

Theatrical business is bad and the P. R. R. is "begging people to ride on our trains" but every once in a while the "S. R. O." sign is being hung out at the diminutive railroad station here. Again we suggest to Kiwanians that they keep an eye on things.

To the correspondent from York, Pa., who wrote to "kid" us about our marmota monax faux pas last week we want to say that he did see his shadow on Sunday, but if he had waited until we invited him out of his hibernation he wouldn't have seen it. In consequence we feel that we did our best to avert the six more weeks of winter that his untimely appearance threatens us with.

We have no alibi to offer for the awful "bull" we pulled last week when we set groundhog day back to last Tuesday. We can't explain just how we did it, but we're glad, nevertheless, for our inadvertence gave so many people pleasure in calling us. Since "calling" is the thing we enjoy little else but, it is just compensation when we blunder into putting the shoe on some other observing person's foot.

The resignation of Chief Justice Taft and the appointment of Charles Evans Hughes as his successor on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States has been the outstanding event of the week. We believe that Justice Hughes is the better lawyer of the two, but it isn't always the better lawyer who makes the best Judge. Hughes cannot bring to the highest tribunal of the land the confidence that is begotten of a feeling that there is a human side to great jurists such as Mr. Taft inspired. Who ever saw Charles Evans Hughes smile?

We have always believed that an organization without a fight in it couldn't survive long. Just as we have always believed that a real man develops the most there is in him under a load of debt. Being a Methodist and feeling always that our church could have given both Newton Baker and Josephus Daniels pointers in 1917-1918 as to how to fight we are delighted that the local Episcopalians have developed belligerency and threaten to become militant. Last Monday night at Council meeting we saw the spectacle of their bell wether, their "good angel" and their "sweet singer in Israel" coming in conflict. Stand up, everybody, and sing the Doxology. When the Episcopal church gets a real fight started it will fill its pews with partisans far faster than it can with saints—and the same applies to every other church.

Mr. Roscoe R. Koch, a deputy Attorney General for Pennsylvania, has just handed down an opinion that employment of boys under fourteen years of age as caddies on a golf course is in violation of the child labor act of May 13, 1915. Doubtless Mr. Koch knows his law. But what a law! A boy under fourteen on a farm may put down hay for the cattle, carry heavy buckets of swill for the pigs and do many other chores that would bend the backs of many of their town or city seniors, yet a boy under fourteen may not go out into the pure, open air of a golf course on Saturday afternoon and earn a few pennies for the movies by ambulating around a beautiful bit of countryside, carrying clubs and hunting balls for a couple of wheezy, near-sighted old gentlemen whose pace would make that of a snail look like Lindbergh in flight. If such interpretation is to be put on the labor law we suppose we'll have to stop giving kids a dime to carry a letter to the post-office for us.

The local political pot is beginning to boil. Senator Scott has announced that he would like to succeed himself and also be the State Committeeman of his party from this county. Phil D. Foster has announced that he would like to be the chairman of the Republican county committee. The Hon. Holmes would like to be our Member in the Legislature for another term. Charles P. Long would like to go to Congress and the dear old one knows who wouldn't like to be a pastor and folder or any other odd thing that pulls down a maximum of pay for a minimum of work. Such is politics. It would be sweet as mother's love if it were as unselfish, but—it isn't. Senator Scott has to kill off Charley Long because Centre county can't have both the Senatorial and Congressional candidates. Phil Foster has to harpoon that grand old veteran of Republicanism, Wilson I. Fleming. And the Hon. Holmes has to fool the Prohibition folks and the P. O. S. of A. once again. Mitch Chase will help Harry nip the budding ambition of the retired merchant of Spring Mills. Mr. Dorworth mobilized the State's steam rollers last Saturday night and supplied the gas for Phil Foster to step on in his attempt to flatten out the Flemings in Centre county. As yet we haven't heard what the W. C. T. U. and the P. O. S. of A. are going to do for the Hon. Holmes. We surmise, however, they'll spread penance all over him for what they failed to do for Phil Johnston—You know election day to the P. O. S. of A. and the Prohibition fanatics is like "roddies" in a poker game—all rules are off.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION

VOL. 75. BELLEFONTE, PA., FEBRUARY 7, 1930. NO. 6.

Boulder Dam to be Monopolized.

