

Next Tuesday will be groundhog day, but every day is some road hog's day and they don't all drive a bus or a freight truck, either.

Mr. Grundy's coming out party in Philadelphia, Saturday night, was a grand affair, but lots of promising debutants became complete "wash-outs."

Princes and paupers shared the loot in Scranton slot-machine racket. The then mayor and the dive-keepers were equal in the division, so the news stories insinuate.

All the news from the London naval disarmament parley indicates that even if they don't intend to scrap a lot of war vessels the delegates are determined not to start a scrap among themselves.

The uptown folks who are so inconvenienced because the post-office has been moved ought to be reconciled to the change if for no other reason than that they are meeting their downtown neighbors half way.

Spring is just around the corner. While we are likely to encounter some pretty rough going over the seven weeks that intervene news from the ball training camps in the south will keep our minds from concentrating too hard on it.

Soviet Russia has stricken Sunday off its calendar. That sounds like Soviet Russia, but the acquiescence of a Boston Methodist preacher in a proposal by the clergy of that city to have the law against blasphemy stricken from the statutes of the Bay State doesn't sound like the Methodist church.

This Mr. Primo Carnera, who has just arrived from Italy to fatten his bank account at the expense of American fight fans, is somewhat of a mountain of flesh, "Big Boy" Peterson tried to climb it last Friday night and fell unconscious after sinking only two hooks into the mountain.

If Governor Fisher could have persuaded Senator Grundy to accept Taylor or if Senator Grundy could have persuaded Governor Fisher to accept Samuel Lewis when they met in Philadelphia, last Saturday night, the millions of Republican voters would have had no more say as to who their nominee for Governor will be than the Watchman will have. Why waste money on a primary?

In another column of this issue we publish a lengthy communication bearing on the proposed closing of a portion of Lamb street in order to provide more playground for the school children. We hope that all of our Bellefonte subscribers will read it carefully, for it concerns a matter that is much in controversy and should be settled one way or the other, soon. It is a public question. One that should be considered wholly impersonally. It is the duty of every citizen to approach the solution of such problems guided only by the fundamental principle that good government is the greatest good to the greatest number.

In 1929 it cost New York State \$876,537.00 to keep 25,028 miles of roads clean of snow. During the same period it cost Pennsylvania \$914,809.00 to keep only 7967 miles of roads passable. Out in Ohio they swept 6,138 miles clear for \$93,802. If a heckler should ask any of the Republican spell-binders, who will be on the stump next fall blatherin' about the beneficence and economy of his party's government, just why such an amazing disparity in cost should be, he will probably reply: Hell, don't you know that they didn't have as much snow up in New York, or out in Ohio, as we had here in Pennsylvania. And the crowd will believe it. We just can't understand Pennsylvania's abject submission to political bossism, unless its electorate is properly described by the little boy who declined the verb "dim" as "dim, dam, dum."

Candidly we think Congress is wasting entirely too much time wading words about prohibition. It's the law of the land and every body who has the urge and isn't afraid of being caught violating it does violate it. In fact the reaction of human nature to all laws is exactly the same. There are mighty few people on the face of the globe who, when the law crimps them a bit, wouldn't take a chance were it not for the consequences. The agricultural regions of the country can always be depended on to vote for any hypocrite who bears a dry label yet it their farm products show in Harrisburg last week there was more liquor in evidence and the evidence of more liquor about a certain hotel where the big guns of the show congregated than there was there during the inaugural ceremonies of Governor Fisher, three years ago. Our idea of the prohibition question is that it is really one of temperance and not of law. And so far as personal experience is concerned we believe that Francis Murphy, Fred Cota, who was once secretary of the local Y. M. C. A., and several other people we might mention converted more people from the wet to the dry than of living than the Volstead or any other law could or will do in this community. Please don't misunderstand us. We're not against the Volstead law. We are only expressing a deep conviction that law can't change human nature. It might retrain certain of its impulses.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION

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False Pretense Exposed.

The fact that an alliance existed between the American Tariff League and the Republican National committee during the Hoover campaign has been proved again by evidence brought out by the Senate Lobby committee the other day. The American Tariff League, of which Senator Grundy was vice-president until his recent appointment professes to be a non-partisan and non-political organization and by that false pretense has enticed some Democrats to its membership. W. W. Barbour, formerly president and now treasurer of the League, testified that during the 1928 campaign it arranged to hook-up with the Republican National committee through its chairman, Hubert Work. Later the partnership was dissolved for the reason that it was in violation of law.

