

The Democratic candidates are laying a substantial foundation for a certain victory in November.

The decision of the Supreme Court declaring that the perforated ballots of Luzerne county should be counted gives Mr. Pinchot clear title to the Republican nomination for Governor.

Dr. Thomas, former president of Penn State and now president of Rutgers University, advises the two hundred thousand young men and women who will enter college this fall to "leave their conceit at home."

Mrs. Renshaw DeWitt, of Williamsport, spent Monday and Tuesday in Centre county doing a little preliminary work toward organizing the Democratic women for the pending political campaign.

When we first glanced at the proof of the advertisement of the First National bank of Bellefonte, that appears on page seven of this issue, we thought the philosopher of that very sound institution was going to give to the world another of the bits of condensed wisdom with which he occasionally embellishes that ten inches of space.

To say the least, Mr. Pinchot is not being as fair with the Prohibitionists as their blind devotion to him seems to warrant. In answer to repeated interrogations as to just where he proposes to stand on the "wet" and "dry" issue, already raised in this campaign, he studiously evades a straightforward answer.

The American Bar Association, in session in Chicago, is making a noise like a body that might be going wet and Mr. Wickersham, chairman of President Hoover's law enforcement committee, publicly denounces the Jones five and ten law.

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Shouse Accepts the Fess Challenge.

Jouet Shouse, chairman of the Executive committee of the Democratic National committee, cordially welcomes the challenge of chairman Fess, of the Republican organization, with respect to the issues of the impending Congressional campaign.

But Mr. Shouse will insist that in the discussion of these questions all the salient features of them shall be fully considered. Mr. Hoover has been in office with his party in full control, Mr. Shouse says.

It will be difficult for chairman Fess and his "spell-binders" to make an intelligent public believe that tariff legislation, which has aroused the protest of every commercial and industrial nation in the world and has cut the export trade of the United States at least fifty per cent, has earned popular approval.

The organized effort to deceive the people with respect to unemployment, for partisan purposes, has set in. The other day the Department of Labor in Washington issued what it calls a "survey."

Working the Old Bluff.

Talking with a Republican from West Chester, on Monday, our casual impression of John M. Hemphill, formed on the first and only contact we have ever had with him, was confirmed.

The United Press news association in summarizing the bulletin of the Department says: "Statistics were based on returns from 39,546 establishments which in July had 4,806,458 employees whose combined earnings in one week were \$121,582,968.

In view of this condition in the industrial life of the country there is little comfort in the promise of activity in the navy yards beneficial to the limited number of employees in those institutions.

In the light of past experience it may be hard to persuade Bill Vare that Mr. Pinchot will keep his promises.

Careless or Uninformed.

For a methodical man with an engineering mind President Hoover is surprisingly careless in the use of language. For example, the other day when he appointed Major General Douglas MacArthur to the office of chief of staff of the army, Mr. Hoover said, "he is the only one of the Major Generals having a sufficient period to serve in the army before retirement to serve the full four-years term of chief of staff."

As a matter of fact there are ten other Major Generals who might serve the full four-years term before reaching the retirement age. They are Dennis E. Nolan, Johnson Hagood, William D. Connor, Fox Connor, Preston Brown, Malin Craig, Briant H. Wells, Paul E. Malone, Frank Parker and Frank B. McCoy.

Another instance of his careless use of language may be cited. In a recent statement he is said "to have found a way to save \$100,000,000 and thus avert a possible increase of federal taxes."

Sedgwick Kistler is entirely satisfied with the attitude of the Liberal party. Then why should those who are opposed to Kistler worry?

Public Service Commission Troubles.

The Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania is having a hard time justifying the robber rates of the Scranton Water Company. For more than two years the struggle has been in progress and hearings have been held at irregular intervals.

The principal point of difference between the engineers, the other day, was the cost of the reproduction of the corporation's office building at Scranton. The corporation engineers place the figure at \$400,000 and the Commission's engineers fix it at \$300,000.

