

The days are noticeably longer. The Pinchot cabinet jobs are nearly all gone and former Judge Dale hasn't landed one yet.

The girls get all the breaks. Natural laws arrange things so that more boy babies than girls are born.

Well, those who expected to see Cadillac license No. 15 move from west to east Linn street will have to guess again.

If we do come to the manufacture of pants out of glass, as scientists predict, for my eye's sake, let it be stained glass.

It looks to us as though Governor-elect Pinchot is doing more for what he didn't get in Philadelphia than for what he did get in Allegheny.

When they once get their hooks in at the public crib its hard to keep them away from it. Witness, the number of former county officials who are reported as heading back for more.

On the highways, when we see a boy in a coonskin coat and a high powered sports model coming at us we pull to the curb and feel like singing "The Brewer's Big Horses Can't Run Over Me."

The Swiss army has grown until its maintenance costs each man, woman and child in the nation five dollars a year. What a plight they'd be in over there if they had enough water to launch a navy on.

We understand that the County Commissioners reduced the county tax two mills because of the hard luck the farmers and everybody else have been in. That was nice of them, wasn't it? We'll bet they never even thought about next November 3rd when they'll be up for re-election.

To those who are so zealous to have Spring creek cleaned out through town we pass the word that trout won't stay where there are no stones. We know a gentleman who killed fine fishing right in his own side yard by removing all the stones in the stream that flows through it, just so it would look better.

Oliver M. Deibler, of Greensburg, has been appointed Commissioner of Fisheries during the Pinchot administration. He will succeed Nathan R. Buller who has given his life in very intelligent and courteous service to the culture of fish in Pennsylvania. Mr. Deibler was born at Lamar, Clinton county. Since Fishing Creek runs right through Lamar we are beginning to see things already.

On Monday a wise political dopester partially satisfied our consuming curiosity to find out why Senator Scott reneged on his Pinchot program pledge and voted for Daix for speaker pro tem of the Senate. He said: "Pinchot will be out of the Pennsylvania political picture four years from now and Harry has probably been promised an important place on the State ticket." And just that might happen.

Down in Washington they are planning to parcel out millions to drought stricken middle west and southern farmers. Why only middle-west and southern victims of seasonal abortions? Right here in the 23rd congressional district there is as much misery because of the drought as there could be anywhere and "we hear nothing from the Hon. 'Mitch' Chase that would indicate that he intends grabbing off some relief for his constituents. 'Mitch' would be a great man in the eyes of Centre and Clearfield county farmers if he could make Uncle Sam either haul water to them or drive their cows the miles they have to go in many cases to get something to drink.

The paragraph above has suggested another thought. Those who don't have to do it have no idea what trouble and concern a farmer goes through if he has to drive his cattle to water along or across a public highway. Few motorists have the slightest consideration for him. Many devilishly scatter his herd and some plow through them, often side-swiping and injuring the animals. Highway patrolmen should be on the alert for drivers who needlessly make the burden that drouth has put on the farmer heavier. They should be taught a lesson.

We are not of one mind with those who would drive John J. Raskob out of the Democratic party and it's all right with us if he wants to spend his millions in electing Democrats to office. There's nobody else in sight who shows symptoms of doing that. Mr. Raskob is a Jew. So was Nathan Strouse, who died last week, and we recall mighty few Gentiles of whom the press of the world has spoken as it has of the man who never knew how many millions he had given away because he said: "I have never figured it up, because I have had more benefit from what I have given away than from what I have." Nathan Strouse's benefactions extended all over the world. They are credited with having saved the lives of 400,000 babies in New York alone.

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An Absurd Technicality.

An interesting technicality has been raised in the Senate at Washington in relation to the recently appointed members of the Federal Power Commission. Just before the holiday recess of the Senate the nomination of George Otis Smith, Claude L. Draper and Marcel Garsaud as members of that recently created board, was confirmed by a narrow margin. The first act of the commissioners was to dismiss from the service of the commission solicitor Russell and accountant King, for no other apparent reason than that they had been zealous in conserving the interests of the public against the cupidity of the Power trust.

The vote of the Senate in favor of confirmation was influenced to some extent by the favorable report, as to Smith, of solicitor Russell and the summary dismissal of Russell aroused resentment in the Senate. In pursuance of the Senate rules Senator Walsh, who had been deceived, introduced a resolution to reconsider the vote by which the commissioners were confirmed. Thereupon Senator Goff raised the point that confirmation having been regularly made the motion to reconsider is an infringement upon the prerogative of the President, who alone has the legal right of removal from office for any cause.

