

—Brother John Short, of the Clearfield Republican, is "saying it with flowers" to Governor-elect Pinchot for having offered Dr. Ellie Potter her old job as Secretary of Welfare in Pennsylvania. John is a gallant gentleman, no question about that, but isn't Dr. Ellie the lady who thought the State ought to build a bungalow for each of the inmates at Rockview?

—Talking about race suicide, it isn't happening over in Warriors Mark township, Huntingdon county. There the Walter Biddles had twelve children up to Monday when twins were added to make the family of little folks fourteen. Think of sixteen mouths to fill, sixteen bodies to cover and thirty-two feet to shoe! Walter Biddle is probably happy, but if he is he must be a wonderfully courageous man.

—If we are to believe the story of a deserving woman whose truthfulness we have never had cause to question over-seer of the poor Thomas Fleming gives of the borough's bounty with a mean hand to those who have not voted as he would have them do or happen to have friends whom he despises. Poor taxes in Bellefonte are not levied for the purpose of placing either a political or personal club in the hands of any man and the sooner Mr. Fleming realizes that the sooner he will prove that he is the kind of a man the voters thought him to be when he was elected to the office he holds.

—The Democrats in Congress ought to have a program of government of their own and support it. All this talk of co-operation is high sounding, but gets nowhere. If legislation can do anything for business present conditions are certainly proof that that planned by the Republicans has failed. It's failure was certainly sensed by the country in November, else there would not have been such a turn over in the political complexion of Congress. It's evident that the voters wanted to try something new and it's up to the Democrats to show whether they can make laws that will more beneficently effect agriculture and industry alike.

—Judge Ben Lindsey and Bishop Manning got into a ruckus in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York last Sunday morning. Things got so that members of the fashionable congregation gathered in the Cathedral for worship kicked, cuffed and swore at the Judge, finally throwing him out. The fact that they swore reminds us of a story Battling Nelson told when he was in vaudeville years ago. Bat and his cousin had been pals since childhood, finally they fought. Both regretted it and the cousin's mother persuaded her son to go over to Bat's home and "make-up." When he reached there Bat had gone to his room. The cousin went up and rapped on his door. Getting no response to that he began to explain his mission, when he was startled by this message from the inside: "You go to hell. I'm saying my prayers."

—The railroads of the United States pay a million dollars a day in taxes, yet in every court of justice, every public commission and in every legislative act affecting common carriers they get a raw deal because of the ingrained disposition of the masses to "soak" corporations whenever the opportunity presents. It is a dangerous habit we have gotten into. The investment of millions of people are jeopardized by public bailing of the railroads. Bus lines that operate over State built roads are taking passengers and freight, boat lines over government built water ways are taking freight, both in ever increasing amounts and while railroad revenues are gradually decreasing their employees are continually demanding higher wages. They are helpless in the unfortunate situation because they can't raise their rates without the consent of the Interstate Commerce Commission and they can't reduce wages because the Unions won't stand for that. Verily, the railroads are not facing a very rosy outlook.

—This paragraph is written to square the column with one of the distinguished Jurists of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Several years ago the gentleman "called" us for our spelling of the word that commonly is used to describe a bovine that never develops horns. At the time we hadn't a leg to stand on, because we had spelled "Mulley" "Mooley." Poring over the Watchman issue of Dec. 17, 1880, last Friday evening, we discovered an "Estray Notice" which is published in our "Fifty Years Ago" column in this issue. The "Estray" was a red bull and the Watchman said he was a "mooley" bull. We don't offer this as an alibi. It is presented only to prove that here is a paper that even subconsciously runs true to form. Right beside the "Estray Notice" we have referred to is another one of the same nature, except that the gallivanting bull in that case wasn't a mulley. The whole thing is very intriguing to us. Bulls evidently had a grand time on the primrose path fifty years ago. Today they have a ring in their nose and only get out when they are led to water or, what have you?

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Goodnough Stated for Speaker.

So far as the organization of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly is concerned the "hoss eyes is sot." After a friendly visit with the Governor-elect, C. J. Goodnough, of Cameron county, announced his candidacy for the important office and immediately afterward the Governor-elect expressed the hope "that all friends of the incoming administration will support him." With the Pittsburgh Mayor's contingent solid and the Philadelphia war board's delegation acquiescent his practically unanimous nomination is assured, and his election made certain. In fact, it is confidently predicted that there will be no candidate against him in the Republican caucus.