At the meeting, last week, the chief counsel of the corporation declared that "efficiency and economies in operation have greatly increased the company's earnings and that as a result of this a reduction should be made in the rates."

Forest fires are driving Luzerne county rabbits out of the mountains into towns. That may mean out of the fire into the frying pan.

Are you reading your own paper or some other persons?

Pennsylvania Bankers Meet at State College.

That millions of dollars have been added to Pennsylvania farm incomes through county farm agents placed in 65 of the 67 counties by Pennsylvania State College and the federal government, was an outstanding fact brought out by bankers at the eighth annual conference of key bankers and members of the agricultural committee of the Pennsylvania State Bankers' Association, held last week-end at State College.

In addition to Mr. Robb Centre county was represented at the State College 3-day meeting by H. L. Ebbright, cashier of the First National bank, Centre Hall.

The biggest thrill for the bankers was an opportunity, on Friday afternoon, to meet with the 850 farm club boys and girls who were visiting State College at the same time for the annual young farmers' week.

At a 3-hour meeting Friday night chairman W. S. McKay, of Greenville, called for reports of activities by key bankers of each county. It was then that the county agents and the college agricultural extension service, directed by M. S. McDowell, came in for great praise.

On Monday evening a resident of one of Clyde Jodon's houses, on Pine street, was burning rubbish in the back yard. Some one saw the blaze and sent in a fire alarm.

Some otherwise discerning minds will never be able to see why Sunday base ball is a crime and Sunday golf an innocent diversion.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Items from the Watchman issue of August 27, 1880.

All parties agree that the grand Democratic mass meeting on Tuesday night last was the largest affair that ever came off in Bellefonte after dark. There were not less than four thousand visitors in town.

The thunder storm on Thursday of last week was one of the most violent that has ever passed over this section. At Clearfield the river raised enough to make a good rafting flood and so many rafts were sent down that a jam ten miles long occurred at the Queens Run bridge above Lock Haven.

Michael Kane, aged 45, was killed in one of Valentine's ore banks last Tuesday. He was mining for ore and had dug a deep pocket in the side of the bank, suddenly the earth above him caved in burying him completely.

During the thunder storm of last Thursday a large oak tree standing in the meadow of George H. Zeigler, near Philipsburg, was struck by lightning and burned afterwards as if it had been saturated with oil.

Sunday last was such a beautiful day that complaints that the Sabbath schools were not well attended were heard on all sides on Monday.

Mr. James B. Lane was presented by his wife with a handsome baby on Thursday of last week. Jim says the very first sound it uttered very much resembled "Hurrah for Hancock and English."

All the machinery of the Bellefonte paper mill was shipped to Lock Haven this week. The Pennsylvania Pulp Co., of that place, bought it and that is the last of Bellefonte's paper mill.

We are sorry to report that the venerable Mrs. Ruth Harrison, now 80 years of age, is suffering with dropsy. The old lady, in all probability, has not much longer to live.

John Anderson met with a very serious accident last Tuesday. He was helping to move an iron safe to Frank Galbraith's jewelry store when the wagon on which it was being transported tilted up and the safe rolled off pinning Mr. Anderson to the ground.

Last Saturday morning D. L. Confer, who occupies the Clyde Jodon farm, in Spring township, brought a ten gallon keg of cider to the Bellefonte curb market.

Warrants charging embezzlement were issued on Tuesday against Fern A. Oliver, former cashier, and Leonard Tartaglia, former teller of the Electric City Bank and Trust Company of West Scranton, at the instance of the State Department of Banking. Oliver, it is charged, embezzled \$40,131.22 during a period extending from January 7, 1929, to February 13, 1930.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Fire wardens and deputies who extinguished nine incendiary fires in Mifflin county mountains have been instructed to shoot to kill anyone found setting fires in the woods if they try to escape.

A part of a meteor was found in the back yard at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Cook, of Renovo, last week, following a display of shooting stars. The meteor, which is of peculiar shape, weighs nearly half a pound, and in falling struck a galvanized wash tub, making a large dent in the bottom and side of the tub.

