

Talks with the Editor

This column is to be an open forum. Everybody is invited to make use of it to express whatever opinion they may have on any subject. Nothing libelous will be published, though we will give the public the widest latitude in invective when the subject is this paper or its editor. Contributions will be signed or initialed, as the contributor may desire.—ED.

Thank You, Charley

Wadsworth, Ohio, Dec. 13, '30.
Dear Friend:

The very best wishes one friend can have for another we cherish for The Democratic Watchman and they are all included in the customary greetings of the season: "Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!"

Yours
C. S. DANNLEY

The Gas Stove Agent Hears from a Friend.

Dear Watchman!

Some weeks ago an article appeared in your "Unionville Items" stating that T. M. Huey, of Fillmore, had purchased a new gas stove saying that he believed in keeping up with the world, as it moves ahead. This was only a joke and we took it as such. Lest others might be taught by the same joker we have decided to try to make known to the good readers of the oldest Democratic paper in Centre county who he is. He is the son of the late G. W. Rumberger (better known as "Domino," so you can readily see he is a chip out of the old block.

Some time ago I was sitting on my side porch taking my after dinner rest when a flyover stopped at the front gate. A very well dressed gentleman came around and without any introduction said he was selling gas stoves and had stopped to see if I would be interested in one. But before he had time to state his cash price or easy installment plan we recognized him as one of our old school mates of fifty five years ago in Sellers school house in Buffalo Run, in the days when school teachers received the enormous sum of twenty-five or thirty dollars per month, and the term was four or five months of school in the year. The girls wore home made hoods, shawls, calico dresses, woolen stockings and calf skin shoes. The boys wore hickory shirts, home made trousers and cow hide boots, and the teacher dusted our clothes with a hickory stick.

As our mind goes back to those early school days there comes to our recollection some of the early traits of the clever salesman. During one of these school terms our teacher took a leave of absence between two days, so we got a substitute. This new teacher failed to have grown any hair on the top of his head, the place where the hair ought to grow, and as we looked him over we decided that he was not only deficient in hair but other qualifications desirable in a school teacher. But one of his iron clad rules was that we should have a speech on a stated time, and when the roll was called we all responded except this joker. The teacher told him he would give him a few days grace. So on the appointed day John was called on for his speech. Strolling up to the platform with hands in his pockets, head bowed, he mounted the platform made his bow facing upward and said:

"Lord of love look down from above
On us poor little scholars
We have hired a fool to teach our School
And pay him twenty eight dollars."

That ended the speech making for that term.

T. M. HUEY

Something for the Hon. Holmes to Answer.

Nittany, Pa., Dec. 10, 1930.

Mr. George Meek,
Editor Democratic Watchman.

My dear Sir:

Today we discussed in your office the Sunday Pennsylvania Blue Laws.

On the following pages I am sending my ideas of them.

If you want to use them of course you are at liberty to do so.

Sincerely yours
CHAS. M. EMERICK.

"I am opposed to the repeal of the Blue Law or any change permitting a community through its governing body to permit sports etc. Sunday sports and amusements do not mean enjoyment of Sunday but the breakdown of morals in a community." Such was the statement of Centre County's Assemblyman, John L. Holmes, as published in the Philadelphia Record, Sunday, November thirtieth.

This Pennsylvania law is of the vintage of 1794. A time when the Governor of Massachusetts considered it beneath his dignity to call upon President Washington; when the authority of the Federal against the State government was very much doubted; when free and popular education was a half century away; and when the voting population of this infant Republic was limited to from nine to fifteen per cent of the males over twenty one years of age. The conscription cap and long rifle were still full dress equipment along the Susquehanna and Allegheny rivers.

Still the ghost of this archaic legislation stalks the State. Its champions, however, travel from one end to the other at sixty miles an hour, on roads built with the latest equipment and paid from taxes earned by the modern application of scientific ideas in agriculture and industry. They fanatically cling to the past, in one idea and ambitiously discard it in the other. The sup-

porters of these so-called Blue Laws use 1930 devices to protect an eighteenth century concept of "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy." They dominate society by a notion that long since should have been relegated to the limbo of forgotten lore.

Just how the repeal of this law would cause "the breakdown of morals in a community" is rather difficult to determine. Morality is not a thing that can be legislated either into or out of an individual or community. Rather it is social development and individual education. We must be insidiously bigoted and provincial if we believe this law has made Pennsylvania communities morally better than communities in Ohio, Michigan, or Kentucky. Certainly our political atmosphere and the organization of our Assemblyman's own party do not bear proof of cleaner moral standards in matters of state. Rather strange if this law is the watchdog of the community morals, that one does not notice higher individual morality and a finer political wholesomeness in passing from Ohio to Pennsylvania. Funny, but the only Sunday difference between Cleveland and Pittsburgh—or Detroit and Philadelphia—is a longer walk to find a restaurant and a greater opportunity to break a law if one desires healthy amusement.