But notwithstanding the dissolution the "hook-up" continued to function. The League agreed to "do the tariff research and educational publicity work" for the campaign committee and continued to do so clandestinely after the dissolution. In pursuance of this undertaking the League collected and disbursed a fund variously estimated at from \$30,000 to \$50,000. No report was made of these collections and disbursements to the Congressional committee or anybody else, as required by the Corrupt Practices law. Two employees of the government, Clayton F. Moore, clerk of the House Ways and Means committee, and Edward N. Dingley, tariff expert of the Senate Finance committee, were employed in the work, which was a direct violation of another act of Congress.

Mr. Barbour undertook to treat the question put to him facetiously but didn't succeed as well as some of his predecessors in the witness chair. When a member of the committee characterized the tariff League as a lobbying organization he asked "just what is a lobbyist?" Senator Caraway replied, "just look at your own organization. You've got as fine a lobby as any I know," and Caraway has learned a lot along that line since the investigation began. The significance in this instance, however, lies in the fact that it shows every feature of the Hoover campaign was saturated with fraud and false pretense. Whether the candidate approved the devious methods is a matter of conjecture but he seems to fully enjoy the results accomplished.

Grundy and Hoover are not in agreement as to the date of the beginning of prosperity in this country. Grundy fixes it at the time high protective tariff set in and Hoover at the time he entered the public service.

Mr. Grundy's Platform.

Senator Grundy's speech, delivered at the Manufacturers' Club in Philadelphia, on Saturday evening, may be construed as a public proclamation that Big Business is in the saddle and intends to shape the destinies of the country in its own selfish way. He attributes all the prosperity of the past to tariff taxation and measures the progress of development of the country in wealth, culture and population by the rate of the tax levy on imports. He is especially enthusiastic in praise of that phase of the policy which has eliminated small enterprises and massed operation in mergers, combinations and monopolies of colossal proportions.

Mr. Grundy divides the progress of the country into three periods, and very properly describes the third or present period as revolutionary. "It was approximately with the enactment of the Dingley tariff of 1897," he states, "that we came into what I would describe as the second period of this internal economic life—the period of the passing of many of the small and individual industrial units, with their intimate contacts between the owner and his employees; the period of larger enterprise in corporate form and consolidations of many enterprises of like character into single big businesses." This is the policy which Grundy worships and which tariff taxation fosters.

But by what process of reasoning does Mr. Grundy persuade himself that the vast increase of wealth of the country since the transition of which he speaks may be attributed to tariff taxation? Did tariff taxation produce electricity, the telephone, the automobile, the radio? Each of these elements, in the recent life of the country, has added hundreds of millions and jointly have produced billions, without any help from tariff legislation. And upon what feature of his activities does he base a claim upon the friendship of labor? All his life he has fought the interests of wage-earners, as those who have endeavored to help-ful legislation know.

Good Service of Dubious Origin

By voting to continue hides, leathers and boots and shoes on the free list the coalition of Democrats and insurgent Republicans in the Senate performed a valuable public service to the people of the United States. The bill, as reported by the Senate Finance committee, provided for a tax of ten per cent ad valorem on hides, fifteen per cent on leather and twenty per cent on boots and shoes. The insurgent Republicans protested that "the rate on hides was not comparable to the duty allowed on leather and boots and shoes" and asked for a specific rate of five cents a pound on raw and ten cents a pound on cured hides. This demand having been refused Senator Borah proposed that the free list, which was adopted by a vote of 46 to 28.

While it is difficult to reconcile the reasons for Senator Borah's action with the requirements of an active conscience it is impolite to "look a gift horse in the mouth," and hardly worth while to venture an analysis. Mr. Borah seems to have been willing to go along with the proposition to burden the consumers to the extent of \$100,000,000 a year or more, with twenty per cent tariff tax on boots and shoes if an additional burden of several millions were placed by a higher tax on hides. In other words, he had no objection to the robbery if the loot were divided so as to give the West an equal share. But the allocation of the plunder was not to his liking and for that reason he determined to prevent the robbery. Some reformers are that way.

The pretense of the demand for a high tax on hides is that the farmers who breed cattle need protection. As a matter of fact the farmers who produce cattle would derive very little benefit from a tax on hides. They sell the cattle "on the hoof" and the proceeds of a tax on hides would go almost entirely to the packing house monopolies. But if a tax is levied on hides there is reason in the demand for compensatory tax on leather and boots and shoes even though it does place burdens on the consumers. Placing all of these items on the free list is, therefore, a happy solution of an ugly problem and it may be just as well to accept the favor without going into an analysis of the reasons which brought it about. The people get little enough anyway.