Mr. Goodnough was born in New York State in 1867 and located in Emporium in 1883. He was soon after elected prothonotary of Cameron county and has held office continuously since. Since 1915 he has been a Representative in the General Assembly, served as Speaker in the session of 1923 and held an important committee chairmanship during each session since. He is a ready debater, a vigilant legislator and popular member of the body. As Speaker during the session of 1923 he was Mr. Pinchot's "right hand" in legislation and contributed much to the fulfillment of the Governor's plans. He is a consistent party man and though inclined to reform legislation never lets conscience interfere with what he considers his obligations to party.

As politicians are classified Mr. Goodnough is an ardent dry and he has recently declared himself indefinitely. But it may be assumed that Governor Pinchot has other and stronger reasons for favoring his election to the Speakership. Mr. Goodnough shares, though with less enthusiasm, in the Governor's hostility to the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission. Present indications are that much of the energy of the administration, during the coming session of the Legislature, will be directed against that Commission, and Speaker Goodnough will be a willing worker in that warfare.

—If our Republican friends in Washington would frankly admit that their concern is more for the interests of the President than for those of the country, they would be much nearer the truth.

Both Unwise and Vicious.

Senator Borah is absolutely right in his statement that "the idea that you can restore permanent prosperity by spending public money" is "false in theory and vicious in practice." The money thus employed has to be provided in some way. There are two available mediums of accomplishing this result. Increasing taxes is one and increasing the public debt another. Both methods are obnoxious to public opinion and disastrous to the party adopting them. The Republican leaders are aware of this fact and are trying to avoid the consequence. Their plan is to secure temporary relief and trust to luck for the future.

There is another grave reason for doubting the wisdom of profligate expenditure in public building operations now. It may temporarily afford employment for idle men, and that is as essential as present public service. But in future years there will be unemployment and no such opportunity to meet it. If public buildings are erected now far in advance of present necessities there will be no way to absorb labor in the future when crises demand such absorption arise, as they are certain to do, unless provision is made to avert them. If Congress had enacted the remedial legislation proposed by Senator Wagner a year ago the present distressing condition might have been avoided or minimized.

Another objection to the policy recommended by President Hoover for relief of present unemployment is that abnormal activity in public building operations will divert both capital and labor from private construction work to public enterprises, thus disjuncting the economic structure of the country. But the Republican party and the Hoover administration have plunged the country into a mess from which it must be rescued by whatever methods, wise or unwise, are available. Senator Borah suggests an increase of the income tax in the "upper brackets," but Secretary Mellon and the Republican leaders will not stand for that.

—Still it may be worth while to consider that profligacy in expenditures now may involve vast expenses and small resources in future.

President Hoover's Mind Changed.

If President Hoover had expressed the views concerning the economic depression a year ago that are contained in his recent annual message to Congress much of the distress that has since come out of it might have been averted. But for purely partisan purposes he adopted a line of action which aggravated rather than mitigated the evil. In the message he ascribes the lamentable condition to "a speculative period which diverted capital and energy into speculation rather than constructive enterprise," and frankly admits that "economic depression cannot be cured by legislation or executive pronouncements," which are the only remedies he ventured to offer.

That the President has changed his mind on the subject is not only gratifying but a source of hope. He now realizes that providing employment, not for 2,500,000 idle men which he accepts as the number of unemployed but the five or six million idle workers in the country, is the only remedy for the present depression and he appeals to the people rather than the politicians of his own party to come to the rescue. It will require a vast amount of money to set these remediable measures in motion but as our grandfathers used to sing, "Uncle Sam is rich enough to buy us all a farm," and the funds will be forthcoming when the administration demonstrates that its concern is for public rather than party advantage.

As the President states these "dislocations have generally readjusted themselves," but they have been aided rather than retarded in the process. In this instance the reverse has been the rule. The President and several members of his cabinet have issued false statements of returning prosperity and his party, with his approval, has enacted legislation that has closed the markets of the world against our products, paralyzed industry and increased unemployment. Prosperity will be restored when production is resumed and pay envelopes are distributed regularly. So long as men are hungry and women and children shabby there is no overproduction. The trouble lies in inability to buy.

—Our heart bleeds for Richard V. Oulahan, Washington correspondent of the New York Times. He's deathly afraid that somebody will blame something on the Democrats unless they do everything the Republicans want.

Hoover's Partisanship Makes Trouble.

