance from the Government in all hazards, natural as well as human. The Farm Board provides mechanism for the handling of good crops. What will it do in a bad crop year?

SPAWNS FROM THE KEYSTONE

The Baldwin Locomotive works, of Philadelphia, has received an order for ten large locomotives from the St. Louis-Southwestern Railway. The order is valued at about \$1,200,000.

The homes of seven rich residents, within one to three blocks from police headquarters, in Lock Haven, were burglarized early on Monday. Cash reaching \$107 was obtained. Chief of police Earl Harvey is working on a clue.

Because of sub-normal business conditions, the Mt. Carmel News, published for the past two decades as a daily, has retired from the daily field. Beginning January 31, the News will be published as a weekly tabloid. The paper was established in 1877.

Three hundred and ninety young people will receive normal school certificates and fifty-one will be granted baccalaureate degrees at the mid-year commencement which will be held at the different State Teachers' Colleges and Normal Schools on January 24 and 25.

When justice of the peace L. R. Mitchell, of Shickshinny, suffered a broken leg last Friday, for the second time in recent months, he did not bother to call a doctor, setting the broken bone himself. The reason was that the leg is crippled and whether the bone mends rightly makes no difference.

Pittsburgh will soon have an ordinance against "jay-walking"—if the council passes the measure. Safety Director Clark is preparing to present next Monday. The law provides \$1 fine or five days in jail for the first offense, and fines of \$2 and \$3 for the second and third violations.

Compensation payments to Mrs. Audrey Runner, of Juniata, were terminated under a decision handed down, last Thursday, by Commissioner Joseph E. Fleitz, who ruled the woman had been illegally married to Clifford Riley Runner, for whose death two wives had been collecting compensation.

Dr. C. P. Bishop, of Sunbury, has been appointed head of the tuberculosis division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, it was announced last week by the State Department of Agriculture. He succeeds Dr. S. E. Brune of Camp Hill, whom Governor Fisher discharged as the result of the recent \$129,000 cattle fraud.

Thanks to increased efforts of the State and local health bureaus; increased public interest in quarantine measures; and a fuller appreciation of the value of antitoxin has resulted in a study reduction of the death and sickness rates in diphtheria," according to Dr. J. Bruce McCreary, deputy secretary of health.

Formulating plans for a campaign next September to raise a minimum of \$650,000 for Susquehanna University, constituted the chief business of the recent meeting of the board of directors of the University. Of this sum, \$150,000 will be devoted to improvement of buildings and the campus. The remaining \$500,000 will be placed in the endowment fund.

Wilfred Jones, a lawyer and former solicitor of Luzerne county, sentenced in Wayne county court to serve six years in the eastern penitentiary and fined \$1500 on an arson charge, has surrendered to Sheriff Forest Taylor, at Honesdale, after a futile legal fight to escape prison. He will be removed to the penitentiary within two weeks. Destruction of a factory at Prompton in 1915 led to Jones' conviction.

Mike Rose, of Yeagertown, was testifying in Mifflin county court last week in an assault and battery case in which a neighbor was alleged to have struck Mrs. Rose with a club. The attorney asked him if it was dark when the attack took place, and he said that it was daylight. He was reminded by the attorney that his wife had testified that it was dark at the time. "Well," he said, "she had been hit over the head, she was color blind."

Accosted by two bandits on a lonely mountain road north of Green Ridge, George Jeffries, of Mt. Carmel, a miner, was severely lectured because he had no money on his person. Jeffries had previously sent his week's wages home by another person and had nothing of value at the time of the holdup. The spot where Jeffries was held up, has been the scene of many holdups in the past. Efforts are being made to round up the bandits.

Catherine Murphy, aged 10, of Port Royal, Pa., and Robert Wilson, aged 12, of Madsdensville, while skating on Augwick Creek, near Madsdensville, broke through the ice and were drowned on Monday. The bodies were recovered in a short time by neighbors, who tried vainly to revive the boy and girl. The girl was visiting her grandparents, Robert Ramsey, and the boy resided with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Lockwell, of Springdale township.

Motorists along the Susquehanna Trail near Sunbury, rubbed their eyes and took a second look when they saw a fine specimen of deer floating down the Susquehanna river on a large cake of ice. The animal stood motionless, with head high in the air. It was but a few rods from shore and small boys pelted it with snowballs as it passed under a bridge. The deer jumped to another block which broke under his weight, then swam to the opposite bank, and disappeared in the timber.

A. L. Moyer, 28, of Yeagertown, was burned to death and four other men were injured, last Thursday, when a cable carrying a five-ton ladle of molten steel broke at the No. 1 open hearth of the Standard Steel Works company, at Lewisstown. Moyer, who was married, was burned to a crisp beneath the molten flood. The injured, all expected to recover are: Grant Davidson, 21, of Milroy; George Nearhoff, 51, of Burnham; E. T. Mitchell, 29, of Milroy, and John L. Harbst, 26, of Lewisstown. Officials of the company expressed belief that a faulty cable caused the accident.

An appeal for immediate co-operation by sportsmen, school children and others to prevent starvation of game in the woods, a situation caused by the heavy snowfall over the week-end, was issued today by the Game Commission. The Commission said its entire field force has started placing food in the woodlands. "But they cannot cope with the situation without the help of many others," the commission stated. Game protectors have been stocked with food supplies which can be obtained by volunteers for placing. Corn on the cob, stuck on sharp twigs at points known to be frequented by game, was recommended as the best food. Loose grain and nuts placed in cleared portions about the foot of trees or clumps of underbrush also are suggested.