Old fashioned winters may be delightful for making conversation but they are not pleasant to live in.

Public Service Commission Denounced

The Pennsylvania Threshermen and Farmers' Protective association was addressed at a banquet in Harrisburg, last week, by the former Governor Pinchot who renewed his just and righteous war against the Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania. During the closing period of his administration as Governor Mr. Pinchot tried to correct the faults and improve the methods of the Commission and, as he told his audience in Harrisburg, it was the hardest fight he had made in the four years of his Governorship and resulted in the worst licking he ever got in his life. But he survived that defeat and is back on the firing line with a new supply of appropriate epithets and a strengthened purpose to win.

"I believe there is hardly a township, borough, town or city in this Commonwealth," Mr. Pinchot declared, "whose citizens have not been given a raw deal by the Public Service Commission. I believe there is no other body under the government of Pennsylvania that has been so completely, so continuously and so notoriously controlled by the corporations as the Public Service Commission." This is literally and shamefully true. The body has been perverted into a political machine which, like the tariff mongers in Congress, serves the purpose of collecting slush funds to control elections. Favors to corporate monopolies are exchanged for campaign contributions.

As a matter of fact the actions of the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission have been a scandal for years. Originally it was intended to be a non-partisan, or at least a bi-partisan body, but since the explanation of the term of the late John S. Rilling no Democrat has been appointed and it has become a bitter partisan organization maintained for the benefit of monopoly. Instead of protecting the interests of the public against the encroachments of corporate rapacity it has become the instrument through which corporate crimes are legalized. In exposing and denouncing the Public Service Commission Mr. Pinchot has performed a distinct public service and earned the thanks of the people.

The Five Power Naval Conference

The London naval conference opened auspiciously in the Gallery of the House of Lords, London, and is proceeding hopefully to the achievement of its mission. The King's speech, significant mainly as a symbol of the unity of purpose of the British people, was in the nature of a welcome to the members of the conference but without promise other than that of generous hospitality. The other speeches, including that of Secretary of State Stimson, consisted of expressions of appreciation of the King's courtesy and assurances of "distinguished consideration" of each toward all the others. These exchanges of compliments are agreeable and interesting but don't mean much.

The second session of the conference was less amicable but more practical. It was to give opportunity for each of the groups to state the needs or expectations of his government with respect to naval equipment. Mr. Stimson was the first speaker but he modestly declined to set up a standard other than complete parity with Great Britain. Decrease or increase of naval strength is a matter of indifference to America according to his representation. On the other hand France, Italy and Japan stated their desires clearly and with some emphasis and Japan made the only direct plea for decrease of present equipment. But the spirit of compromise and accommodation was expressed by all.

That the conference will come to an agreement is practically certain, but the value of the agreement is doubtful. Those who hope for a considerable cut in naval equipment are likely to be disappointed. That uncertain quantity, national security, and the suspicions which pervade the minds of politicians in and outside the conference, is the stumbling block. But these influences will not prevent a temporary or tentative pledge to cover a brief period of time and save the face of the enterprise. It may serve the additional purpose of justifying our refusal to enter the League of Nations that much longer, which may have been the principal reason for the conference.

Last fall John Tonner Harris, of Harrisburg, vice president and general manager of the Bell Telephone company of Pennsylvania, offered to give a dinner to all company employees who would secure ten new subscribers during the months of November and December. In Bellefonte seven employees secured ten or more new subscribers and one employee in State College. They are J. H. Caum, manager; Misses Sarah Love, Hilda Haupt, Catherine Clevenstine, Helen Cruse and Earl Miller and George Hoffmier, all of Bellefonte, and Harry Wagner, of State College. The dinner will be given in Altoona some night next week.

Bishop Cannon demands that the government supply more money and more men for the enforcement of the prohibition laws. While we don't believe more money and more men would noticeably improve the situation we would like to see the Bishop put in charge of the matter and given every cudgel the law can supply. We believe he would make a more monumental failure of enforcement than those whom he is inveighing against are doing.

Several weeks ago Judge M. Ward Fleming appointed Charles F. Cook an auditor to audit the accounts of the prothonotary, recorder and register so far as their accounts with the State are concerned, but on Saturday advice was received from the Auditor General that the audits will be made by men from the department in Harrisburg, so that Mr. Cook's appointment naturally becomes void.

If the Philadelphia papers would keep Mayor Mackey off the front pages for a few consecutive days they might abate a provoking nuisance.

An investigation of the activities of "holding companies" may only show the urgent need of drastic legislation, but that will be worth while.