Congress has made rapid progress during the first ten days of the short session and if it continues to move along lines of comparative freedom from partisan animosities there will be neither necessity nor desire for an extra session. But the President has not contributed to the amity in the proceedings as much as he might have done. In both his messages there is discernible a trace of partisanship, or maybe it is selfishness, which is almost certain, sooner or later, to disturb the smooth current which has thus far characterized the proceedings. In fact ominous rumblings are already heard in both chambers.

Among the causes which may lead to controversy are the President's appointments to vacancies in the public service. Already protest has been entered against the nomination of Frank R. McNinch, of North Carolina, for membership of the Power Commission, as a Democrat, the law requiring minority representation. Mr. McNinch was head of the anti-Smith organization of that State in the Presidential campaign which carried the State for Hoover. As was shown in the defeat of Senator Simmons for Senator the Democrats of North Carolina are not willing to be represented in official life by bolters in that campaign and have entered a protest against the confirmation of the nomination of Mr. McNinch.

This opposition was expressed, the other day, when the question of confirmation was taken up in the Interstate Commerce Committee. One Senator said he represented a group which "is unwilling to permit the administration to pay its election debts by making an appointment to this important post." This sentiment prevails largely among the Democrats and insurgent Republicans of the Senate and may be the cause of a long drawn-out fight on the floor. In appointments to the Tariff Commission the President has also shown nasty political bias which provoke resentment and may make an extra session inevitable.

—The rulers of soviet Russia persist in predicting war. Probably the wish is father to the thought.

A Wise and Just Objection.

Congressman Byrns had abundant reason for objecting to an appropriation of \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000 to be disbursed by the President at his own discretion. Congressman Byrns lives in Tennessee and is familiar with Mr. Hoover's methods. He recalls that the services rendered by Mr. Hoover in the flood relief operations of 1927 were capitalized for campaign purposes in the Presidential campaign a year later. The money employed very properly in that service was provided by the government at Washington. But the reward of gratitude was promptly and assiduously claimed for the Republican candidate for President and singularly enough the debt was recognized and paid by the people.

In his budget message to Congress President Hoover asked for a blanket appropriation of that considerable sum to be disbursed by him at his discretion. Objecting to this proposition Mr. Byrns declared that he and his Democratic colleagues would vote for every dollar they thought necessary for relief of "present distressing conditions," but he would not vote to appropriate the huge sum of \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000 without having some knowledge of how it is to be spent. In other words, Mr. Byrns doesn't intend to appropriate money to be used in 1932 as other money similarly appropriated was used in 1928, and in that determination he is fundamentally right and essentially just.

No man in Congress or out knows what he is talking about better than Mr. Byrns. He is the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Appropriations and in that capacity in some measure a guardian of the public purse. He is a citizen of Tennessee, the State in which the misuse of the public benefecence of 1927 was most successfully worked. He was a close and interested observer of the operation by which the electoral vote of a State was bought by public funds through fraudulent misrepresentation, clearly implied if not openly declared. In the circumstances he had every right to demand a bill of particulars and unless it is given he is justified in voting against the appropriation.

—Another mystery has been solved. Most of us have been giving Senator Scott, Mr. Secretary Dornworth and Hon. Holmes a modicum of credit for getting an increase in the State's appropriation for the Centre County Hospital. We've been all wrong. Mr. William H. Brown, the institution's manager got it. He told us so, himself, a few days ago and said there are no "ifs" and about it." We are putting manager Brown's positive assertion on record because we know that both the Senator and the Honorable will be claiming they did it the next time they are running for office.

—To our veteran correspondent, Capt. W. H. Fry, of Pine Grove Mills, who at the age of 87 never misses a trick, we are indebted for a roast of venison. True, he didn't send the sherry wine with it, but inasmuch as it proved one of the best bits of really tender deer meat that we have ever tackled we forgive that oversight on his part. Also, the Captain might have forgotten that last year we set up the contention that it takes a whole glass of currant jelly and a quart of sherry to make an ounce of the average deer meat palatable.

—It is perfectly safe to predict that any movement for ballot reform in the next Legislature will have to get along without help from Mayor Kline, of Pittsburgh.

—Everything has been said for and against the Norris Muscle Shoals bill that can be said and it ought not take more than three days to finish it.

—Representative Garner may be wise in locating close to the Treasury building, but proximity will afford little help in penetrating the Mellon mind.