Pleading guilty to a charge of chicken stealing, Mrs. Evelyn Aumiller, mother of eight children, on Tuesday was sentenced to from 9 to 18 months in the Columbia county jail. On Monday her son-in-law, her admitted sweetheart, and her daughter's sweetheart, were sentenced. Two daughters are in jail at Williamsport on forgery charges.

Joseph Schaeffer, a merchant of near New Freedom, York county, had to be treated by a physician for severe injuries to his head, inflicted by an infuriated steer which kicked him as he was leading a calf out of the barn. Schaeffer was knocked ten feet by the impact of the blow. It was necessary for the physician to take ten stitches to close the wound on the man's head.

Ralph Potter, 32, a Dunmore merchant, died on Tuesday as a result of diving into shallow water while swimming in Lake Arisen, near Scranton. Physicians say Potter severed the cords of his spinal column when he struck the bottom of the lake. He was the second swimmer killed in this manner within the past few weeks. The Potter accident occurred in front of a private cottage.

Pennsylvania will be unable to derive benefit from the advance of Secretary of Agriculture Hyde of the State share of federal road aid, amounting to \$5,500,000, from next January to September 1, it was said at the state highway department. State funds for building highways in Pennsylvania have all been set aside for work now under contract or more to be contracted, department officials said.

Prospects of the greatest potato yield on the farms of State institutions under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Welfare have been greatly reduced because of the drought according to R. Bruce Dunlap, agriculturalist of the department. Dunlap said that up to the middle of July institutional farm managers had exercised particular care in the spraying of the potato crop which gave promise of the greatest year ever experienced, but the serious drought will undoubtedly affect production.

Exactly 313 silk workers were informed that their services were no longer required after last Saturday by officials of the Susquehanna silk mills. A short time ago the Pennsylvania women were shut out indefinitely. John W. Dickey, Pinchot leader in Clinton county, and official of the wire concern, failed to explain why the Republican prosperity pledged by Pinchot last May is not functioning in that section. Every layoff, politicians believe, makes more votes for Hemphill and Kistler.

Three bandits are being sought by police after they held up and robbed Samuel Heninger, owner of Point Breeze hotel, near Shamokin, of \$230. Two men early in the morning stepped into the hotel and with guns in their hands ordered Heninger to "put 'em up." They proceeded to the cash register and rifled it. The proprietor edged toward the counter, but as he reached for his revolver one of the bandits shot him through the right wrist. The men escaped in a machine parked outside, with another bandit at the wheel.

In the will of Dr. F. S. Price, of Carbondale, instructions were given to the executors that no attempt be made to collect debts owed to him by hundreds of patients for medical services. He left an estate valued at \$75,000 and it is said \$20,000 is due the estate on old debts. Dr. Price always said he believed most of his patients would have paid these bills had he not been financially unable to do so. He sets aside \$10,000 to establish a room in Jefferson Medical college hospital, Philadelphia, in honor of his mother and wife.

The two new industrial plants erected in Ridgway this summer are about ready for operation. The new sole cutting plant of the Elk Tanning company, located near the Eagle valley tannery, will commence operations Monday, August 25. About twenty-five men will be employed at the start, and eventually this number will be increased until 150 men are employed. Ten men are already working at the Wilkins art metal plant. Machinery for this plant is being moved to Ridgway from Jamestown, N. Y., and more men will be put to work as soon as it is erected.

After three unsuccessful attempts to commit suicide John Miller, aged 61, of Canister, near Hollidaysburg, is a patient at Mercy hospital. He was admitted to the institution at 7 a. m. Sunday, suffering from a deep laceration of the throat and a fracture of the left leg. His condition is reported as fair. Miller is said to have stood in front of his second floor window, slashed his throat with a knife, then leaped from the window to the ground below, approximately 20 feet. He is then reported to have walked some distance and hurled himself from a bridge spanning a railroad a short distance from his home, fracturing his leg. He was found by a railroad employee and rushed to a physician's office.

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