It is certain that there will be a Democratic candidate and an earnest campaign in every Congressional district in Pennsylvania this year.

BED TIME

Good gracious me! I most forgot To empty the kettle, and wind the clock, And put out the cat and bank the stove, For it don't seem to me to be so cold. To feel if all the doors are locked And stir down the batter in the big stone crock. And I must straighten the chairs and rugs, just right For everything comes in the middle of the night. And with things all strewn at sixes and sevens Darn me suds, who knows what'll happen. And there's the ashes and apple skin— Who left the cider in that rusty tin? And the lamp—land sakes—I forgot to fill. Well, I'll do that after I take my pill. I'll wrap this iron to warm the bed. Last night that brick made the sheets all red. And oh, good gracious! Now what's that? Sound like a mouse in the pantry crack. How in the name did the thing get in? I'm sure I stopped that hole with tin. Where is the cheese?—let me think. Yes, I'll bait the trap right here by the sink. And if that mouse comes tracking here I can leave things standing without a fear. Good lands, I wound the alarm too tight. It can't be 10. That clock's not right. Wait now, I'll fix the hands ahead. And tomorrow I'll start early to bed. WINIFRED MEEK MORRIS-1930

America at The Hague.

From the Pittsburgh Press. If the statesmen rise above nationalistic bickering and the making of grandstand plays for home audiences, the reparations conference now in session at The Hague should pretty well dispose of the problem which has retarded European reconstruction for eleven years.

With the reparations payments fixed at \$10,000,000,000 over a period of fifty-nine years, and organization of the Bank of International Settlements agreed to by earlier conferences the chief remaining issue is political rather than economic. It has to do with sanctions.

Germany in return for accepting the Young plan which is to replace the old Dawes plan, insists that France relinquish her privilege to occupy Germany. This France refuses to grant. But France is not so hard-boiled on this question of sanctions as she used to be. She has discovered to her hurt, that a quick and final settlement of reparations is as essential to her own economic well-being as it is to Germany. Therefore France must compromise the present disagreement.

Foreign Minister Eriand, although lacking complete support in Paris is expected to propose as a compromise that in case of a dispute over German reparation payments, a special arbitration board or the World Court be empowered to determine blame and possible sanctions. Germany cannot afford to reject such a compromise for by so doing she would not only sacrifice world confidence but also jeopardize the Young plan and the International Bank.

Meanwhile the presence at The Hague conference of a so-called official Washington government observer is another reminder of the selfish and contradictory American position. Just as we forced the organization of a League of Nations for others and refused to join ourselves, so now we have in effect dictated the terms of the reparations settlement and International Bank without having any official connection with either. Indeed, we have just negotiated a separate treaty with Germany, covering our collections for army of occupation costs.

By such slight of hand performances our government solemnly tries to maintain the fiction that there is no connection between German reparations and American war debts, and that we are not entangled in European and world affairs. This petty subterfuge fools no one.

Power without responsibility is impossible. So long as the United States is the strongest world power and is ever reaching out for more control over international destinies, we shall be in responsibilities up to our necks.

All that is Needed.

From the American Mutual Magazine. A real estate salesman of West Texas had just finished describing the glorious opportunities of that part of the country. "All that west Texas needs to become the garden spot of the world is good people and water," he said. "Huh!" replied the prospect. "That's all hell needs."

Borah refused to comment on the Crimes Commission report. But he will have something to say on the subject when the proposed legislation appears on the Senate calendar.

Governor Fisher possesses great pride in the wisdom of his choice of Grundy for Senator.

There were plenty of millionsaires at the Grundy dinner but no representatives of labor.

The dries and the wets in Congress are making it hot for President Hoover.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

A sausage, forty-six feet, nine inches long, was made on the farm of James H. Marker, near Ligonier. Mathematicians are figuring how many hot cakes should accompany it.

Because an accurate count of small game killed in the State depends almost entirely upon the co-operation of sportsmen, the Board of Game Commissioners has asked for the return of report slips attached to hunting licenses.

J. A. Sager, well-known farmer of Mackeyville, in Nittany valley, sustained a \$18,000 fire loss when his barn and four out buildings were destroyed by fire of unknown origin, on Monday, with all the crops excepting the livestock.

Clyde Miller, 38, married and the father of four children, was killed last Wednesday at his home in Montgomery, while fitting a loud speaker arrangement into his radio outfit. He touched a part fully charged with electricity. He had forgotten to switch off the current.