The Senate rule provides that "when a nomination is confirmed or rejected any Senator voting in the majority may move for a reconsideration on the same day on which the vote was taken or on either of the next two days of actual executive session of the Senate; but if the notification of the confirmation or rejection of a nomination shall have been sent to the President before the expiration of the time within which a motion to reconsider may be made, the motion to reconsider shall be accompanied by a motion to request the President to return such notification to the Senate." All these conditions were complied with.

There is no substantial reason, therefore, why the motion of Senator Walsh is not "in order." He voted for the confirmation of the offending commissioners at the request of solicitor Russell, who had been assured by the commissioners themselves, or their friends, that they would be just and fair as between the trusts and the public. He was qualified to make the motion to reconsider and he made it at the first "actual executive session of the Senate." There was no infringement on the prerogatives of the President because until the five day limit is passed there was no real confirmation. Mr. Goff's contention is pure bologna.

Since the above was written the Senate, by a vote of 44 to 37, has adopted the Walsh resolution and what the President will do about it remains to be seen. It is predicted that he will refuse to comply.

Nye's Slush Fund Committee Active.

It cost approximately \$1,200,000 to elect James J. Davis to the Senate according to the latest report of Senator Nye's Slush Fund committee. That marks "Puddler Jim" as an expensive as well as an ornate luxury. His friends protest that most of the money was spent in the interest of his running mate, Francis Shunk Brown. But Senator Nye calls attention to the fact that Mr. Grundy spent \$400,000 to defeat Davis and in the nature of things a good deal of the Davis-Brown loot must have been used to counteract the Grundy munificence.

And this is not the worst feature of the case. A movement is being organized in the Senate to oust Mr. Davis from the seat. It is recalled that the Vare slush fund was only a trifle more than half and that of Colonel Smith, of Illinois, less than a third of that amount, and both of them were refused seats in the Senate because of excessive expenditures in their campaigns. It is true some of the Smith fund came from a dubious source and the source of Mr. Vare's fund was never revealed. But according to the evidence a mysterious friend of Davis, in the contracting business in Pittsburgh, contributed to the Davis-Brown fund.

In view of these recent developments the Nye inquiry may become more important than was first expected. For example, it has just uncovered the fact that a "Republican leader of National prominence" took to Montana, during the recent campaign, a slush fund of \$100,000 to be used in what proved to be a futile effort to defeat the re-election of Senator Thomas J. Walsh, of that State. Everybody knows that the entire Republican machine was anxious to defeat Senator Walsh, but the exposure of the active conspirators would be interesting.

Governor Fisher's Final Message.

Governor Fisher's final message to the General Assembly is an interesting and fairly complete review of the activities of the State government during the four years of his administration. He expresses justified satisfaction with the prosperous condition of the State Treasury. The drain on the resources have been unusually heavy during the entire period but with an assurance of a balance of approximately \$29,000,000 at the end of the fiscal year there is no reason for worry, especially as the State is practically free of debt and the appropriations have been discharged. It indicates that the taxpayers have been prompt and willing.

From start to finish the message reveals both pride and optimism. The legislation suited him exactly. Whether revenue legislation increased or decreased the levy it was all right with him according to the message. The creation of a new department of government was especially commendable because "it has brought into the treasury every dollar belonging to the State and subjects its receipts and expenditures to the close scrutiny of the fiscal officers." The old system was supposed to do that but maybe it didn't. The expenditure of \$633,295,457.12 within the period of four years is appraised as a notable achievement, and if none of it was wasted the estimate is accurate.

The budget bureau, the building programme, the adornment of Capitol Park, in Harrisburg, the centralization of purchasing and the construction and improvement of highways command his admiration. Education has developed, wild life improved and crime is less than in some other communities while "the importance of agriculture has been emphasized."

Most of these things are commendable and the Governor recites the achievements in such pleasing figures of speech as to challenge popular approval even if they fail to convince the public mind that nature and industry and perseverance had nothing to do with the matter. But it is a growing habit of executives to think in those terms.

Frank Kent will never forgive chairman Raskob because the National Democratic committee failed to give him a lucrative appointment.

Senator Davis' Title Questioned.

It is practically settled that the title of "Puddler Jim" Davis to a seat in the Senate will be challenged. Senator Nye, chairman of the committee which has been investigating campaign expenditures, said the other day that such action is inevitable. "With the record remaining as it is now," he declared, "I will have to offer a resolution declaring the seat vacant." What the result will be is a matter of conjecture. If the precedents set in the Smith and Vare cases are respected Mr. Davis will have to relinquish the title bestowed upon him. If the precedent is not followed the Senate will be in an anomalous position.