Rumors current in Washington indicate that the long-drawn out effort of Senator Norris to guarantee to the public substantial benefits from the Boulder dam project was wasted time and energy. The enterprise has cost the government a large amount of money and additional vast sums will be required to complete it. If employed, as it was intended to be, to serve the people of the adjacent States with electric energy and control the waters of the turbulent Colorado river for irrigation purposes and creating electric energy, it would have been worth the money. But the rumor is that Secretary of the Interior Wilbur has decided to give to private power companies all the power to be generated at the plant.

This is precisely what the power monopoly contended for from the beginning and spent millions of dollars to accomplish. The law authorizing the creation of the plant provides "that preference be given to States and municipalities in case they submit satisfactory plans for development and operation." It was for the reason that President Hoover favored the private operation and control of the plant that Senator Norris refused to support him for President and urged the election of Governor Smith, who was committed to the policy of public operation. It now appears that Secretary Wilbur intends to ignore that provision of the law and place in the hands of monopoly full power to exploit the property in its own selfish interests.

Those who so valiantly fought over a period of ten years to preserve to the public this immensely valuable franchise are not entirely surprised at the purpose of the Secretary of the Interior. When the law passed the Senate in the form of a compromise Senator Norris predicted that "those who have charge of it might easily turn over to some representative of the water power trust the generation of electricity at the dam." Other Senators sounded an alarm of such a result and Borah declared "there will be no doubt about the policy which will be carried into effect." An effort is now being made to check it but with little hope of success. The public seems to enjoy being swindled.

Whatever effect the resignation of Chief Justice Taft may have on other interests it will not be harmful to corporations and monopolies. The appointment of Mr. Hughes guarantees that fact.

Distressing Comparative Statistics.

It is not necessary to be for or against the Eighteenth amendment or prohibition enforcement to find cause for alarm in the increase of the death rate from alcoholism, as revealed in the annual report of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company, made public last week. There are 19,000,000 industrial policy holders in that corporation in the United States and Canada, and the recent report shows an increase of deaths from alcoholism of approximately 600 per cent. as compared with the record of 1920, the first year of national prohibition, and the low water mark in mortality from that source.

The 1929 mortality rate, the statement shows, "is approximately double that of 1918, the final year of the World war, and nearly two-and-one-half times as high as the figure for 1919," commonly known as the "wartime prohibition" year. But, continues the report, "if the deaths from wood and denatured alcohol poisoning were added to the totals for years beginning with 1920, and if the comparison were limited to policy holders in the United States alone, the death rate now prevailing would equal, or very closely approach, those for certain pre-war years." The record for Canada is very much better.

Of the 19,000,000 policy holders in the United States and Canada, 17,750,000 are in this country and 1,150,000 in Canada. There were 628 deaths from alcoholism in the United States last year and only eleven in Canada. This is a distressing comparison from whatever angle it is approached. But it is not the most significant. The report continues, "In the wage earning population, at least, the alcoholism death rate during the past eight years has been six times as high in the United States as in Canada." These figures are not assembled for propaganda purposes or to comfort either the wets or dries. But they indicate something is wrong.

In view of President Hoover's first appointment to the Supreme court bench the fact that he may have several other appointments to make is just cause for alarm.

Between the Devil and the Deep Sea.

In a letter to a friend Mr. Benson E. Taylor, Secretary of Property and Supplies in the Fisher administration at Harrisburg, positively declines to be a candidate for Lieutenant Governor on the Grundy slate. For an unexplained reason the political dopesters interpret this action as a certain sign that he is a candidate for Governor. In his letter he says: "Governor Fisher has entrusted me with the responsibility of carrying out his extensive building programme and it is my deep desire to complete that trust." This may mean that he is unwilling to withdraw present personal attention to the task or that he hopes to take an unfinished job at the expiration of Mr. Fisher's term.

Mr. Taylor's relations with the organization of his party are rather complicated. He is a close friend of Sam Lewis and under pledge to support him for the nomination. He is deeply attached to Governor Fisher, who is unalterably opposed to the nomination of Lewis. The only pressure so far as the public is informed, to put Taylor in the race for Governor comes from the Governor's office and there is a strong suspicion that the purpose is more to injure Lewis than to help Taylor. Grundy is openly for Lewis and the earnest support of Taylor would practically guarantee his nomination. The nomination and election of a slate so made up would eliminate the Mellon machine and the Fisher contingent.

No well informed politician believes that Taylor has a chance for the nomination for Governor. He might easily have got the nomination for Lieutenant Governor in a combination with Grundy for Senator and Lewis for Governor or a hook-up with Vare for Senator and Davis for Governor. It is known that the Mellons think well of him and might support his candidacy if it looked promising. But the value of that help is problematical. The political confusion now existing, not only in Pittsburgh but throughout the Western counties, casts a doubt upon the potency of Mellon influence even in its own neighborhood. For these reasons the Taylor announcement is without real importance.