A reduction of one cent a quart for milk to consumers in Pittsburgh was announced on Monday by H. B. Steele, secretary of the Dairymen's Co-operative Sales Company. The new price of 18 cents will be effective February 1. Cream will be reduced one cent a half-pint.

A coroner's jury has recommended that Michael Siles, of Primrose, Schuylkill county, be held on a charge of murder for the death of his neighbor, Peter Yurchak. Siles, it was alleged, shot Yurchak because he would not turn off his talking machine when requested.

One man was killed and two women were injured, on Monday in an explosion of 50 quarts of nitro-glycerine being hauled from Titusville to 10 Mile Bottom, near Oil City. W. J. Sullivan, 40, Titusville, driver of the truck containing the nitro-glycerine was killed. His body was blown into pieces. The two women were in a nearby house which was badly damaged by the blast.

Miss Isabelle McKean, 17, of Polk, on Tuesday was discharged from the hospital where she was treated for a gunshot wound in the hand but Howard Reisinger, Franklin, 19, her companion during an automobile ride Monday night, remained in the hospital with a wound in the chest. Both termed the incident was "accidental" and declined to divulge details of the shooting.

Firemen rescued nearly 300 women and girls late last Friday night, when the Masonic building in Turtle Creek, a suburb of Pittsburgh, was damaged by fire. Loss was estimated by firemen at \$35,000. The women were attending a card party. Spontaneous combustion was said to have caused the fire. Ten telephone operators were guided to safety from an exchange on the second floor of the building.

An automobile driven by C. L. Drumm, Bloomsburg, struck Allen Fetter, 70, while he was crossing the Berwick highway Sunday night. Witnesses summoned another automobile to take Fetter to a hospital, and a hearse answered the call. The sight of the hearse so shocked Drumm that he fainted and it was half an hour before he was revived. Fetter suffered a fracture of the leg and was said to be in no serious condition.

Webster Saylor was elected mayor of Johnstown, last Friday, by unanimous vote of the four councilmen to fill the vacancy created by the sentencing of Joseph Cauffiel to serve a term in the Cambria county jail after conviction of misconduct in office. Saylor was defeated in the last Republican primaries for the nomination of his party as sheriff. The Johnstown school board, of which he was a member, met on Saturday afternoon in special session to act upon his resignation.

Closing of the largest forest land purchase for public use in the history of the State, was announced last week. In the deal 132,000 acres of land were bought for \$3 an acre, the total price amounting to almost \$400,000, from the Central Pennsylvania Lumber company. The land situated in 11 counties in the northern section of Pennsylvania, is to be divided between the Department of Forests and Waters and the State Game Commission, the forestry department to get the largest portion, 79,225 acres.

Persons injured in accidents of motorbuses which carry school children back and forth cannot look to the school directors of that district for damages, according to a decision handed down by Judge S. John Morrow, of Fayette county, in dismissing the \$25,000 damage suit of Eleanor Edna Thompson. The court ruled that "furnishing free transportation in a school bus is a public governmental function." Miss Thompson sued for injuries sustained when the Redstone High school bus crashed into a telephone pole, severely injuring her.

John McLaughlin, 36, and an unidentified man were found dead on Tuesday in McLaughlin's home in Pittsburgh and were believed to have been victims of fumes from gas fires. The bodies were found by McLaughlin's widow who returned home from Johnstown, where she had been visiting since last Friday. McLaughlin's body was lying on the kitchen floor and that of the other man was on a bed. Mrs. McLaughlin could not identify her husband's companion. Several fires were burning in the house and all the windows and doors were closed tightly.

Mrs. Alta Olds, aged 80 years, for many years a resident of Jersey Shore, and an aunt of Mrs. Lee Larimer, formerly of Bellefonte, was found dead seated in the living room of her home. Neighbors noticed that the milk bottle left by dairymen had not been removed from her porch and on looking in the window saw the figure of a woman slumped in a rocking chair in the room within. Chief of police George Sifer was called and broke open the door of the house, and coroner Charles L. Youngman, of Williamsport, conducted an investigation, and decided death to have been the result of natural causes.

An automobile mechanic who went to a moonshine plant in York county, to repair a broken truck and was arrested and convicted of conspiracy to violate the prohibition law, was given a suspended sentence and placed on probation for a year by Judge Henry C. Niles, on Tuesday. The mechanic, Angelo Promotico, Havre De Grace, Md., was declared to be a hard working mechanic with a good record by John T. Allen, chief of police of Havre De Grace, who appeared in his behalf. The raid with which Promotico's repair job coincided resulted in four arrests and convictions, and confiscation of a huge illicit liquor plant in Hopewell township.