When Congress assembled for the short session the Democratic members of the body were in an amiable frame of mind. The result of the previous election had been very satisfactory and they paraded around the capitol with olive branches all over them. Some party leaders had made a tender of "friendly offices" to the administration, which were accepted in a way that promised "an adjournment of politics" for a time. In that atmosphere of contentment Mr. Davis appeared to qualify and he was admitted. But conditions have changed materially since then. The Republicans have violated every condition of the truce and there is trouble.

It may be said that there is some difference between the Vare case and that of Davis. Vare would have been defeated both at the primary and the general election if the slush fund had been eliminated, but having been nominated he would have won at the general election in any event, for he had the support of all factions of the party. But the excessive expenditures of Smith and Vare were outrageous in the primary campaign and that is equally true in the case of Davis. One witness testified that if Davis had been running alone the \$1,200,000 would have been spent.

The Oklahoma Governor "takes the cake." He had to borrow money to get to his own inaugural ceremony and walked to the capitol.

Rudy Valee, the famous radio crooning minstrel, has just found out that he can't settle a board bill with a song.

Slandering Secretary Mellon.

Somebody in the far Southwest has been villifying that dear old soul, Andy Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury. A few days ago a memorial or something of that sort appeared in Washington complaining that Uncle Andy has been exercising his vast power as Secretary of the Treasury to prevent the levy of a tariff tax on oil. As head of the Gulf Refining company, the complaint alleged, and the most extensive importer of oil in the country, he is uncompromisingly and everlastingly opposed to a tariff tax that would extract millions of dollars from the treasury of his corporation.

Now as a matter of fact Uncle Andy is not president of the Gulf Refining corporation. He resigned that office nine years ago when he became Secretary of the Treasury and turned all his interests in the company over to other members of his family. Mr. Mellon understands that the law forbids any man directly or indirectly concerned in any business that involves importation of commodities of any kind to serve in that office, and he is a law-abiding citizen. It is true that he always has an anchor to windward and when opportunity to gather in the golden sheaves presents itself he is ready to act.

But under no circumstances would he lay violent hands on the sacred tariff. Preservation of the tariff is the purpose of his life and whether it be on oil or peanuts or steel billets he is for it heart and soul. Tariff taxation has been the main source of his vast wealth and though the family-owned Gulf Refining corporation might suffer extensively by a tariff tax on oil, we refuse to believe that Uncle Andy would stultify himself by raising a finger or even uttering a whisper against it. The complaint is both slanderous and unjust. Mr. Mellon is true to his ideals.

Chairman Raskob says he isn't "the whole cheese" or any part of a clique which aspires to control the Democratic party. He is simply a good Democrat, an efficient chairman and a liberal-minded citizen.

Problems that are Unsolvable.

That popular interest in the World Court continues is shown by a petition made public, the other day, "urging prompt and favorable action by the Senate" on the protocol. For some reason the administration Senators are reluctant to consider this matter, though it has been one of public concern for some years. The petition is signed by 7,586 names, mostly prominent in social and business life. The only excuse for delay thus far advanced is that present consideration would consume time and possibly make an extra session of Congress early in the Spring necessary. That is a prospect too terrible to think of.

Of the 7,586 signers to the petition 161 are bankers, 98 Bishops, 208 university or college presidents, 602 clergymen, 285 deans, professors and teachers, and 100 judges and lawyers. They represent all sections of the country, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Iowa, Pennsylvania, California and Ohio, in the order of the number of signers. The petition was distributed by various national organizations and, as the announcement says, "while it is in no sense a poll of the country, it represents the views of numerous leading citizens. It is unquestionably an impressive gesture and ought to command attention."

Probably the most perplexing problem of the period is why the administration is so strongly opposed to an extra session of Congress. The pretense that it would impair or retard the restoration of prosperity is, of course, bunk. Yet that is the only reason advanced for an opposition so strenuous that it has become hectic. The reason for opposition to our adherence to the World Court is equally beyond solution. It offers the only hope of permanent peace and while its opponents give free lip service to world peace they refuse to take the only path which directly leads to it. It is inexplicable.

General Pershing, in his memoirs now being published, pays just tribute to the services of Secretary of War Newton D. Baker.

Nathan Straus is said to have died a poor man but he left to his family an inheritance more precious than millions could buy.

Mrs. Beryl Hart, aviatrix, seems to be the last victim of the female ambition to fly across the Atlantic.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Items taken from the Watchman issue of January 21, 1881.