Charles Evans Hughes is a fine lawyer and a good citizen but he probably owes his recent preferment to the fact that he is "corporation-minded."

Grundy Accepts Brown

According to the latest gossip Senator Grundy has consented to the slating of Francis Shunk Brown for Governor. But it was not a cheerful concession. It came after a hard and fast bargain. The Vare war board, striving to save something for the boss, presented the claims of Mr. Brown with much earnestness. But Grundy is a stiff bargainer. "What assurance can you give that Vare will withdraw," he asked. The answer appears to have been satisfactory for the Mellons, urged by General Atterbury, have accepted the offer. Mr. Vare may be disappointed when the agreement is presented to him for signature. But it is really a triumph for him. It will enable him to feel that he has some power left.

There will be heartaches over this bargain among the party bosses to dispense the official favors. Francis Shunk Brown has done nothing for the people of Pennsylvania. He is a shrewd lawyer and an industrious worker for himself and family. But he has contributed nothing toward the public welfare. Samuel S. Lewis has championed public interests on several occasions, as in his fight against the excessive and unnecessary gas tax, and Secretary of Labor Davis has stood for the interests of labor when Grundy was fighting to hold wage earners in industrial slavery. Each of these gentlemen has hosts of friends among the Republican voters. But they will be obliged to submit to the bosses.

At no time in the history of Pennsylvania has political bossism been so bold as now. At no time in the history of politics have party favors been so openly commercialized. Half a dozen millionaires assemble in Washington or New York and parcel out the party favors and there is not enough spirit in the electorate to make a protest. It is a shameful spectacle. Corporate greed dominates the official life of the State and the people suffer while the bosses celebrate their victories. But they are "riding to a fall." The people will not always endure such excesses and when the day of reckoning comes the right will prevail. The opportunity is near. The ballot box offers the remedy.

The Brown-Grundy combination gives Mr. Pinchot a splendid opportunity to crusade.

Senator Grundy Continues to Blunder

Every time Mr. Grundy opens his mouth he puts his foot in it. In a speech delivered before the American Tariff League in December, 1928, he held President Hoover up to ridicule as a man ignorant of all the principles of government. "He never ran for office," Mr. Grundy said, "not even for dog catcher" and was no better, so far as understanding of tariffs and other legislative operations than the Senators representing the "backward States of the West" or "the sons of wild jackasses" as those Senators were described by Senator Moses, of New Hampshire. When his attention was called to his Tariff League speech, the other day, he lectured the Senate for wasting its time on trifles.

The incident is important only in that it reveals the intellectual equipment of Joe Grundy and measures the qualifications of those who elevated him into high office. Andy and W. L. Mellon and Governor John S. Fisher entertain precisely the same opinion of Herbert Hoover. "He doesn't know anything at all, from experience, what legislation means. His mind runs on other than economic subjects," Mr. Grundy declared and the Mellons and the Governor reward him for his intelligent understanding of such subjects, acquired by long practice in the lobby, by appointing him to a post in which he may guide the party chief in "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," but serve the party.

Of all the Republicans in Pennsylvania who might, in consideration of public service to their communities or the State at large, aspire to service in the Senate, Joseph R. Grundy is the least fit. In all his life he has never contributed a single thing for the improvement of the social, moral or economic condition of the people. He actively opposed every piece of legislation which had for its purpose the betterment of labor conditions or the ameliorization of suffering humanity. But because the Governor imagined that his presence on the floor of the Senate would be offensive to a group of sincere men who had denounced the crimes that made Fisher Governor, Grundy was favored.

When Mr. Grundy satisfactorily explains to the working people of Pennsylvania why he has fought every piece of legislation that has been introduced in their behalf in Harrisburg he might persuade some of them to believe that his pet theory of tariff on everything has gotten as much for them as it has for him and his like. The truth of the matter is that Mr. Grundy is a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He lobbies for a tariff in Washington and justifies it by the claim that he is providing employment for labor. Then he turns his attention to Harrisburg and scares the Legislature into defeating every move labor makes to get any benefit from the tariff.

Chairman Collins Visits Centre.

Happy, hopeful and inspiring with their true-blue Democracy Chairman John R. Collins and secretary Warren VanDyke of the Democratic State Committee spent last Monday night in Bellefonte.

Their business here was merely carrying out chairman Collins' plans to keep in touch with the party organization in every county in the State and by such personal contact encourage militant organization everywhere.