The same man who is deprived of his "off Sunday" fish, hunt, or baseball game, may be compelled to work the next Sunday. To the industry, since corporations have no soul for Legislators to save—Sunday is just the beginning of another week. The president of the corporation may slip off to his club and enjoy his Sunday golf, but can the employee slip off to his baseball? No. Why should not the man who must work six days to support his family be allowed to hunt, fish or whatnot on his only day of opportunity for recreation? Just what is the difference between golfing, swimming, joy-riding, buying, selling gasoline, ice cream and soft drinks, and hunting, fishing, moving pictures, and baseball that one should be allowed the enjoyment of some and prohibited the enjoyment of others? I believe the Almighty neither blessed the one nor cursed the other. A golf ball flying through the air is just as liable to crack wide open the Sabbath as a baseball. The backfire or blowout of an automobile makes as much noise as a gun shot.

One may justly ask why modern society should be dominated by a law unjust in its application and unfair in its enforcement?

CHAS. M. EMERICK

On the much discussed question we find ourselves in a rather paradoxical position. We admit the soundness of Mr. Emerick's statement, yet the fear of what the repeal of the laws in question might bring makes us believe that such action would be unwise. In the last analysis the Fourth Commandment commands us to keep the Sabbath holy, so that it would seem that it is another one of those problems for the individual conscience. One that hinges wholly on his, or your interpretation of what is "Holy."—Editor's Note)

We Are Not Competent to Criticise Poetry

The author of the poetry below submits it for our criticism and says that "I am a firm believer in your judgment of poetry." We fear that he has given us credit for something we can't qualify for. All we know about poetry is that some thoughts seem to be more beautifully expressed in verse than they could be in prose, and beautiful thoughts delight us so that it doesn't matter much to us what the technique of real poetical expression is.

If it hits along with a lovely thought
And a fairly jingling rhyme
We think that poetry's been wrought
And invariably judge it fine.

We see lots of poetry in high class magazines that says nothing—means nothing more to us than a conglomeration of words. We suppose it is high brow stuff, but most of it is as unintelligible as the Einstein theory. To us a poem is a song and unless it sings of something in its author's soul that is attuned to something in our soul it just doesn't "click."

Our correspondent advises that his verse is "one of my first ventures." If that be so he should go on, for he has done just what we have said above; taken a lovely thought and expressed it admirably.

DON'T SAY "CONVICT"

In the cold gray dawn of a winter day,
On the way to our daily task,
The coach is stopped and a man gets on,
"Who is he, may I ask?"

"A convict," answers one of my friends,
As the man takes up his place,
I chance a stare and to my surprise
See a pleasant looking face.

He's done his time, they've set him free,
To man he's paid his debt
But just as the lad on the bus has said,
He is a "convict" yet.

Give him a break, he's human you know,
He's paid for all his sin,
Don't let that stigma ruin the man
Forget where the poor soul's been.

Give him a boost, if it's only a word,
I'll help a lot they say
And maybe if you down and out
He'll welcome you that way.

We can't be a bunch of quitters
And scorn a man that's licked
'Cause we belong to another class
That fate just hasn't picked.

Don't say "convict" when they let 'em
out
Say "Goodluck," in a cherry way,
And I'm certain you'll feel much better
Throughout that livelong day.

"Henry Wadsworth"

—Make The Watchman your Christmas Gift to some friend.