Last year the State of Pennsylvania took for tax on Centre county corporations and from various fees collected in our court house, the sum of \$16,727.61. The State returned to the county, by way of appropriations to schools, salary of Judges, Legislators, Etc., \$91,104.66. The largest single item was the appropriation of \$70,000.00 to State College, Bellefonte Boro. received \$708.12 of the State school fund.

The purchase and transfer of the Snow Shoe Railroad by and to the Pennsylvania Company has not been quite completed. We are advised that the deal will be closed finally in February.

Prof. Weaver's singing class will give a grand concert at Pine Grove Mills on Saturday night, the 29th. If the sleighing keeps good there will be a great crowd there.

Geo. W. Rumberger, of Houtzdale, was in town yesterday and dropped in to see us.

They had quite an exciting time up in Stormstown last Friday evening. Mr. Bible gave one of his popular entertainments in the M. E. church there and took the Lemont brass band along to furnish the music. Bible is a clever entertainer and the band is a good one, so it was quite an evening.

The Watchman has hitherto neglected to announce the appointments made by the County Commissioners. They are as follows: Mercantile Appraiser, Daniel F. Luse, of Centre Hall; Clerk to Commissioners, Henry Beck; Attorney, C. M. Bower Esq.; Physician for jail, Dr. James H. Dobbins; Janitor for Court House, Bartram Galbraith.

Judges Mayer and Orvis have appointed Christian Derr, Martin Morrison and Samuel Foster tip-staves for the court room. Mr. Derr takes the position so long held by Steele Parsons.

Gov. Curtin, at considerable loss to himself, has finally succeeded in selling the Bellefonte Car Works to William Lawson, of New York City. Mr. Lawson expects to resume operations there just as soon as possible. He has assured Gov. Curtin that he will provide employment for a large number of men and expressed the hope that property owners here wouldn't start pushing up rent so that they can't find housing within their means.

It appears that someone played a joke on us last week when they told us that Jack Griest, of Unionville, had become the father of twin girls. Miles Kephart told us and when we called his attention to the misinformation he explained he had been fooled, also. On his way to catch the train for Bellefonte Miles said someone had told him "Jack has twin girls." When he got back home that evening he inquired as to the health of mother and babes only to be met with the astonishing reply that they didn't know to what he was referring. Later he found out that Jack's cow had given birth to twin heifer calves that day.

Speaking of cigars, Charley Ryan, at his booth over the race, has some of the best brands in town.

The next excitement will be the election of a County Superintendent of Schools. Our present excellent Superintendent, H. H. Meyer, C. L. Gramley, D. M. Wolfe, Robert Cambridge, G. W. Rumberger and Rev. D. G. Kline are all candidates.

Teacher Edward Woods, got home from his visit to New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City last Saturday and is back in his Spring township school house teaching the young idea how to shoot.

Three of the children of John Sheffer and one of Thomas Harrison are down with scarlet fever at their homes at Pleasant Gap.

A. J. Smith, of Port Matilda, has installed a telephone between his house and store in that place.

Jesse Fulton, who lived near State College, dropped dead while nailing some boards on his pig pen last Thursday.

Mrs. Eliza Mullen, relict of Felix Mullen, and mother of Mrs. Brockerhoff, died at her residence on Spring street on last Friday afternoon. She had been in her usual health when stricken with a sudden pain in the chest. She was assisted to her bedroom, but had expired before her son, Dr. John H. Mullen, got back from the drug store with the medicine he had hurried there to get.

The metropolitan press generally praises President Hoover's victory over the Senate, but as Governor Pinchot said of another victory "it was a fight the power trust couldn't afford to win."

Mr. Pinchot still keeps the public guessing concerning his cabinet but it is universally agreed that no member of the Vare machine will occupy a seat in it.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Stricken with a heart attack while climbing the stairs to the clock tower of the court house, in Lock Haven, last Friday, William Weidhahn, 60, fell to the foot of the stairs. Weidhahn, a jeweler, was in charge of the clock.

Rev. John M. Vrudny, pastor of St. John the Baptist Slovak Lutheran church, at Bethlehem, may lose the sight of an eye, the result of a boyish prank. He was walking on the street when he stepped into the path of a snowball hurled by one of a party of youths in a friendly battle.

Alone in her weather-worn home-stead in Pittsburgh, in which she kept cash and securities estimated to exceed \$50,000, Miss Thillie Pachter, 80, was found dead on Monday in a room in which a small gas stove was burning. Police believe the woman was the victim of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Married Monday and held on a charge of perjury a day later was the experience of Mrs. Howard Salaman, of Laceyville, Schuylkill county. Her parents claim the girl swore falsely when she obtained a license to marry. Salaman also was arrested on a perjury charge. The parents say the girl is but 17.