County Chairman John J. Bower had gotten the word to pretty nearly all of his district committeemen so that there was quite a gathering at the Brockerhoff house to greet the visitors and talk over the situation in the State, District and county contests that will be made this year.

It was not a formal meeting so that there were no speeches. However, chairman Collins and secretary VanDyke outlined what they hope might be done and assured the local Democrats that the State organization will be constantly behind them in every effort for revival of party interest.

Chairman Collins impressed everyone with his sincerity and enthusiasm and his visit undoubtedly will result in an awakening of the old-time spirit of Democracy in Centre county.

Argument, Pro and Con, on Closing Lamb Street

The closing of a small section of Lamb street for an athletic field for public school purposes or refusal to do so is now up to borough council. The citizens generally had a hearing before council, on Monday evening, and sentiment both for and against was so well defined and ably supported that the council as an entirely felt that the question is one of such vital importance that it was deemed wise to hold it over for more deliberate consideration.

Two dozen or more citizens were present at the public hearing in the council chamber, Monday evening. Dr. M. J. Locke, president of the Bellefonte school board, opened the hearing. He was very brief, confining himself to reading two letters from officials in the State Department of Education in which they approved the steps being taken by the school board to secure an athletic field.

District attorney John G. Love read a letter from Ellis Keller, a former member of the High school faculty, which strongly endorsed the closing of the street.

Former Judge James C. Furst represented the opponents to the closing of the street owing to a slight indisposition of former Judge Orvis, who could not be present.

Prof. A. H. Sloop presented a petition signed by all the pupils in the High school and upper grades asking council to close the street.

Col. W. F. Reynolds, representing the vestry of St. John's Episcopal church, explained the position of that body in its opposition to the closing of the street. He stated that there is nothing personal about it. That the members of the vestry felt that the advantages of their parish house in the event they ever wanted to find a tenant for it in the future, as they frequently have done in the past. He was entirely fair, however, in making it plain that none of the members were opposing the proposition because of any wall that might be built there.

Rev. Gast, rector of the church, was the next speaker. In opening his remarks he stated that he was not representing the Episcopal church or the congregation but speaking merely as a transient who is here today and may be gone tomorrow. He also qualified his remarks by stating if the ground was large enough to make a complete athletic field he would be in favor of it, but maintained that it would not be. He then outlined the congested condition of the streets with automobiles that would undoubtedly result should the street be closed.

Conrad Miller opposed the closing of the street because he or some of his employees use it every day in going to and from their work and he claimed they should not be inconvenienced in order to fix up a play ground for children.

John Blanchard Esq., made an impassioned appeal in favor of closing the street, citing the fact that cities and towns everywhere today are taking over properties and closing portions of streets to afford an outdoor space not only for the children but for older people. He cited that today there is not a spot in Bellefonte big enough for the children to congregate on, and now when there is an opportunity to get one it should not be allowed to pass simply because a few people might be inconvenienced.

J. Kennedy Johnston also spoke in favor of closing the street and Charles F. Cook added a few words in behalf of the school board.

Conrad Miller closed the hearing by offering to give the school board an acre and a half of ground free for an athletic field which he said was only a ten minute trip by automobile.

Everybody having been heard Mr. Beaver suggested that the matter be laid on the table until next meeting of council in order that the councilmen might hear the reaction of the public. President Walker also expressed the opinion that it would be best to consider the matter further, and thus it now stands.

The resignation of Chief Justice Taft came as a surprise to the country and taking one consideration with another is a matter of regret.

The London Naval conference is setting a splendid example of ladylike behavior. Everybody concerned in the proceedings is polite.

Colonel Lindbergh made a narrow escape from an accident the other day which indicates that he is getting careless.

Don't take the Groundhog seriously. His rule of the weather is limited to Lancaster county.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

Two days after Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rishel moved into their new home near Alexandria, the residence was destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning, when a lighted lamp exploded.

The new \$3,000,000 Locust Summit breaker of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company, near Shamokin, will begin operations March 1. Six nearby collieries will "feed" it with coal. The breaker is the most modern and the largest in the lower anthracite field.

Because he refused to give her a cigar, police reported, Mrs. Bernice Case, 28, of Bradford, stabbed her husband, Leon Case, 29, in their home on Sunday night. Case was stabbed in the back with a bread knife, one lung being punctured. He was reported in a critical condition in Bradford hospital.