MILE-A-MINUTE MARTY

—by—

Decker Chevrolet Co., Bellefonte, Pa



1924 Ford Touring	\$ 15.00	1926 Chevrolet Truck open		1927 Buick Sedan Standard	
1925 Ford coupe	40.00	express	\$ 150.00	Six	\$ 450.00
1926 Ford coupe	50.00	1928 Chevrolet Coach	\$ 325.00	1929 Whippet Coupe	\$ 290.00
1929 Ford coupe Run less		1929 Chevrolet Sedan	\$ 350.00	1927 Whippet Sport Road-	
than \$800 mile	\$350.00	1929 Chevrolet Sedan	\$ 450.00	ster	\$ 150.00
1929 Ford Roadster 1st		2 1929 Chevrolet Coaches		1924 Oldsmobile Coupe	\$ 125.00
Tires	\$ 325.00	each	\$ 390.00	1924 Oldsmobile Touring	\$ 50.00
1926 Chevrolet Touring	\$ 60.00	1927 Chevrolet Sedan	\$ 150.00	1926 Overland 1/2 Ton Panel	
1929 Model "A" Ford Ton		1927 Chevrolet Coupe	\$ 125.00	body Truck only	\$ 40.00
Truck large steel		1924 Chevrolet Roadster	\$ 25.00	1929 Stewart Cattle rack	
Box	\$ 325.00	1926 Essex Coach	\$ 40.00	Truck	\$ 150.00
1927 Chevrolet Coupe	\$ 200.00	1928 Essex Coupe	\$ 200.00	1920 Vim 3 Ton Dump	
2 1926 Chevrolet Sedans		1927 Essex Coach	\$ 200.00	(automatic) Truck	\$ 150.00
each	\$ 150.00	1925 Buick Sedan Standard		1927 Pontiac Sport Road-	
1930 Chevrolet Coach 5 wire		Six	\$ 250.00	ster	\$ 225.00
wheels	\$ 500.00	1924 Buick Roadster	\$ 60.00	1926 Oakland Sport Road-	
1927 Chevrolet Touring	\$ 140.00			ster	\$200.00

DECKER CHEVROLET CO.,

Phone 405 BELLEFONTE, PA.

COMPENSATION IS A NECESSITY

In order that employees who are injured during the course of their employment may receive the benefits to which they may be entitled under the workmen's compensation law and that employers may fully cover their liability under the law, the Bureau of Compensation of the Department of Labor and Industry is endeavoring to impress upon all employers, throughout the Commonwealth, the necessity for carrying compensation insurance.

The Legislature in 1929 amended the Workmen's Compensation Law by fixing a penalty of from \$100 to \$500 fine and costs of prosecution or imprisonment for a period of not more than six months or both at the discretion of the court for failure to carry compensation insurance.

In some localities the impression seems to prevail that the employment of only one person does not require the employer to carry compensation insurance. W. H. Horner, director of the bureau of work-

men's compensation, calls attention to the fact that this impression is erroneous and that the law applies to all employers regardless of the number of persons employed, and states that the only class of employees excluded from the provisions of the workmen's compensation law are agricultural workers or farmers, domestic servants and persons who are engaged to do certain work which is not in the course of the regular business of the employer and is known as casual employment.

A check-up on persons employing labor is being made by the bureau of inspection of the Department of Labor and Industry, and those found to be violating the law will be prosecuted.

Compensation insurance can be secured from any stock or mutual insurance company authorized by the insurance department to write compensation insurance in this State.

—An excellent quality Cogswell chair and footstool for \$27.50, at W. R. Brachbill's Furniture Store, 50-1



PRICES for hogs were high and a farmer with two hundred choice animals planned to market them. The evening before shipping, however, he was visiting a neighbor who suggested that he make sure of market conditions by telephone. This he did and learned that the market had broken badly. Two days later, he shipped the hogs and received 1/2 cent more per pound than he had originally expected.



The Modern Farm Home Has a TELEPHONE

Our Trust Department

- Has it financial strength?
- Has it intelligence and experience, with competent legal advice?
- Is it prompt and efficient in its service?
- Has it a sympathetic attitude toward those it serves?

We think we can answer, yes, to all these questions.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
BELLEFONTE, PA.

WE FIT THE FEET COMFORT GUARANTEED

Baney's Shoe Store

WILBUR H. BANNEY, Proprietor
30 years in the Business

BUSH ARCADE BLOCK
BELLEFONTE, PA.

SERVICE OUR SPECIALTY SPECIAL ORDERS SOLICITED



YOUR CHRISTMAS TURKEY

This is to call your attention to the fact that we have bought for hundreds of Christmas dinners the finest turkeys we could locate. We have them—plump and tender—in all weights, both gobblers and hens. We ask that you let us have your order as early as possible so that we can reserve for you the bird that will meet your needs.

Market on the Diamond
Telephone 666

Bellefonte, Penna.

P. L. Beezer Estate....Meat Market

To Ladies

Looking for Gifts
with which to please

A Man



The Fauble Store's 44th Anniversary Sale presents an opportunity not only to secure the newest and best things in Men's Wear, but the great price reductions in force during this great sale will make your dollar do double duty.

The sale continues up to closing time Christmas Eve.

Come and share in the wonderful savings that you will see here.

Get your Coupons here. We give them with all cash purchases, regardless of the Big Price Reductions.

A. Fauble