—There is probably a wider-spread interest "in the gate" than as to which team will win the Army and Navy game at New York tomorrow.

—A lot of people are still wondering what big job is beckoning Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, to embrace it.

—The shadow of an extra session of Congress is still worrying the administration at Washington.

—It might be a good idea to phrase it "buy now if you have the money to pay now."

Growers, Consumers and Middlemen.

From the Philadelphia Record.
The Borah-Summers bill requiring Federal license for dealers in fruits and vegetables serves the middlemen's interest. It is the answer to their appeal for Federal aid in checking dealers and growers refusing to ship or to receive agreed consignments when prices are unfavorable.

The license fee is \$10. The fine for evasion of the law's requirement starts at \$500 and runs upward from that fairly well elevated point at the fantastic rate of \$5 a day for the term of delay in applying for the license.

Shippers of 10 carloads or more a year from one State to another are required to take out license. Those who ship in lesser quantities are exempt. The law affects hundreds of growers in New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland who ship their products to the Philadelphia market. The Federal Farm Board is out against the middleman. Congress, in the Borah-Summers act, is apparently out for him. Two widely divergent principles of practice.

The whole case for or against the middleman hangs, of course, on the peg of service to the public. If he supplies the shortest route from producer to consumer, he will continue to flourish.

If all middlemen were to be put out of business, there would be millions more without the means of making a living. Half the people are either middlemen or employed by middlemen. The storekeeper is a middleman.

Government ought to determine definitely which view it is to take, and not try to execute two directly conflicting policies. This use of the power to regulate interstate trading through Federal force by licensing (taxing) shippers of farm produce seems inequitable, discriminatory and productive of confusion and inconvenience. But it is the law, and those who come under its requirement will do well to note that December 10 is the day it begins to operate.

Changing the National Diet.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.
On the basis of statistics received from large cities, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at Washington estimates that the consumption of fresh fruits and green vegetables has doubled in the United States since the World war. The distribution was made possible by improved transport facilities and attractive packing. Arizona, California, Florida and Texas, with favorable climates for a long growing season, have profited from the change. At the same time a decline has been noted in the use of "stored root vegetables," meaning principally potatoes and perhaps secondarily carrots and turnips.

This shift from starchy foods cannot be attributed wholly to reducing fads. The teaching of home economics has increased the demand for a balanced ration. Wendell Calhoun, the Department economist, predicts improved health will result to the coming generation. Perhaps everybody has been aware of this change in our national diet, though a few were prepared to believe that the use of green vegetables had increased 100 per cent in ten years. The figures should have a special meaning for the farmer studying the problem of crop rotation.

Bonus for Veterans

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.
Secretary Mellon does not believe it wise to enact legislation by which the World War Veterans bonus certificates may be turned into cash to meet the present business and unemployment emergency. It would be disturbing to the finances of the country, and ultimately injurious to the veterans themselves, he says, who would be thus robbed of savings they will be glad to have some fifteen years or more hence.

The Secretary may be right; it is easier to spend than to save. We regret, as we grow older, some of the money we have spent in our youth. Nevertheless, it will be mighty difficult to persuade the veteran who is out of work and sees his family in need that he ever will need the bonus money more than right now. And it seems hard that a man with a bonus insurance certificate in his possession should not be able to transmute it into immediate cash over and above its borrowing limit in bank.

Nevertheless, he who is able to hold on to his certificate until the present depression blows over will feel as good about it as the holder of an ordinary life insurance policy who comes through with its cash value unimpaired.

—One of Mr. Hoover's appointees to the Tariff Commission declares he knows nothing about the tariff and another states that he is opposed to the flexible system. But the Commission may be depended upon to do what big business wants done.

—When President Hoover gives more attention to fitness and less to personal favoritism in appointing officers he will have less trouble in securing confirmations.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—State health officials have been asked to visit the Polish National college at Cambridge Springs in an effort to trace the source of illness that has afflicted six students.

—Paul Biddle, a progressive farmer of Warriors Mark township, Huntingdon county, has been presented by his wife with twin sons, who have been named Walter and Frank. The Biddle family now consists of father, mother and 14 children, all living at the Biddle homestead, the oldest child being 18.

—Patrolman Herman Selinger, of Pittsburgh, recently bought a watchdog. The dog wouldn't allow the garbage collector, the ice man or the meter man on the Selinger property and sometimes the policeman even had difficulty getting past the dog himself. But last Friday Selinger arrived home to find the "terror" locked in the kitchen, and two rings worth \$75 and \$7.50 in cash missing from other parts of the house.