Albert Madden, 53, a negro, appeared at police headquarters in Wilkes-Barre bleeding from a wound on the chin. He told the desk sergeant that he owns two pet white rats. While he was asleep, he said, one of the pets crawled upon the bed and bit him. A doctor was called, the wound cauterized and tetanus serum injected.

Kenneth, 5 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Rhinard, of Stillwater, Columbia county, complained of a sore nose. His parents found what appeared to be an abscess and took him to the family physician, who took him to a nose specialist. With difficulty the specialist removed a hazelnut which the boy had put in his nose last fall.

After Burgess Carey Groff had vetoed a borough "blue law" at Perkasie, on Tuesday night, the city council went into executive session and by a vote of 6 to 3 passed a Sunday closing ordinance over the veto. The ordinance prohibits the playing of any game or sport or the giving of any music or other form of entertainment to which admission is charged.

Whisky taken internally is a cure for fallen arches, according to the proprietress of a Wilkes-Barre tea room who thus explained the presence of illicit liquor when police raided her establishment. Seven barrels of wine also found in the place took the place of water served with her customers' meals, she said. Police Magistrate Brown was skeptical on the cure and fined her \$100 and costs.

Joseph Sparrow, 40, of Dickson City, a suburb of Scranton, ended his life in a cell in the borough building late Tuesday night by hanging himself with a piece of white muslin which he used as a belt. Sparrow was arrested last on Tuesday on a disorderly conduct charge after he ejected from home his five children, the oldest of whom is 17 years. The children told police that they desired to go to work but that the father would not allow them to do so.

Word was received by Tyrone post-office officials, on Monday that Algernon Blair, Montgomery, Ala., has been awarded the contract for the construction of the new federal building in Tyrone. The contract price is \$116,428, based upon the revised or curtailed plans. The Blair firm has been notified by the government to start work immediately and it is anticipated that actual construction will get under way during the present month, providing weather conditions do not interfere.

Warrants charging Alex Foster, one of Danville's most prominent citizens, with embezzlement and fraudulent conversion of \$9000 and upwards of funds of the Danville Stove Manufacturing company were issued on Saturday. Until a year ago manager of the stove works, Foster became a deputy auditor general at Harrisburg following his resignation and resigned his State position on Thursday, it was stated. He has not returned to Danville and the warrants have not been served.

Perry O. Jordan, 42, herdsman of the Huntingdon reformatory, is in the Blair Memorial hospital at Huntingdon, with concussion of the brain due to an attack by two of the inmates, Girard B. Crawley and John Flannigan, both of Philadelphia. The inmates beat him over the head the previous night with a hose nozzle rendering him unconscious, after which they seized his revolver and fled to the woods on Warrior Ridge. They were captured several hours later by State police and reformatory guards. Superintendent J. W. Herron announced that Jordan's assailants would be turned over to the county authorities for prosecution.

Harry L. Raub, Jr., 38, former city solicitor and a prominent lawyer, died in a hospital at Lancaster, on Sunday, from a bullet wound which a deputy coroner said was self-inflicted. His secretary found Raub slumped in a chair in his office Saturday night, with a bullet wound in the head. Raub, it was said, left a letter addressed to his brother, William S. Raub, who was the coalition mayoralty candidate at the last election. Police turned the letter over to the brother and its contents was not revealed. Harry Raub for eight years was city solicitor. He retired from the office last month. He was a veteran of the World War. A widow and two children survive him.

Crops raised on the institutional farms under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Welfare are well above the State average for production per acre, according to a report of R. Bruce Dunlap, agriculturist of the department of Welfare. In wheat production, the Warren State hospital leads with a 32.4 bushels per acre yield, the State average being 20 bushels. Norristown State hospital leads in oats, with 52.7 bushels. State average being 32; Muncy leads in hay with 2.86 tons, the State average being 1.31. Penhurst averaged 65 bushels of corn, which is 24 bushels over the State average; and Muncy led in potatoes with 900 bushels as compared with a State average of 112.

As the result of a piece of beefsteak becoming lodged in his throat in such a manner that the air passage into his lungs was partly closed, Anthony Lowranitis, a well known resident of Helvetia, Clearfield county, died on Sunday afternoon at 4:15 o'clock after an hour and a quarter's effort on the part of relatives to dislodge the obstacle. Mr. Lowranitis, who lived at the home of his brother, George Lowranitis, sat down to dinner at 8 o'clock. Almost immediately after starting the meal the meat became lodged in his throat and he was gasping for breath. Other members of the family attempted to aid him and a call was sent to the office of the Helvetia physician. He was not at home at the time and before the services of another physician could be procured the man had died of strangulation.