Asserting that their daughter, Elsie C. Edelen, was claved by a caged bear on view at a gasoline station at Waterford, Erie county, her parents have filed suit for \$50,000 against the Union Oil Supply company, operators of the station. Their complaint said injuries suffered by the girl necessitated amputation of an arm.

Diamonds estimated to be worth 15,000 were stolen early Tuesday afternoon from the jewelry store of Jerome Meyer & Sons, in the heart of Wilkes-Barre. Two neatly dressed strangers entered the store and seized a tray containing forty diamond rings from a showcase. They disappeared into the noon day crowds on the sidewalk.

One of the largest lumps of coal ever taken from an anthracite mine in the lower anthracite region has been taken out of the Honey Brook mine. It was taken from the Buck Mountain vein and weighs 8900 pounds of the very best quality of anthracite. It is likely it will be put on exhibition either in New York city or Boston, Mass.

According to the terms of the will of his aunt, Miss Anna Victoria Murray, of Germantown, who died December 27, filed for probate at Philadelphia on Saturday, Lieutenant Governor-elect General E. C. Shannon, will share in her personal estate of \$10,000. Bequests of \$1500 are made to a brother and another nephew and the residue is shared by General Shannon and John Murray Shannon.

After reciting alleged ills she said she had suffered at the hands of her former husband, Mrs. Hulda E. Tingle, of Philadelphia, bequeathed him \$1 "to buy a rope to hang himself with." The will, written January 8, 1929, was probated on Monday, disposing of the rest of a \$2150 estate among relatives. Mrs. Tingle died December 18. Her first husband, to whom she was married in January, 1917, the will stated, "never supported me, only gave me trouble."

A lone bandit early last Friday held up a Milvale "Squire" office, robbed a State highway patrol, a chief of police and justice of the peace Eugene Eugene Moore, of the Pennsylvania highway patrol; chief of police Phil Mitchell and justice of the peace Eugene Mehlich sat chatting in Mehlich's office when the door flew open and the trio found themselves facing a leering bandit with two guns poised for action. The intruder then robbed them of their guns and money and fled.

The Pennsylvania Department of Highways is experimenting with a new style of lettering on pavement marking and warning signs painted on road surfaces. The new letters are nearly eight feet in height but much narrower than before. Motorists have remarked upon better legibility, but have failed to note any difference in the size of the letters. This is explained by engineers as due to the angle at which the driver observes the marking. The larger size is clearly seen when the observer stands on the pavement near the marking.

Deer have been instrumental in wrecking automobiles before, but in the case of the car owned by Harry Hawkeye, of Tidouto, the animal set it afire. The automobile was being driven by Edward Merkle, also of Tidouto, when the deer ran into the path of the car, jumped upon the radiator and caused the alcohol from the radiator to flow onto the manifold. The flaming alcohol carried the fire to the gasoline tank and the car was destroyed. The deer was killed but Merkle and a passenger in the automobile escaped injury.

George Smead, 16, killed his lifelong chum, Melvin Starry, 17, with his fist at the suburban town of Goodyear, Cumberland county. Starry, in a dispute over ability to shoot wild ducks, invited Smead outside to Morrison's Restaurant to settle the argument with fists. A dozen witnesses saw Smead knock down and punish Starry's face. He died on the Pummel Street Hospital. District Attorney Fred S. Reese had Smead arrested on a charge of involuntary manslaughter, awaiting the coroner's inquest. A postmortem showed death due to hemorrhage following probable concussion.

United States Judge Albert L. Watson, in an opinion and an order handed down at Scranton on Tuesday afternoon denied a change of venue and refused a bill of particulars to six men charged with conspiring to violate the national prohibition laws by operating the Mountainside Brewery near Lock Haven. The decision means the defendants, Franklin J. Graham, Philadelphia attorney; Joseph Eisenberg, of Wilkes-Barre, and Harry Spiegel, Hyman (Ike) Seidman, Samuel Nagelberg and Isaac Judkowitz, all of Scranton, must stand trial next Monday at Lewisburg. Government officials have intimated that after the jury is selected the case will be transferred to Williamsport. Judge Watson dismissed the motion for a bill of particulars on the ground that the indictment furnished sufficient information to the defendants. The change of venue was asked by Seidman, one of the defendants, who pleaded he had no funds to hire a lawyer to go to Lewisburg or to pay the expenses of witnesses going there for the trial.