—Virginia Ferguson, 8-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Ferguson, of Millin county, was drowned last Thursday in thirty feet of water near her home. Her brother, George Jr., was rescued by onlookers. The two against their parents' orders had dared the ice on the Kishacoquillas creek. They had been skating but a few minutes when both were plunged into the icy water. The girl's body was recovered late that night.

—One of the richest veins of coal found in any section of the State is now in the process of stripping at Locust Summit, Northumberland county, by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Co. The company itself is performing the work of taking the coal from the small sized canyon which is approximately five miles in length and which contains a vein of coal from 85 to 100 feet thick. Thousands of tons of coal will be taken from this stripings by electric motors and hauled to the new central breaker at Locust Summit for preparation for market.

—During November 772 prosecutions of the game laws were brought by officers of the Game Commission. This is by far the largest number ever reported in any one month. The next largest number was November, 1929, when 605 prosecutions were reported. The cases for November were not for penalties of large amounts, the majority being small fines varying from \$5.00 to \$25.00. There were quite a number of prosecutions for possessing over the daily bag limit, killing ring-necked pheasant hens, hunting without license and killing illegal game of various kinds.

—R. E. Rubie, working in the railway mail service between Sunbury and Lewisburg, was taken to Harrisburg Saturday afternoon by inspectors for a hearing before Federal Commissioner Samuel Levin on charge of embezzling mail matter. His home is at Sellsburg and he has been in the service six years. He is 31 years of age. He was arrested at Sunbury Friday afternoon. In the United States District court, at Harrisburg, on Tuesday, it developed that Rubie had been taking money from letters addressed to students at the Penn State College, and he was fined \$200, given a suspended sentence of nine months and placed on probation for a year.

—H. I. Smith, chief engineer of the leasing division, United States Geological Survey, has presented the School of Mineral Industries at the Pennsylvania State College with a collection of Indian pottery, some of it more than 140 years old. A graduate of Penn State, class of 1908, Mr. Smith has charge of leasing all public domain where minerals are located. One of the pieces of pottery in the collection is a water jug more than a century old. Frogs are moulded all over it and the jug is decorated with colors which are still vivid despite the passage of years. The jug is made of extremely porous clay which permits evaporation, thus cooling the water.

—Dashing into a burning barn in a vain effort to help his neighbor rescue a prized bull a pet dog, Thomas G. Darr perished in the flames along with the bull when the barn on the farm of Miss Mary Brown McNitt, of Milroy, located in Dry Valley, and tenanted by Mr. Darr, burned to the ground last Friday with a loss which will reach \$10,000. The fire was discovered by the Darr family early in the night but was beyond control before fire companies from Burnham and Lewisburg could reach the farm. The bull and the dog were the only animals to burn although a flock of 100 chickens, all the farm implements and crops were destroyed. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

—Miss Pauline M. Smyser, 25-year-old graduate nurse of the York hospital, inherited \$25,000 from the \$75,000 estate of Dr. B. W. Shirey, 68, prominent of that city, when the will was probated at the York county court house. Mrs. Minerva Shirey, the widow, who has been estranged from her husband for the past two years, was not mentioned in the document. Dr. Shirey died late Saturday, following an unsuccessful operation and blood transfusion at the same hospital where he had saved many lives by similar operations. He was stricken Wednesday afternoon while instructing a class of nurses at the hospital. The Tressler Orphan Home, at Loysville, is bequeathed \$500 and a daughter, Amy, inherits \$5000 for the completion of her education. The two daughters, Amy and Jeannette, are each bequeathed \$5000.

—Dr. T. C. Harter, of Berwick, Assemblyman from Columbia county during the previous Pinchot administration, was sentenced to jail for violation of the State prohibition enforcement act, for the adoption of which he voted as an Assemblyman. Dr. Harter pleaded guilty in the Columbia county court during the September term. Saturday he appeared for sentence and was given six months in jail and ordered to pay a fine of \$500 on charges of possession and sale of intoxicating liquor. Prior to his sentence he was a Commonwealth witness in the conviction of Raymond Moon, charged with manufacture of the liquor Dr. Harter was reported to have sold to state police who brought the charges against him under the Snyder Act. Moon was found guilty but when called for sentence failed to appear, and a bench warrant was issued by Judge Evans for his arrest.